

November 2023

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



IN MEMORIAM
 Clyde Payton,
 1934-2023
 Page 10

Gainesville, FL
Best Western Gateway
Grand Hotel, Oct. 20-22
 Pages 8-9

Regional Events & Information



FABA has eight 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, Greater Orlando & Gainesville / 4th Saturday—Far West & SW.

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

Greater Orlando Region	John Hare	802-373-1190	legacy.john.hare@gmail.com
Gainesville Region	Jordan Borstelmann	352-727-8260	crookedpathforge@gmail.com
Central Northeast Region	Heinrich Hole	386-848-6982	heinrich.faba@gmail.com
North Northeast Region	Doug Hayes	910-330-7601	djhayes29@hotmail.com
Northwest Region	John Pfund	850-528-3280	johnwpfund@aol.com
Southeast Region	Peter Hill	651-635-6022	blazeblades561@gmail.com
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Christopher Sandlin	850-865-9596	Chris@traditionsworkshop.com

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

FABA Officers and members assume no responsibility or liability for injuries or damage caused as a result of the use of any information, materials, design, techniques, etc., contained in this newsletter; our website, www.blacksmithing.org; our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/FloridaBlacksmiths; any of our regional Facebook pages; or provided at meetings or demonstrations.

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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Table of Contents

2	Regional Coordinators
3-4	President's Message
4	FABA Jerry Grice Scholarship
4	Far West Region Report
5	SW Region Report
6	NW Region Report
7	North NE Region Report
8	FABA Conference Preview
9	FABACON Schedule
10	In Memoriam: Clyde Payton
11	FABA Officers/Membership

Saying goodbye to a founder



Another giant has fallen. I never had the opportunity to meet or work with Clyde Payton but I know his work. He was President of FABA 1998-1999 but also held many other offices in the organization during his tenure. We probably know him best for the blacksmith's poem he penned, the one we read every year as part of our "ringing of the anvil" memorial. That reading will hold a special meaning for all of us during this FABA CON as we hold our annual business meeting.

These moments remind me of our stewardship. How we are all charged to preserve the flame of the noble craft of the blacksmith. Not to hold the skill in a static state but to press the art and the craft forward.

Reading some of the old Clinker Breakers, I could tell that Clyde was always seeking new opportunities to enable the rest of us to learn and grow.

I am reminded of this quote by Sir Isaac Newton "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants." - 1675.

Thank you, Clyde Payton, for carrying the flame and passing it forward, we all see further because of you.

There will be a memorial service for Clyde Payton on Thursday October 26, 2023 at 2pm at the Tallahassee National Cemetery, 5015 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, FL 32311. If you need further information, contact Bill Payton at (850) 570-2405.



FABA CON 2023

A million details are all coming together for FABA CON 2023. Even before we set up the first tent, the work is ongoing. Advertising campaigns, brochures to print, items to order (coal/t-shirts/chairs), signs to make ... the list goes on.

I am so very grateful to all the volunteers who have pitched in to help. Just printing up the name tags is one example of sharing the load (Thank You Mark).

Not everything will be perfect but the whole event will be wonderful. Can we do better next year? Sure; with your help. If you see a place where you think your talents will fit in please don't hesitate to step up. Send me, Lisa-Ann or Erin a note, text, call or smoke signal.

This is a briefer column than I normally write. I've still got a lot on my plate before the conference. Personally, I've missed a few names on the membership roster. As your acting membership secretary, I feel I should be sending you reminders when memberships are due. Granted as we move to WIX that process is supposed to become more automated but for now there is still a lot of hand work.

Many of us update our membership with our registration for conference. If you, like me, are one of those that renew around this time, please be proactive and use the web site to update your membership. Thank you.

Looking up your membership status takes time; not a lot, but it is just another one of those million details. One member sent me a request about his status and it took me three weeks to respond. Un-acceptable in this age of computers. However, I appreciate his reply to my mea culpa - "it's the size of the plate that's your problem, the plates are just too small." I got a good laugh from that.

Just a reminder, we are looking for a Treasurer starting January 1 2024, and we will need a program chair to organize next year's conference. Maybe you have some room on your plate to help us carry the flame forward?

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year. See you at FABA Con 2023.

— David Sandlin, President

Jerry Grice Scholarship 2023

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

Its purpose is to further the craft of blacksmithing and is available to any FABA member in good standing. The award is limited to the actual cost or \$1,000, whichever is lesser. It may be used for materials, tuition, lodging and transportation (paid at the rate of 43.2 cents per mile or the actual cost of public transportation, whichever is lesser).

A letter of application or a detailed email may be submitted provided the applicant answers the following questions:

1. What is your name, address and phone number?
2. How much experience in blacksmithing do you have?
3. How will this instruction help you with your blacksmithing craft?
4. What is the name of the school you wish to attend?
5. What is the name of the course and the name of the instructor teaching the class?



6. What costs will be incurred (tuition, lodging, transportation, etc.)?

Note: By accepting the Jerry Grice Scholarship, the applicant agrees to provide a demonstration of skills learned at a regular FABA meeting, and write an article concerning the learning experience, including a "how-to" article for publication in the 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.

Deadline for receipt is Dec. 31, 2023. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final. The successful applicant will be notified.

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

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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? 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.

Regional Report

Far West Meeting Schedule

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

SW Region Meeting Report

We had a great FABAs SW meeting at my workshop and finished our regions sculpture for the up coming conference in Gainesville. (I'm not posting a picture of it completed as we decided we want it to be a bit of a surprise at the conference). We built upon the efforts of many others from the previous meetings, but it was great to see some new faces today and we put them right to work. I think we have had at least 12 people who have made pieces of this fantastic piece of art. You all deserve credit for putting up with the heat and putting up with me cracking the whip. I will write up a description of who did what for the conference. I'll also post the complete picture for you as soon as I get it to the conference gallery. Thank you everyone - it has been a fun time making our contribution.

Note there is no SW meeting in October because it coincides with the conference. Also because of Thanksgiving we usually have a meeting in early December. That seems like a long time to wait to get together, so I'll see what we can do to have a meeting in mid November. Please check out the FABAs SW Facebook group page for any upcoming meeting announcement at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674, or contact me at antony.fenn@gmail.com.

— Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator



NW Meeting Report

The Northwest Region's October meeting was held at Aunt Louise's Farm. Marginal weather led to low attendance at the farm and at our meeting. Only about 15 attended, which is about half of our usual attendance. Not much was brought for the raffle, so we postponed it until the next meeting.

Other than that we had a great time. Chris and Craig were practicing and refining their tong design for the class they will be teaching at the conference. After lunch Craig got to try it out by helping Joe make his first pair of tongs.

A few got their first try Blacksmithing and Aunt Louise's son, Sam, got to do some Blacksmithing with us. Usually he's too busy making kettle corn and etc. Someone who was aware of the eclipse brought proper eye protection, and soon we were all appreciating looking at it.

All things considered, it was another great meeting and we'll be meeting there again in November. A big "Thank You" to our hosts!

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**

NW Region Meeting, Nov. 11

The Northwest region will have our November meeting on Saturday the 11th at Aunt Louise's Farm. The address is 8101 Waukeenah Hwy, Monticello FL 32344.

Aunt Louise's Farm is almost to the middle of their seven weekend Fall season. We set up equipment at the start and will maintain a presence there for it all.

Aunt Louise's Farm is a corn maze, tractor ride, petting zoo and county fair type experience. They're open 10am to 6pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 6pm on Sundays, every weekend in October and half of November.

The meeting starts at 9:00 am as usual even though ALF doesn't open until 10. We're going to have a "Getting ready for Christmas" theme for our demonstration and projects to try, and for our Iron in the Hat raffle. If you can make any decorations or small gifts, please bring some examples to donate, demonstrate or show and tell! We will try to have some small projects ready for you to try make on hand for the open forges part of the meeting.

For the November meeting, we're going to take advantage of Aunt Louise's kitchen and purchase pork sandwiches and corn on the cob for our meal. We should bring sides and desserts and even favorite snacks for the meeting because ALF is open until 6:00pm and we can stay for the whole afternoon if we want to. Demos in the morning and open forges after lunch. Anyone who doesn't get enough

CLINKER BREAKER



Blacksmithing in on Saturday can come back for more on Sunday, but only in the afternoon on Sunday, 2:00pm until 6:00pm. And this is an open invitation for every weekend until November 12th, which is their last day and the day after our November meeting.

The December meeting will probably be at Mary Ellen Anderson's house in Monticello, and the January meeting at Mike Bettenger's welding shop. Come on out and have some fun!

Besides all that, I've started volunteering at Stephen Foster state park every weekend that I can fit in. This will be about half of the weekends for the rest of the year, and FABA members are invited to join me there. I'm trying to get a volunteer teaching and learning program going at Stephen Foster with lots of opportunities for both and demonstrating too.

If you are interested in participating in any of these opportunities, please come on out or check in with me to confirm the time and place, if you're not sure.

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**

NNE Meeting Report

The NNE region had a busy day finishing up the regional challenge project, making critters and adjusting the flora for the display.

William Thornton showed up early and helped Doug sort things going to the conference for Iron in the Hat.

Matt Schumaker finished a fancy dragonfly, Alvin Osmena dropped off a frog for the display and stayed for awhile before he had to leave for other duties.

The crew broke in the new shop layout for Iron Osprey Forge and a good time was had by all.

At the moment, no meeting is planned for November but stayed tuned - that may change!

— Doug Hayes, NNE Coordinator



It's here! Oct. 20-22 in Gainesville

FABA Con 2023

**Oct. 20-22, Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel,
4200 NW 97th Blvd, Gainesville, FL**

www.blacksmithing.org

This year's conference is going to be special. We have an amazing demonstrator line up and some pretty awesome new things we're bringing in. Let's start with the main demonstrators:

1. Ellen Durkan: Wearable metals artist

This is a wholly new-to-FABA genre and will bring in some serious diversity to what we think is possible with metal work. It's time to expand our horizons and learn to think in new ways.

2. Andrew Welton: Experimental archeologist

We've had iron smelting before but never like this. It's time now to see this process and hear about it from the perspective of a professional who has based their lives study on learning how smelting and item production was done in its infancy

3. Matt Stagmer: Specialty bladesmith & owner of That Works YouTube channel. Exotic shapes and precision grinds will be the name of this epic game.

4. FABA Special Project Demonstration Team. Also new this year is a multi-team, high-level sculpture project. These teams will be headed up by Francis 'Trez' Cole, Tony Fenn, Kirk Sullens, and David Ponsler. Seriously, I'm drooling in anticipation of what that particular team of guys can come up with. Best of all is the fact that the sculpture they produce will be made available in the conference auction. Get your bidding signs ready because this one is going to be unique.

Another new activity we're adding to the line-up is an oxy/propane torch safety beginner class. Torch safety is a big deal and learning it is the key to opening up new doors in production that would otherwise be locked shut. Torches have always intimidated me and this class is the the best way to get past that very reasonable fear.

We're expanding open forges. This year the open forge tent is going to be run by John Pfund and his crew in the NW region. You will still be able to use this area as always

to make whatever tickles your fancy but now there will also be some prepared projects that you can chose to do. These projects will have the necessary materials ready on hand so you need only bring your own hand tools and a desire to learn in order to participate. (Tooling in this tent is limited.)

Registration for classes is now open, so visit the website at www.blacksmithing.org to claim your spot!

Regional Challenges:

Flora & Fauna is the regional challenge theme for this year as picked by last years winners!!! The rules are simple:

1. The item produced must be primarily blacksmithed. It is acceptable to use powered tools and welders but the work they do must not be the focus.

2. This is a regional project and so there must be a minimum of 3 people who contributed to the project. More is better.

3. Iron is the focus of this competition, however other materials may be incorporated into the project. Refer back to rule 1 line 1 to answer your question about percentages allowed.

4. Have fun. Don't be so serious. Make sure that new guys contribution makes it into the project too. The competitions focus is really in the process, the people collaborating together, and the learning that occurs as a result. These values will be heavily weighted during the judging process.

5. Bonus points will be awarded for a roster of all involved in the project and maybe a short description of skills learned or used to achieve their part. If challenges for the group were overcome then we want to know. One page should do for this bonus point opportunity.

Trade item:

Anything Musical. Lets see it, peeps. What can you dredge up from the depths of your creative minds related to music? To be included in the trade item activity, one must simply bring an item they blacksmithed that is related to music and turn it in at the gallery before auction night.



Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
GAINESVILLE, FL
OCTOBER 20-22, 2023



FRIDAY, OCT 20

Workshops 8 am - 12 pm

- Blacksmithing 1 - Basics
- Blacksmithing 2 - Rivets
- Hummingbirds & Turtles w/ Frank and Scott Teele
- Oxy-Propane Torch Twisting Candleholder with James Worm

Demonstrations 8 am - 12 pm

- Forged Fashion, Ellen Durkan
- Smelting with Andrew Welton
- Specialty bladesmith, exotic shapes and precision grinds with Matt Stagmer
- FABA Specialty Project Demonstration Team

Seminars

- Evolution of an Iron Maiden with Ellen Durkan; 10:30-11:30 -San Felasco

Lunch Option 11:00 am - 1:30 pm - hotel concession boxed lunch options \$18

Workshops 1 pm - 5 pm

- Blacksmithing 3 - Forge Welding
- Skulls with Ben Thompson
- Oxy-Propane Braze Inlay Project with James Worm
- Friction Folders with LeRoi Price

FRIDAY, OCT 20

Demonstrations 1 pm - 5 pm

- Forged Fashion, Ellen Durkan
- Smelting with Andrew Welton
- Specialty bladesmith, exotic shapes and precision grinds with Matt Stagmer FABA Specialty Project Demonstration Team

Seminars

- Ribbon Flowers - San Felasco; 1 pm - 5 pm

Blacksmith Contest
6:30 pm

Novice, intermediate, advanced

Additional 8 am - 5 pm

- Vendors & Tailgate Sales - Field
- Open Forge
- Gallery, Region Challenge, Exchange Item viewing - Ballroom
- Auction viewing - Ballroom
- Scrap Bucket Charity Challenge viewing - Lobby



Funded in part by Visit Gainesville, Alachua County

SATURDAY, OCT 21

Workshops 8 am - 12 pm

- Blacksmithing 1
- Blacksmithing 5
- Copper Roses with Accents with Jacob Mudge

Demonstrations 8 am - 12 pm

- Forged Fashion, Ellen Durkan
- Smelting with Andrew Welton
- Specialty bladesmith, exotic shapes and precision grinds with Matt Stagmer

Seminars

- Heat Treating & Damascus with Steve Bloom, 10:30-11:30 am - San Felasco
- Ribbon Flowers - Boardroom, 8 am - 12 pm

Lunch 11:00 am - 1:30 pm - hotel concession tent (ticket required)
additional boxed lunch options \$18

Iron in the Hat, 12 pm-1 pm

- Purchase tickets at registration
- Bring a 24 case of water for 3 tickets; limit 3 cases

SATURDAY, OCT 21

Workshops 1 pm - 5 pm

- Blacksmithing 2 - Rivets
- Blacksmithing 4 - Heat Treating
- VIP Blade Experience with Peter Hill
- ABANA Curriculum with Craig Hines 3:00-4:00

Demonstrations 1 pm - 5 pm

- Forged Fashion, Ellen Durkan
- Smelting with Andrew Welton
- Specialty bladesmith, exotic shapes and precision grinds with Matt Stagmer
- FABA Specialty Project Demonstration Team

Seminars

- Woven Wall Hangings with Driftwood - San Felasco

Saturday Evening Meeting, Banquet, and Auction - Ballroom

- Banquet (ticket required), 6:00 pm
- Membership Meeting (no ticket required), 6:45 pm
- Auction (no ticket required) 7:30 pm

Saturday, continued

Additional 8 am - 5 pm

- Vendors & Tailgate Sales - Field
- Open Forge
- Gallery, Region Challenge, Exchange Item viewing - Ballroom
- Auction viewing - Ballroom
- Scrap Bucket Charity Challenge viewing - Lobby

SUNDAY, OCT 22

Workshops 8 am - 12 pm

- Blacksmith 3 - Forge Welding
- Mystery Workshop with Leslie Tharpe

Seminars

- Blade Etching - Matt Stagmer
- History of Smelting, Andrew Welton; tentative

Scrap Bucket Charity Challenge Judging - 12 pm
Hotel Lobby

Place your piece in the lobby before noon

Additional 8 am - 12 pm

- Vendors & Tailgate Sales - Field
- Open Forge
- Gallery Item Pickup - Ballroom

William Clyde Payton Sr., 1934-2023



Clyde Payton was a Charter Member of FABA in 1985 and was very active in the formative years of the organization. You can hear him tell it in an interview with Skeeter Prather on FABA's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjIwzxrFD4>

Clyde was a trustee for the first 13 years and on and off for 15 years. He was also President for one term, Treasurer, Program Chair for 5 years, and Regional Coordinator for who knows how long—he did it all. He was awarded FABA's highest honor, the Honorary Ph.D. in 1997.

For all of his work he fulfilled another role in FABA that was even more important. He insisted that the "... blacksmith's art is the embodiment of function, form, fashion, and SPIRIT."

Dot Butler helped him self-publish a couple of books of poetry, homilies and reminiscences. Clyde also wrote the Blacksmith's Poem that is read every year at the Ringing of the Anvil during the FABA conference.

Clyde named the Clinker Breaker in 1985 in a contest with over 40 entries. "Our CLINKER BREAKER gives forth a CLEAN FIRE --- MAY IT BURN BRIGHTLY, MAY IT BURN FREELY" - Clyde Payton

The Clinker Breaker remained near and dear to Clyde's heart. He is the one who kept every issue he received for decades, and it was his archive that was digitized for the FABA online archive. He also wrote frequently for the Clinker Breaker on every topic from using modeling clay to prototype your project, to building a forge, to the snap punch, to valuing an anvil.

Clyde was a great collector and trader of blacksmith items, especially anvils.

Clyde was born November 2, 1934, in Chilton County, AL. He died October 7, 2023, in Tallahassee, FL

Clyde is survived by sons Lee and Bill and Bill's wife Trish and their daughter Isabella; Aunt Louise Caton-Sellers and husband Wade of Birmingham, AL; Brother-in-law Alex Cheeks and wife Ruby of Birmingham, AL. Clyde's wife of 58 years, Vi, preceded him in death August 23, 2017.

Clyde retired from the State of Florida, Health and Rehabilitation Services. He received a Masters Degree in Psychology from the University of Alabama. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He was an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. He was a founding member of the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Lloyd. Clyde's hobbies included blacksmithing and writing short stories and poems.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Big Bend Hospice.

The Blacksmith's Fire

By Clyde Payton

(Used in Memorial services for the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association)

Fire is a special gift from GOD -- to all mankind. Fire is GOD's special gift to the Blacksmith. Without Fire there would be no art forthcoming from the hands of the Blacksmith! It is in the Fire that the Blacksmith forges all of the wonderful and creative reflections of GOD's bounty. We now show our appreciation for the gift of Fire and for the gift of a departed Brother. We will remember a lifetime of contributions which this Brother made to the Art of Blacksmithing, and the contributions he made to the comfort and enjoyment of his fellowman. We thank you GOD for the Gift of Fire-- We thank you GOD for the gift of this beloved departed.

AMEN

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580



November 2023

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Interim Treasurer	Doug Hayes	Treasurer@blacksmithing.org
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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 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 _____

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