

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

FABA leadership changes announced

FORMER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to November! Our annual conference is now behind us and, unfortunately, I was unable to make it due to personal events. In light of these events and with so much needing my attention outside of this great organization, I resigned as your President, and Lisa Anne Conner has taken the reins for the last couple of months of the term. President-elect, David Sandlin, was appointed and approved as the Vice President to fill Lisa Anne's post.

It has been an honor to head up this organization and work with the fine members of your Board of Directors. Much has happened in the past year and a half, impacting us all in one way or another. Many changes in my life recently have presented me a clean slate with which to work, and I am very much looking forward to the future.

I hope everyone had a great time at the conference, and I am really sorry to have missed it. It looked like another great FABA conference and hats off to Erin Harlow for all of her hard work.

I know she had a lot of help, as anyone who heads up a conference always needs, and I know she is grateful for everyone who pitched in.

I am very much looking forward to next year's conference already and hate to miss any of them and miss seeing many of you.

I wish you all a great month of November and Happy Thanksgiving! We all truly have a lot to be thankful for. Keep your forges glowing and your hammers pounding.

— Mark Stone, Former President



Mark Stone

INTERIM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the FABA Board Meeting held on Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, your Board accepted Mark Stone's Letter of Resignation and then appointed me to fulfill the remainder of his term. I will be proud to serve as your interim President until the duly-elected David Sandlin's term begins with the January 2022 Board Meeting.

On Saturday evening at the Conference, I was privileged to welcome the FABA Friends And Family to the 36th year of the Florida Artists Blacksmiths Association, and to the Conference. After welcoming first-time participants, New Members, Sponsors and Corporate Members, I introduced your Board Members.

As part of the General Membership Meeting, I presented the Amendments and Supplements to the By-Laws, which had been introduced at the Board Meeting on Friday night. The Motions are regarding the ability of the Program Chair to work in conjunction with the Board to adjust the dates of the Annual Conference in order to have more flexibility to take advantage of seasonal price breaks to benefit you, our constituency.

I announced the two-week Members' commentary period and opened the floor for any immediate public questions. None were brought before the assembly. If you have any questions or comments, I urge you to contact any member of the Board. I was also fortunate to be able to present long-term Board Member Ralph Nettles with a Certificate acknowledging his far-ranging service and commitment to FABA. Thanks again, Ralph!

Please remember: The cooler, dryer weather means we often slack off on hydrating. Please keep hydrated as you are working to complete those Holiday Projects!

— Lisa Anne Conner, Interim President



Lisa Anne Conner

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	Dave Sandlin	850-974-1548	david@traditionsworkshop.com

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA)

is a not-for-profit organization chartered with the State of Florida and 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, <http://www.blacksmithing.org>, our Facebook Page 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

We had another great meeting at our new FABA SW home at the Crowley Museum blacksmith forge. As always, a great deal of knowledge was exchanged with a cohort of experienced smiths in attendance.

Trez Cole demoed a French Style Tomahawk and used a piece of a rasp for the cutting edge. Trez folded and forged welded a piece of flat bar mild steel around the bit of rasp to form the ax and then quenched it in oil to harden the tip. Thank you to all the members who turned out.

— **Trez Cole, SW Region Trustee**

SW Region Meeting, Oct. 23

The October SW meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 23rd, at Crowley Museum and Nature Center just east of Sarasota. We will light up the forge in the restored museum blacksmiths shop and Trez Cole and Tony Fenn will demonstrate making dragon's heads.

The meeting will start at 10 am on Saturday. Please bring safety eye wear and dress appropriately.

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

There will be no SW meeting in November as it coincides with the Thanksgiving weekend. Please check the FABA SW page for news and updates at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674.

— **Tony Fenn,
SW Region Coordinator**

Crowley Museum and Nature Center

<https://crowleyfl.org>

Address: 16405 Myakka Road,
Sarasota, FL 34240

Telephone : (941) 322-1000

DIRECTIONS: I-75 from the south or west

Take exit #210 Fruitville Road and drive EAST 10 miles to the dead end. Turn RIGHT on Myakka road. Go 3 miles, Crowley is on your LEFT shown by a large wooden sign. If you travel over the bridge to the north entrance of Myakka State Park, you missed by a mile :).

DIRECTIONS: Route #70

FROM NORTH OR WEST: Take I-75 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.

EAST: Take Hwy #70 to Verna Road. Turn LEFT. Travel approximately 6 miles to Crowley entrance on your LEFT.



Far West Region Report

The September 25th meeting (9am-2pm) was hosted by Traditions Workshop with 11 smiths and 2 guests in attendance; all working feverishly to finish our interpretation of a Viking sea chest (pictured at right).

Christopher Mallet finished his hinges in the morning, Jennifer Hay was making nails all day that we used to attach the hinges that afternoon, Christopher Sandlin (and myself) worked to finish the hasp, we had already made and stapled the lifting rings on earlier. Billy Hay used the FABA power hammer to make a 4# rounding hammer that we included in the chest, but he didn't finish it on Saturday - instead he finished it a week later, late on Tuesday night followed by a frantic chase on Wednesday morning intercepting the FABA trailer just before we got on I-10 eastbound heading out for the conference. Jeff Badarak spent several hours as we were running up to the conference welding/modifying the Far West power hammer dolly, narrowing the wheelbase, adding a castering front wheel and balancing the carriage to where one man can actually move it around and even tip it back up on its feet. A lot of work preparing for FABACON 21 by the team really paid off. With earlier posting of the conference date for next year (should be announced by November) the Far West team is already planning our contribution and travel itinerary.

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



Christopher Mallet watches Billy Hay prepare to drift the rounding hammer that went in the Viking chest.



We needed a punch plate to drift the hammer through so Brien Byerley used a torch to make one. Dirty but functional. (NOW that's a clamp!)



Jennifer Hay heating steel to make another nail. The chest needed 28 nails.



Jeff Badarak using the FABA power hammer to dress up some rebar that he's using in a staircase project.



Christopher Sandlin sitting on his coppersmithing workbench while tinning a copper pan. Next year at FABA CON 22, Christopher plans to demonstrate several aspects of coppersmithing.

Far West Meeting Schedule

Fresh on the heels of the annual conference the Far West will be holding our next meeting on Saturday the 23rd of October, from 9am-2pm at Traditions Workshop, 418 Green Acres Road, Suite 4, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547.

The goal of our meeting is to highlight activities at FABA CON 21 giving those members that were not able to attend an update on all they missed. Following the presentation there will be open forge time for members.

In November, we will meet once again at Timber Creek Distillery; November 20th, 9am-4pm. Just like last year, we will have a challenge project to be judged by the owners of the Timber Creek Distillery. This year's challenge will be making a loggerhead, sometimes known as a blacksmith's microwave, it's a tool for making your drink hot. Not sure how Timber Creek will judge this one since any hot piece of metal could do the job, but it will probably need to look good enough that you'd be willing to put it in a tankard that you intend to imbibe from. The power hammer will be available for use during this event.

Directions to Timber Creek Distillery:

Plug "6451 Lake Ella Rd, Crestview, FL 32539" into your GPS and be ready for a drive. Yes, it is at the end of a long dirt road and it is off the power grid. What else do you expect from a distillery in the boondocks of Florida?

When done with your smithing work for the day, try some of their spirits, their stone oven pizza and make use of their axe-throwing range. You might want to bring some of your items for sale as there is likely to be a



A couple of Loggerheads to draw inspiration from.

Christmas market in progress all day.

We don't usually meet in December but be on the lookout for a number of blacksmithing demonstration events throughout the fall and early winter.

The fourth Saturday of January and February will find us back at Traditions Workshop so we will have a place to retreat into if the weather turns bitter on us.

Meeting time as always will be 9am-2pm on the fourth Saturday of the month.

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



Central NE Report

Due to its proximity to the conference, the Central NE Region did not have a meeting in October. We will also not be having a meeting in November because it lines up with the [Barberville Pioneer Settlement's Fall Jamboree](#).

The Jamboree is a major celebration of the old crafts and skills. There will be demonstrations across the whole property, along with 6 main stages' worth of rotating musicians all day both days.

Nov. 6 & 7 are the dates to be at the Settlement. I personally will be demonstrating blacksmithing along with BBB brother Robert Graber. I have no doubt there will be something for everyone, so head on over and see what's in it for you.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

NW Region Report

Hello, everyone from the Northwest region. We just got back from the conference. I don't have any statistics but it seemed to be well-attended.

Everything went well! Which is great as we were trying a new location and had to adjust our show to the new site. I spent most of my time at the open forges and the Iron in the Hat tents. I really enjoy open forge activities, so it was a good fit for me. I particularly enjoyed the chain-making contest on Friday evening. Good show, contestants!

Back in our North West region, we're staying busy with Aunt Louise's fall season. With the conference keeping us busy, I doubt anyone was out there blacksmithing this past weekend, but I intend to be onsite for the rest of their Fall season. That's the rest of the weekends in October and the first two weekends in November.

That second Saturday in November, the 13th, will be our next meeting for the North West region. It will be at Aunt Louise's farm, 8101 Waukeenah Hwy., Monticello, Florida. 32344. They open at 10 a.m., but we start our meeting at 9 a.m., so it's OK to get there before they open. They will let you in the front gate if you tell them you are there for the meeting.

We're going to be demonstrating making Christmas presents on the forge. For the Iron in the Hat raffle, try to bring hand-forged items that would make good Christmas gifts as well. For our lunch, I'm going to cook burgers and sausages on the forge. We should bring sides and desserts to go with them. Looks like we've got some cooler weather coming, I hope to see you there!

— **John Pfund, NW Coordinator**



FABA Conference 2021 report

I sincerely hope that if you attended FABA Con 2021 in Gainesville, FL, this year that you connected with new and old friends, learned a little something, and enjoyed time at the forge. I would like to thank the sponsors, volunteers, demonstrators, teachers and assistants, and board members. A special thank you to everyone who helped plan the conference. There are too many to name, but you know who you are.

I hope you realize how much I appreciate the guidance, assistance, and help while planning the conference this year. The conference would not have been possible without the help of every single one of you.

A huge thank you to this year's sponsors, including Metal Supermarkets of Jacksonville, who provided the metal for our classes and demonstrators.

This year, corporate members include Holland Anvil, Crooked Path Forge, Blacksmith Supply, Iron Osprey Forge, Nicole Horenstein, Michael Oliver, and Steve and Laura Schwarzer. We thank them for their support.

DEMONSTRATORS, WORKSHOPS and GALLERY

This year, we had over 160 registered attendees who had the opportunity to visit with six different demonstrators and attend 18 different workshops and 6 different seminars. Greg Cumbaa once again worked his magic in the gallery and auction areas. We had a tie for the people's choice award between Mike Bettinger's 'Bronze Floral Mirror Frame' and Peter Hill's 'Arkansas Toothpick'. They each will receive a check for \$75.

BANQUET & AUCTION

Thank you to everyone who donated to the silent and live auctions. Because of your generosity, the silent and live auctions generated over \$10,000 for FABA. We had 31 live auction items and many more silent items. After the membership meeting and a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship at the banquet, the auction commenced. The auctioneer, Toots Banner, did a great job creating a lively, fun atmosphere. You may have met him during one of the workshops as he spent both Friday and Saturday attending classes.



EXCHANGE ITEMS

The Exchange Item had 8 participants. Each smith who entered a door knocker had the opportunity to take home another smith's work. If you haven't participated before, consider it next year. Each smith makes an item from the category selected by the conference committee. The smiths who entered an item then draw a name, and the name you receive is the person's work you take home. Get a head start on FABACon22's exchange item. The category selected is "A Holder of Light." Your item must somehow hold light. You may interpret this however you wish. It could be abstract art, lanterns, candleholders, sconces, fireplace grill, a matchstick holder, fire pit, you get the idea.



FABA Annual Conference



REGION "CREATURE" CHALLENGE

I am personally challenging each FABA region to create a "creature" as a group project. This "creature" will then be donated to FABA and sold at auction. We would like to try an online auction to increase outside participation of FABA members, and these might be the perfect opportunity. They will be brought to the conference where they will be on display in the gallery area. The "creatures" will be judged so the winning region may claim bragging rights. The piece must include work from at least two members. It could be set up as a demonstration at your local meeting or a group project everyone works on, it's up to your group. There is no size restriction, so your piece can be as large or small as you would like. You will be judged on creativity, technique, member collaboration, and use of materials.

FABACON22

The 2022 conference will be here before we know it. We have already started to plan for next year and will be announcing more details in the December Clinker Breaker. Thank you to those who have already stepped up and said they would help. It is a large conference and even the smallest jobs are so important. If you would like to assist or have ideas or comments, please contact me (Erin Harlow) at fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com or call 904-716-9196.

— Erin Harlow,
FABA Program Coordinator



FABA Annual Conference



A NOTE FROM FABA CON'S BASIC CLASS COORDINATOR

Congratulations to the FABA class team. We did it again. In spite of many attempts made by mechanical failure to interfere with our conference we got it all done. To the best of my knowledge all our teachers succeeded in their classes with the help of all the amazing assistants. I was not informed of even a single unhappy student :) So thank you all again. It has been a real pleasure to be a part of the team and to get to be a part of many of the teacher and assistants personal growth in sharing the craft with others. I love you all and I love what we do!

I would like to make a request. We are in desperate need of people who understand small engines. I would like to start getting dedicated small engine mechanics to sign up for shifts to help ensure our unintended breaks in classes and demonstrations are kept to a bare minimum. If you feel that this is an area you are capable of helping out in then please contact me. It would also be nice to have a dedicated electrician to oversee that part of the operation or to advise on how to better our situation. Again, if you feel this is the area you can lend a hand in then please contact me.

There is always room for growth in our team and activities. If you feel you have something to offer or advice on how to better our event or classes in specific then I welcome all of you to email your suggestions or constructive criticism to me so we can work it out and grow together.

Heinrich Hole
FABA Con Basic Class Coordinator
386-848-6982, heinrich.faba@gmail.com



FABA Annual Conference



CLINKER BREAKER

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Doug Hayes, Treasurer
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St. Augustine, FL 32086

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November 2021

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Program Chair	Erin Harlow	program@blacksmithing.org
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:

NAME _____

FAMILY MEMBERS _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____ EMAIL _____

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

FABA

Doug Hayes, Treasurer
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