

# CLINKER



# BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

## FABA CON 2024 CHALLENGES

### REGIONAL CHALLENGE

**Theme:** Medieval Folklore and/or Religion  
**Rules:** Three or more members must contribute to the piece.  
**Judged on:** adherence to the theme; techniques used; quality of work; number of contributors  
Winners receive bragging rights and get to pick the 2025 theme.

### EXCHANGE ITEM

**Theme:** Something with TEETH  
**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 have teeth - gears, saws, animals, skulls, zippers, pianos, combs, etc.

### SCRAP BUCKET CHARITY CHALLENGE

**How it works:** Pay a small donation at the registration desk to pilfer the scrap bucket for your piece of metal. Make anything you want from that metal.  
**Rules:** Only scrap from the bucket can be used; must be completed and in the hotel lobby front desk before noon on Sunday, Nov 10th  
**Judging:** Hotel staff picks their favorite  
Winner receives challenge proceeds to benefit charity of their choice.

### GALLERY 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.



### A PECK OF PEPPERS

The NW Region made peppers at Aunt Louise's Farm during their April meeting. **Page 8**



# 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) in 2024.

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.

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# Reflections on our mission: 'We Teach, We Preserve'

FABACON is the largest blacksmith teaching event in the southeast. Where else can you find so many classes from beginner to advanced in one place? For the truly ambitious you can take 5 classes in 3 days. However, in doing that you'd miss out on the opportunity to take notes from our demonstrators. Plus, there is the chance to wander the vendors and tailgate sales or just sit and talk blacksmithing with your compatriots.

It is a hard choice, but whichever way you turn there will be ample opportunities to learn.

By the way, soon we will begin our annual search for instructors to support FABACON 2024. If you have a class that you would like to teach (or perhaps a demonstration) please be proactive and contact Lisa-Ann or Jordon Thomas.



David Sandlin  
FABA President

However, learning opportunities with FABA are not limited to just our one conference each year. The real work is done by our 8 regional coordinators who, month after month, seek out demonstrations and/or projects that are designed to increase our collective skill level.

Take a close look at the regional reports in this issue to get just a taste of the information and skills that are being shared throughout the community.

I've also taken notice of the number of FABA members who serve at various historical venues. It is fun to participate as a demonstrator at a ren fair or pioneer day and during my once a month perusal of Facebook I enjoy the pictures you all post from those events. But the real yeoman's work is being done at the museums that have "living history" blacksmiths who turn out weekend after weekend (and sometimes even more often).

Here in the panhandle we have the Blountstown pioneer museum. Northeast has the Barberville Pioneer Settlement. Down to the southwest, FABA members support the Crowley Museum and Nature Center.

So, I'm on the hunt. What other museums do we support? Does anyone have information about Cracker Country? A rural Florida living history museum located on the Florida State Fairgrounds? I've been to Mission San Luis in Tallahassee, but the blacksmith was not present on the day I visited. There is a blacksmith shop at the Osceola History pioneer village in Kissimmee. And another at the Dade City Pioneer Florida Museum & Village.

What I'd really like to know are your opinions on these and other venues around the state. Take a few minutes to

## IN MEMORIAM

David Reddy, a long time blacksmith and the former Clinker Breaker editor, passed away on Saturday, April 6, 2024. We extend our prayers for his family. More information about David and his memorial celebration will be included in the next Clinker Breaker.

## FABACON 2024 LOGO CONTEST

Here's an opportunity for one of you to make a little money!! We have a slogan for our FABA 2024 Conference, to be held Nov. 8 – 10: "Saluting The Past, Forging The Future." It is a direct tie-in to that being the Veterans' Day Weekend, and to several scholarship opportunities we plan to make available to Veterans for their attendance at our FABA Conference and events.

Show me the Money, you say?!?! I do hereby open a contest to design the logo for our 2024 conference! The prize will be not only the bragging rights, and the pride involved with seeing your design in print and other media, but \$100.

Entry deadline is April 30th; entries are due to me in any form no later than midnight EDT on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. Entries can be in black and white or "full color," however, please be aware that the budget might necessitate black and white logo printing for our T-shirts. I hope to be able to announce our winner in the next Clinker Breaker!

Also, have you booked your hotel yet? Don't wait! We ran out in 2023, so get your room now!

— Lisa Ann Conner, Vice President  
and Program Chair

write a few words that we can publish in future issues of the Clinker Breaker, tell the rest of us why we should come visit your museum.

Hope and pray your anvil rings true!  
— David Sandlin, President

# AACB Blacksmith Conference



Tal Harris  
Traditional Iron Work

May 16-18  
2024

Cannonsburgh  
Pioneer  
Village

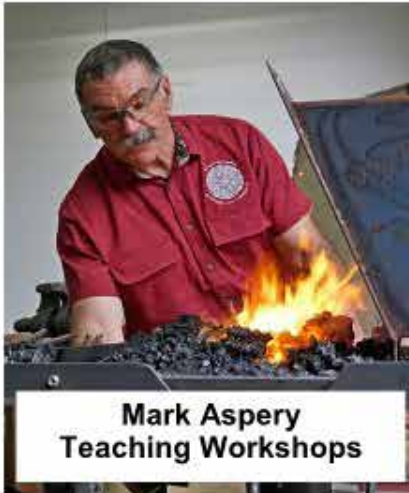
Murfreesboro  
TN

*Loads of Vendors!*

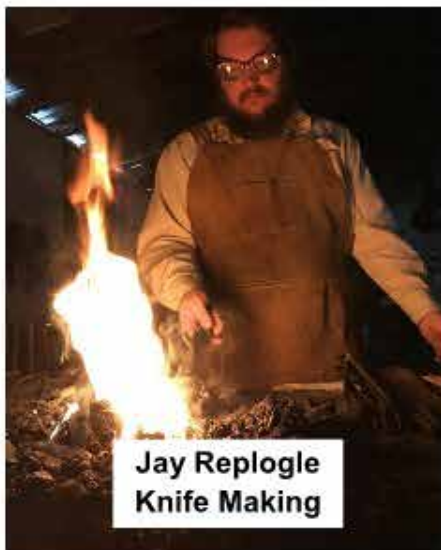


Roy Adams  
Baroque Style Elements

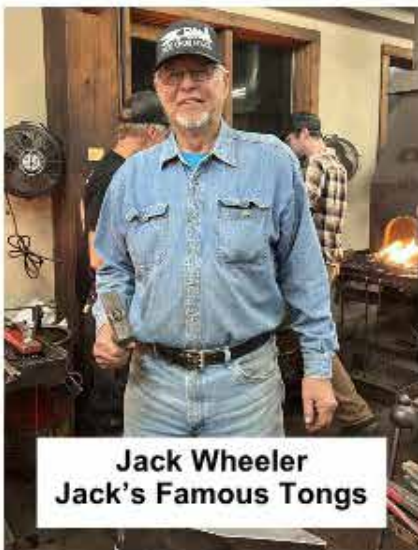
**Beginner  
Training  
Available!**



Mark Aspery  
Teaching Workshops



Jay Replogle  
Knife Making



Jack Wheeler  
Jack's Famous Tongs



Johnny Woolsey  
Patina Processes

**WWW.AACBLACKSMITHS.ORG**



Join Us in Johnstown

June 6-9, 2024



**ABANA**

**50th Anniversary Celebration &  
Blacksmithing Conference**

Don't miss the...

- International Team Forging Competition with cash prizes!
- Gallery of Ironwork
- Art Auction
- Iron-in-the-Hat
- Big Tool Raffle
- Tour of the Center for Metal Arts
- Tailgating (Buy, Sell, Trade)
- Vendors
- Limited edition ABANA Merch
- Food, music, and fun!

*Events held at Peoples Natural Gas Park,  
Central Park, and points in between.*

**[abana.org/50thanniversary](http://abana.org/50thanniversary)**

# Demos & Lectures

*at the Conference*

- Artistic & Traditional Forging
- Forging Press & Induction Demos
- Power Hammer Demo at CMA
- Brass Foundry & Laser Welding Demo
- Detroit Ironwork & Yellin Lecture
- Business of Blacksmithing Class

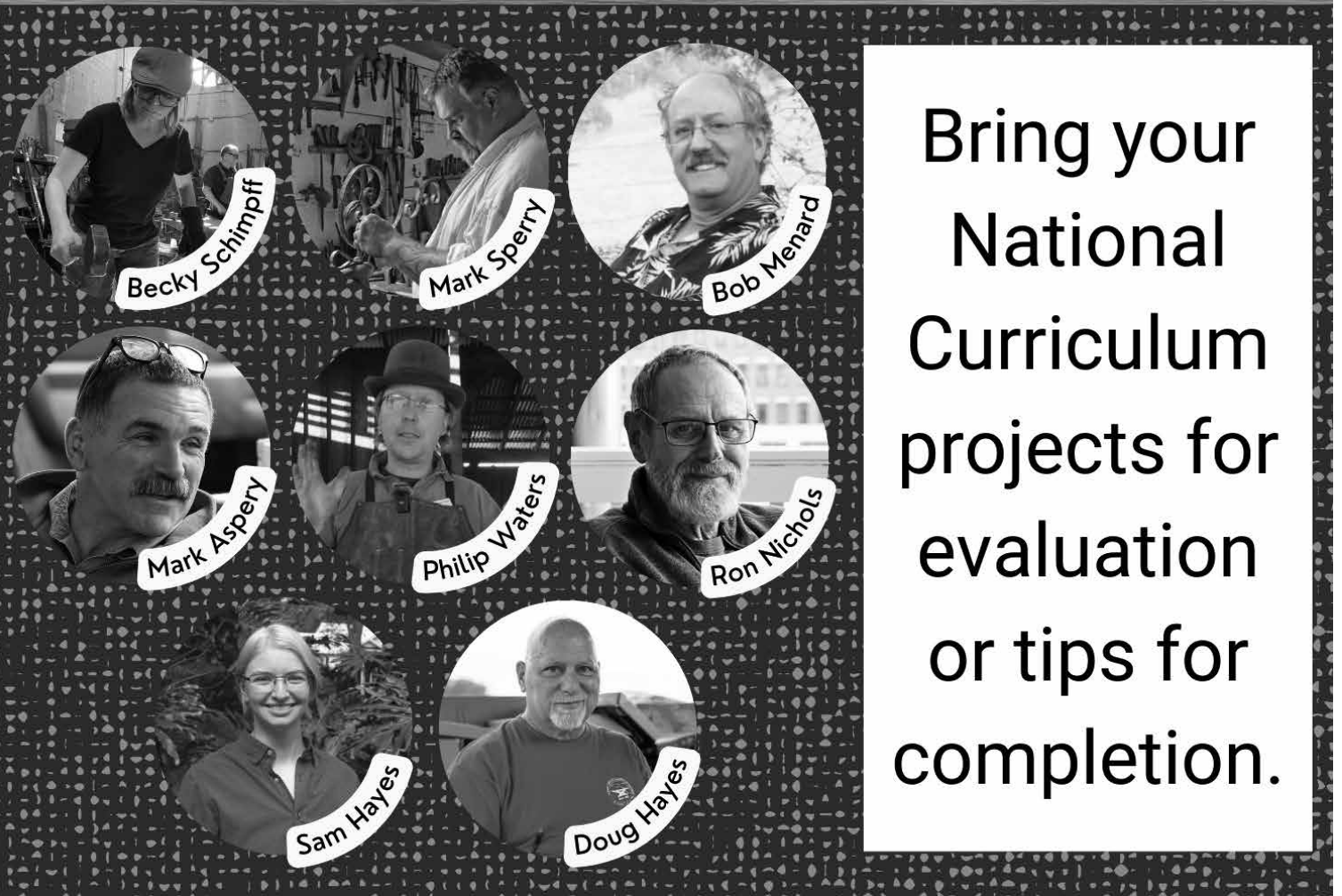
Forge a ring for the Ring Project, a collaborative piece, being assembled on site.



# Education

*at the Conference*

- Beginner's Tent
- NC Level I & II Hands-on & Demos
- NC Level III Demos
- National Curriculum Project Evaluations
- Kid's Clay Forging Tent
- Broom Making Class & Other Craft Classes



## NW Region Meeting Report

The Northwest Region had our April meeting at Aunt Louise's Farm, 8101 Waukeelah Hwy., Monticello FL 32344. We had a very nice setting and weather for a meeting. Aunt Louise's Farm is open for all four weekends in April for their spring season. Our meeting was on the second Saturday, but we have our equipment set up for all four weekends, Saturday and Sunday too.

We had a good attendance with 23 people signed in and the Iron in the hat raffle brought in enough money to pay for the pork sandwiches and corn on the cob we purchased from Aunt Louise. Someone bought a chicken and rice casserole and another one brought a pasta salad. We had plenty to eat and picnic tables to use.

Chris Cauthen brought his pepper making guide and several people made peppers in the morning. Most went home after lunch, but those who stayed worked on making tongs. We stayed almost until 6 pm when they closed, and several of us came back on Sunday for their 2-6 p.m. afternoon open time. Dot Butler took some pictures at the meeting and posted them on the NW Region page. Much appreciation to all who help make the meetings happen and especially to Aunt Louise's Farm for inviting us and treating us so well.

## NW Region Meeting, May 11

Our May meeting will be held on the 11th at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. We've been teaching classes there during the cool weather on the first and third Saturdays every month, but will be stopping for the summer months after the two classes in May. So first Saturday a class, second Saturday our meeting, and the third Saturday is the last class of the winter season. We'll start the meeting at 9am central time, so that gives us an extra hour in the morning to get there. The project for the meeting is to make a pair of tongs. The settlement has enough equipment for a class of 10, so we have plenty of room for everyone who wants to participate. Bring your own hand tools and materials or we'll have them for you. When you're finished with your tongs, you can take them home or donate them to the Blacksmith challenge toolbox that we're making to donate to the auction at the conference. We're going to skip the raffle at this meeting, so no need to bring items to donate. Also, for the meal, we're going to go to the local seafood restaurant favoured by the regular teachers of our classes, so no need to bring anything for the meal. Carpool, have a road trip, hope to see you there! — **John Pfund, NW Coordinator**





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## Regional Reports

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### SE Region Meeting Schedule

The SE Region meets every third Saturday of the month at The Farm, 1566 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL. The Farm is located off Military Trail; just turn 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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/603288803747002).

### SE Region Meeting Report

SE Region had a good showing for April's meeting. Some second timers showed more interest in FABA. The new people are creating some interesting projects, and longer term members are completing things that were started last meeting.

— Gary Becker, SE Region member



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## Support our FABA business members

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### DAMASCUS SPONSORS

David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Fort Walton Beach, FL

### STEEL SPONSORS

Greg Hagen - Holland Anvils - Holland, MI

John Elliot - Blacksmith Supply - Chester, VA

Michael Oliver - Turn and Burn Metalworks - Lakeland, FL

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

### IRON SPONSORS

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

Jordan Borstelmann - Crooked Path Forge - Gainesville, FL

Rick Smith - Gainesville, FL

Nicole Horenstein - High Springs, FL

Mark Fillmore - Naples, FL

Cameron LaFrance - Micco, FL

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

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### SW Region Meeting Report

Thank you to all who attended the March meeting at Crowley Museum, where member Paul Wiedorn took us through the nuances of tending a fire and the ergonomics of swinging a hammer. He then did a great demo of the forging of a bodkin arrowhead.

As always, we had an excellent selection of food for lunch and a very interesting collection for Iron In The Hat. Everyone left with a useful item.

It was a good time catching up with everyone. See you at my forge on April 27th for a meeting on everything to do with scrolls.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

### SW Region Meeting, April 27

The April meeting will start at 10 am on Saturday April 27th at my workshop – FishnChips Forge.

This meeting we are going to focus on another Journeyman requirement - everything 'scroll'. We will discuss different scroll designs and show how to draw a scroll and how to forge a scroll jig and bend scrolls. Then we will turn over the forge so members can hit some hot steel.

FishnChips Forge is located at 5415 Ashton Ct., Sarasota FL 34233. The location is close to I75 at Exit 205, but a little tricky to find. When on Ashton Rd, turn on to Ashton Ct. at the blue Bishops Aluminum building. Go past several auto body shops and then around the bend. FishnChips Forge is located just behind CBS roofing.

Please bring an item for the Iron and Hat raffle.

Please also dress appropriately and bring something to share for lunch.

Looking forward to another hot, tiring and absolutely fun day!



**Paul Wiedorn**

### SW Region Meeting, May 25

We have not yet set a meeting location for the end of May. Please check our FABA SW Facebook page for meeting 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 Meetings

Greater Orlando meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at UnderGround Metal Works in Maitland, FL.

For more 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**

## Gainesville Meeting Report

The Gainesville region met April 20th at Erin and Luke Harlow's Forge in Lake Butler. We had wonderful weather and a small, but fun group. Last fall, Erin was awarded the Walt Anderson Scholarship to attend Ellen Durkan's Forged Fashion Workshop. As part of the scholarship, she had to share in her region what she learned. Members at the meeting had the chance to work on techniques that Ellen uses to create her forged fashion.

### Gainesville Meeting, May 17

The next Gainesville Regional Meeting will be at Crooked Path Forge on May 17th, 5 pm to around 9 pm. We will work on our group project.

— Erin Harlow, Gainesville Region member

Photos: Alvin (below) and Luke (right) work on pieces using techniques inspired by Ellen Durkan's work.



## Far West Meeting Report

This last meeting, The Far West went over to Milton, with John Butler hosting us, to teach a class on making Viking kitchen knives as a fundraiser for FABA. With a full class, we were able to raise \$1,000. Thank you to Mr. Butler for hosting us and providing lunch.

Also, this past month I had the opportunity to teach a class on behalf of the Wounded Warriors, and I did learn a couple of things. First, almost every class or event that they have will be full with people wanting to attend. In this specific instance, they had 60 people sign up. Second, they are always looking for things for the veterans to do together, whether it's going to a ball game, having a barbecue, or taking a class on woodburning or knife making. Given this information, we have already sent the coordinators the full list of classes that we could teach, as well as invite them out to the next couple of meetings with us at FABA. I would also like to ask that if anybody is willing to and able to teach or host, please reach out to them and let them know.

## Far West Meeting Schedule

Far West Region has planned the following schedule:

The April 27 meeting has been moved to Traditions Workshop at 418 Green Acres Road.

May 25, we return to Timber Creek Distillery, 9AM set up, 9:30AM open forges to 3PM. Bring your parts, or use the time to make your part for the regional competition project. Cam and Aaron also encourage you to bring your projects to sell. They will keep your work on display over the bar, and attempt to sell it over the summer until we meet again at Timber Creek in November.

June 22 will be at Saint Michaels Brewery.

— Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator



# Making a Viking era forge

By David Sandlin

This past summer I had an opportunity to take a day and tour the largest Viking exhibit in the world at Historiska Museum in Stockholm Sweden. The highlight of that tour was to stand before the Mästermyr tool chest and study its contents.

The Mästermyr tool chest is a Viking Age (793–1066) tool box found in the Mästermyr mire west of Hemse on the island of Gotland, Sweden. It is the largest tool find from that era in all of Europe. This is the toolbox that serves as inspiration for the toolboxes we auction off each year at FAB CON.

In the museum courtyard they set up three large tents patterned after the Oseberg tent find which is well-documented at the Folks Viking Museum on the north side of Hollviken Sweden. ([www.fotevikensmuseum.se/d/en/vikingar/hur/talt](http://www.fotevikensmuseum.se/d/en/vikingar/hur/talt))

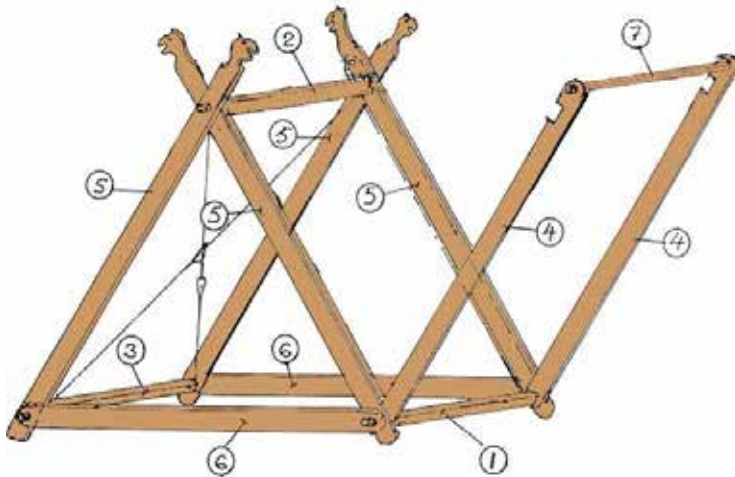


attention. After a brief introduction with the re-enactor, I was allowed to closely examine their forge setup. While the anvil and tools were not historically accurate, the forge with its side draft bellows system was patterned after the two examples we have of a complete forge setup from the Viking era (one is a stave church carving and the other a rune stone drawing, both shown below).



Above left: Forge and Bellows carving at a stave church in Norway  
Above right: Drawing of a damaged blacksmith shop found on a ruin stone

I should comment that archaeologists have not discovered any physical examples of a complete Viking era forge. Archaeologists have found several carved stones with holes drilled through them, presumably used as a heat shield for the bellows with a side draft. However, they have not found any bellows that may have been used – wood and leather both rot and burn.



I saw the actual Oseberg tent displayed at the Viking Ship Museum in Oslo, Norway; but that was 30 years ago and I might be a little thin on the details. Anyway, even though the three tents may not have been totally authentic, they did give the feel of a Viking era encampment in the middle of the museum courtyard.

In one tent, a reenactor who bakes bread, in another they discuss lifestyle/clothing, but in the middle tent they had a blacksmith! Needless to say, the blacksmith tent held my



Talking to the resident blacksmith reenactor. While discussing the operation of the bellows, this is when I noticed that lifting a handle sucked significant heat back into the bellows. I think it needs a check valve. The patches on the bellows belie the fact that hot coals had been back drafted into the bellows by many an overeager apprentice.

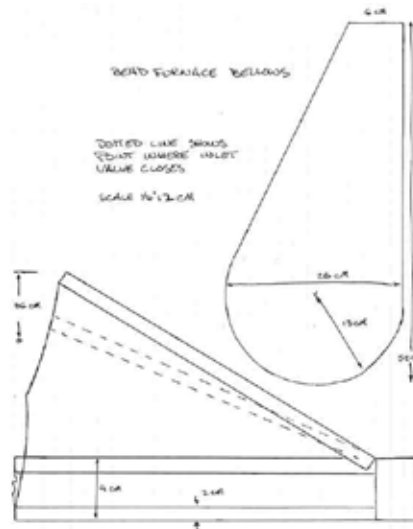
# Project Report



Close examination of the bellows. In some places the leather had been burned from a coal that was sucked back into the chamber, yet the system still worked. The air intake valves (below) were simple leather flaps.



Upon returning to Florida, I felt challenged to build this type of forge system with bellows. So, armed with insufficient information, I proceeded to start what I thought would be an easy build. First step was some internet research where I found a lot of good general information but specifics were lacking. Undaunted I figured I'd learn as I went along.



What are thought to be typical Viking era bellows dimensions, there is a lot of information lacking here.



First step was to cut the parts in wood. Note the flapper valves. The  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch plywood seemed like a good idea (at the time). After all, I wanted to be sure the intake valves closed securely. Testing later would reveal these



blocks were way too heavy. In the foreground there is a steel block weighing down the leather valves I set in the plenum to prevent back draft into the bellows chambers. The steel block was removed after the glue dried.

Next my beautiful bride took on the task of adding the leather gussets. She is a master seamstress and much better than I at making fabric (or leather) fit unusual shapes.



Our first operational test revealed the forementioned problem with getting air into the system. Lifting the handles required excessive force and you could hear the system was struggling to breathe. So

## Project Report



the original valves had to be cut out. One could say that really sucked. Fortunately, I did not cut the leather with the jig saw as I removed the old valves.

I then made a new set of valves using leather and 1/8 inch plywood to stiffen the flaps. Now I understand why the craftsman that made the bellows for the museum used three small holes on each bellows. With smaller holes a leather can be found that is stiff enough to do the job of blocking the intake holes when you press down on the bellows. With larger holes you have to reenforce the leather.



After a successful test the bellows were put aside to wait for building the fire box.

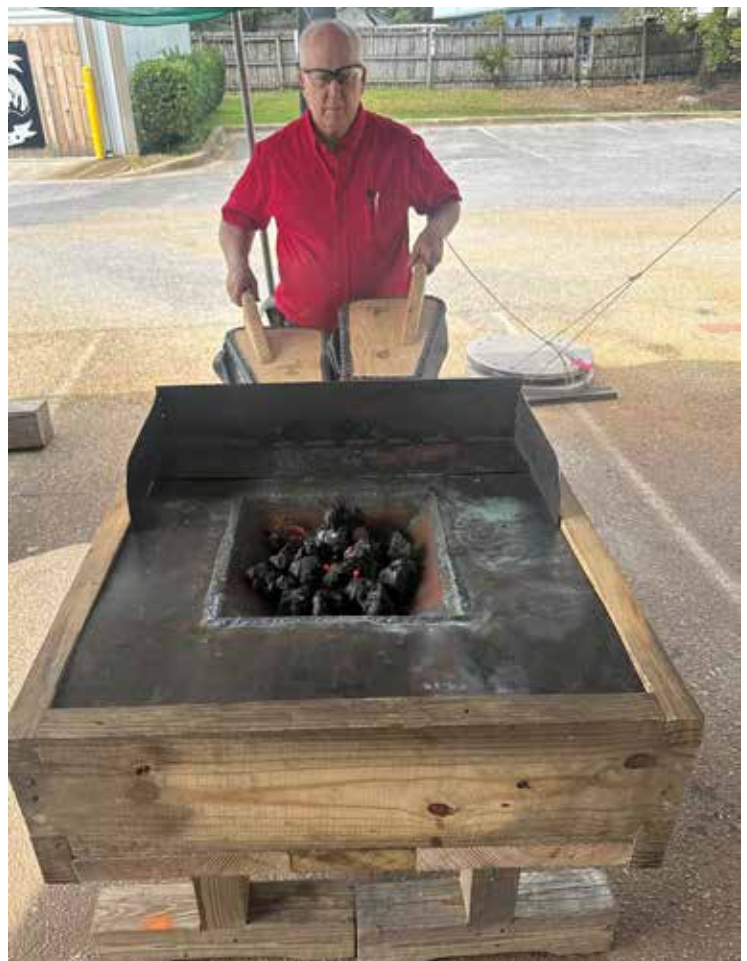
This is the third time I've built a wood box forge. I've learned a lot from the first two so I sought to avoid the shortcomings from my earlier experiences with this build

The first wood box forge we built was constructed with 2x6 materials and lined with fire brick. The fire pot was a brake drum. Air was fed in from the bottom through a 1"x1" ID square tube leading from a sliding box bellows that we also built. We found it necessary to modify the forge box so we would have a place to bank the coal. Later we added a metal tray on top of the bricks to keep the coal from getting caught in the cracks between the bricks. Even with these modifications we quickly realized the fire pot was too close to the wood; we were getting significant heat transfer and were charring the wood on the inside of the box. Not surprising since the building code for fireplaces requires 8 inches of fire brick, plus 2 more inches air gap between the brick and combustible materials (a.k.a. 2x4s)\*.

Lessons learned: the forge was supposed to be transportable but it was very heavy and had to be partially disassembled for two men to be able to move it. Charring remained an issue, even after adding another layer of stone board between the fire pot and the wood frame. Our solution required us building another forge, but this time make the box deeper and don't use fire brick.

The second forge we built was a replacement for "the rusty forge" on the farm. We used 2x8 materials we had on hand to build a 2' by 2' box. On two sides we added risers to make a corner where we could bank the charcoal (coal was not available). The fire pot, blower and the twyre from the original farm forge were salvaged and used. The fire box was lined with loose dirt and sand. We added a layer of clay on top to prevent the charcoal from mixing with the dirt. This setup was surprisingly better than our first wood box forge; maybe because it did not burn as hot but also because the dirt was loose. Air gaps make a big difference! However, the forge had fixed legs to suspend the blower and the twyre so the system was still very difficult to transport.

When we built our most recent wood box forge we had a couple of goals in mind. Transportability was an issue. The forge was to be used at our "Viking camp" and we didn't want to have to use a mule team to get it there. We wanted



## Project Report

it to look somewhat authentic. We also did not want the forge to turn itself into a charcoal bricket over the course of several days of use. Finally, this forge was to be powered by the Viking era bellows previously discussed.

We started with a 2'x2' wood box that was a nominal 8" deep. We built a twyre from some pipe we had available that just happened to be the right I.D. for the pipe from the bellows to slide inside with a good fit.

The pipe from the bellows effectively locked the twyre in place but when slid back allowed us to make the twyre removable from the wood box, a real advantage when it comes time to transport as we don't have a pipe sticking out the bottom of the box. We welded up our fire pot from ¼" thick steel plate and set the pot in a 2'x2' 16 gauge pan that could hold the fire pot securely over the twyre when the system was set up to work. The steel pan has a "backsplash" to allow up to bank the coal.

A steel pan like this is not authentic but it was practical and since the pan was usually covered with coal it is not too obvious. Below the fire pot we added 50# of sand that we wet down every day. This combined with the large air gap proved very effective in protecting the wood box.

We used our plasma torch to punch a dozen plus very small holes in the bottom of the fire pot to allow air to enter from the bellows. The holes are really too small to allow coals to fall into the twyre. If coals were to fall into the twyre it has a long vertical pipe allowing the ash to drop past the air feed tube. The bellows does have flaps to prevent back draft, but the fact that the pipe from the fire to the bellows is over 2 feet also helps keep hot embers out of the bellows.

When we set up our Viking camp at our local Ren Faire we ran the system steady for 2 days and did not notice any charring, nor did we smell anything to cause concern. So far, so good.



Is this the "perfect" system? Probably not, but it does work for us. One day we got the fire hot enough to melt steel so welding shouldn't be a problem. Even with that much heat we didn't see any ill effect to the wood box.

Break down for transport is fairly easy: Pull the bellows back, lift the fire pot with the support pan out, pull the twyre out, dump the sand, lay the twyre back in the box and put the fire pot with support table back on the box, and you are ready to move to the next location.

The whole thing sits on top of some timber frame saw horses that we built years ago. We are probably going to



have to make new set sawhorses because the bellows and fire pot stand a little taller than is comfortable (we brought a step up platform to solve that problem this time). Cleaning the ash out of the twyre requires that you cut the aluminum tape off the ash dump or take the twyre out to dump the ash.

Maybe we'll make a flapper for the ash dump someday. However, with the really small air holes we didn't get much ash into the twyre.

Cleaning clinker is a very manual process but not too bad when burning clean coal. The manual bellows dictates you must use bituminous because the continuous air demand necessary for anthracite will wear you out unless you have someone that can pump the bellows for you.

It is our hope to bring this forge to FABACON this November. Hope you can make time to look it over and we welcome your suggestions and recommendations for improvement.

\*ALWAYS look up your local building code, the requirements change from location to location and even change based on the materials used. These numbers are from the California building code of 2016 and have most certainly changed!

— David Sandlin, FABA President





# FABA CON 2024 CHALLENGES

## REGIONAL CHALLENGE

**Theme:** Medieval Folklore and/or Religion

**Rules:** Three or more members must contribute to the piece

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

Winners receive bragging rights and get to pick the 2025 theme.

## EXCHANGE ITEM

**Theme:** Something with TEETH

**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 have teeth - gears, saws, animals, skulls, zippers, pianos, combs, etc.

## SCRAP BUCKET CHARITY CHALLENGE

**How it works:** Pay a small donation at the registration desk to pilfer the scrap bucket for your piece of metal. Make anything you want from that metal.

**Rules:** Only scrap from the bucket can be used; must be completed and in the hotel lobby front desk before noon on Sunday, Nov 10th

**Judging:** Hotel staff picks their favorite

Winner receives challenge proceeds to benefit charity of their choice.

## GALLERY 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.

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# FABA Announcement

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## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association Veterans Scholarship Fund Application 2024

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 service/separation (DD 214 or an appropriate ID)
2. Scholarship will reimburse 80% of a blacksmithing class/course(s) registration fee up to \$100 upon completion of the course, whichever is less. (for example, if the course(s) cost \$135, 80% of that is \$108, so the awardee would receive \$100; if the course(s) cost is \$95 then the awardee would receive \$76). Formula for determining award:  
Registration fee(s) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ X 0.80 = \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL (awardee would receive \$100 or less of total course registration costs)
3. 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.
4. The course instructor must be someone who regularly provides paid blacksmith instruction – in other words is recognized as a legitimate, accepted teacher. Classes at a recognized blacksmith conference (such as the FABA annual conference, The Southern Blacksmith Association biannual conference, SOFA, etc.) are acceptable and specifically at these events, 2 or more classes in one weekend could be stacked and counted as one ‘course’. So, for three (3) FABA intro courses at \$45 apiece, the total would be \$135; 80% of that would be \$108, so the award would be \$100.
5. Before awardee is reimbursed, he/she must provide some proof of completion (documentation of work produced, email from instructor and receipts from course costs). This scholarship is intended for course registration fees only, and does not cover materials or equipment unless those items are part of the course of instruction (i.e. a hammer making course). Students may apply for up to 2 courses per year, but not more than once per six-month cycle and for no more than 3 courses in total.
6. The student must apply for the scholarship prior to the beginning of class (not retroactive). The committee will meet February 15 and August 15 each year to review applications (every 6 months). Up to three applications will be awarded every six months. Coursework does not have to fall within the cycle the student applies, if the application is submitted prior to the start of the course (for example, the student could plan 1 year ahead). The FABA Scholarship Committee (defined in article 12 below) will make that determination during the application process.
7. In any 6-month cycle, preference will be made for beginner classes, then intermediate skill classes as the primary purpose of this fund is to assist veterans to begin their blacksmithing journey.
8. Applicants must be a FABA member to apply and while taking the class/course.
9. Funds can be applied to the FABA annual conference courses, or to similar classes from other guilds or organizations, within the United States. See article 4, above.
10. If anyone wishes to donate additional funds to this scholarship, they agree to abide by the rules above. In other words, future donors cannot modify or change the administration or award process for this scholarship. Any funds donated specifically to this fund will be considered encumbered for this purpose only.
11. Applicants will complete the application and submit their request via email to (add email contact) or through the electronic form on [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org).
12. The FABA Scholarship Committee is comprised of a three-member panel of FABA members. At least one member of the panel will have military experience (active duty or reserve) and two others will be FABA Board members. The President, Treasurer and Vice-President will appoint the members of the Veterans Scholarship committee. Members will serve a minimum one-year term but may be reappointed multiple times.
13. Awardees will be notified via email and USPS the status of their application approximately two weeks after the committee meets.

## FABA Veterans Fund Blacksmith Class Scholarship Application 2024

### Overview:

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.

### Required Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: Army / Air Force / Navy / Marines / Coast Guard / National Guard / Space Force

Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Blacksmithing Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of course: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Cost/Tuition: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of course: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor/school/conference information (website, email, phone): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you hope to learn from this course: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I agree to provide some proof of completion of the course in the form of photos, certificate, email from instructor and receipts from the course cost.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and send a copy via email to: [djhayes29@hotmail.com](mailto:djhayes29@hotmail.com) or mail physical copy to Doug Hayes 3541 Lone Wolf Trail St. Augustine, FL 32086. Applications should be received before Jan 30 or June 30 for each period.

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### Award Committee:

Approved by: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President  
114 Choctaw Cove  
Valparaiso, FL 32580



NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Tallahassee, FL  
PERMIT 329

**May 2024**

## FABA Officers

President	David Sandlin	President@blacksmithing.org
Vice President	Lisa Anne Conner	Vicepres@blacksmithing.org
Interim Treasurer	Dawn Fortenberry	Treasurer@blacksmithing.org
Secretary	Tia Kitchen	Secretary@blacksmithing.org
Past President	Mark Stone	markham62@comcast.net
Trustee NW	Roger Bell	bellrgr@yahoo.com
Trustee NE	Bill Harris	wrabh01@gmail.com
Trustee SE	Steve Silvers	SEtrustee@blacksmithing.org
Trustee SW	Trez Cole	nokomisforge@hotmail.com
Editor	Jennifer Jhon	Editor@blacksmithing.org
Program Chair	Lisa Anne Conner	FABAprogramcoordinator@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 Square by going to [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org) and clicking the **JOIN FABA** button to access the Square payment system.

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

FABA Membership Secretary,  
C/O Sandlin  
114 Choctaw Cove  
Valparaiso, FL 32580

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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