



Southern Blacksmith Association, Inc.  
111 Yorkshire Drive  
Athens, AL 35613

THE 21<sup>ST</sup> BIENNIAL  
(1983 -2025)

# SBA CONFERENCE

**FANNING  
THE  
FLAMES**

Art  
Knowledge  
Technique  
Resources  
Education  
Skill

**2025  
CONFERENCE**

**SOUTHERN BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION**  
May 15-17, 2025 Madison, Georgia

**MAY 15 -17, 2025**

*A celebration and forum of  
all things about blacksmithing*

LIONS CLUB FAIR GROUNDS  
1190 LIONS CLUB ROAD  
MADISON, GEORGIA 30650

## CONFERENCE THEME

***Fanning the Flames of Blacksmithing.*** Celebrating the process of bringing smiths together to exchange knowledge and experience in blacksmithing..

## VENDOR DAY

Thursday has been scheduled for vendor demonstrations, as well as to buy and sell tools and supplies at your leisure. Vendor and tailgate sales will be held every day of the conference. A special area is designated inside the compound for these sales. Registration will start for all attendees at 8AM on Thursday, May 15th.

## IRON IN THE HAT AND TAILGATE SALES

Find a new home for your old tools and materials! Bring extra tools, stock, books, or anything else blacksmith related that is collecting dust and needs a new home. You can donate them for our fundraisers (The Friday Night Auction, Iron in the Hat, and Tool Box Raffles) or sell them in the tailgate area! The Alabama Forge Council will sell Iron in the Hat and Tool Box Raffle tickets at their booth. Tickets are \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00. There will be two drawings, one at 4:00PM on Friday and the other at 12:30PM on Saturday. All donations are greatly appreciated, and can be dropped off at the AFC booth. Remember - this event always provides many surprises!

## TOOL BOX RAFFLES

In addition to Iron in the Hat, we will also be raffling off a tool box. Donate a blacksmith tool to help outfit the tool box, and buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win the whole set of tools and tool box!

## SBA MEMBER GALLERY & PEOPLE'S CHOICE

All attendees are encouraged to bring outstanding examples of their work for this member gallery. Beginners and experts alike are encouraged to bring in their latest forgings to display. Please submit your forgings to the Blacksmith Exhibition upon registration. Cards will be provided to vote for your favorite piece. The People's Choice Winner will be announced at the Friday Night Auction, and the winner will receive a \$100 check!

## THURSDAY NIGHT MEET AND GREET

Meet your fellow smiths in a social setting at our host hotel. This will be an outdoor event with drinks, music, and shade!

## FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER BANQUET AT 5PM

The Friday Night Dinner Banquet will be an all you can eat Seafood buffet. The price for those who have registered to attend the conference is \$35. The meal includes all you can eat deviled crab, both catfish and grouper filets, fried and boiled shrimp, fried oysters, scallops, and chicken strips, cole slaw, potato salad, cheese grits, french fries, and hushpuppies – plus, either sweet tea or water to wash it all down! Come to the banquet and enjoy this delicious meal!

## FRIDAY NIGHT AUCTION AT 6:30PM

The Auction will be held after the Friday Night Dinner Banquet! A variety of beautiful handmade tools, ironwork, knives, and so much more will be up for bid. Please bring something to donate for the auction. Blacksmith tools are sought after, as are pieces of your own work. You may donate items up until the time of the auction. Blacksmith tool suppliers, Vendors, and Tailgaters are welcome to donate an auction item to show their appreciation. The SBA Project, a rocking bench, rocking chairs, side tables, and coffee table that is being forged and assembled by SBA members, and knives from our Affiliate Blade Competition will be auctioned off as well. Demonstration Pieces made during the conference will be auctioned off at 3PM on Saturday afternoon.

## FRIDAY NIGHT FORGING CONTEST

A forging contest will be conducted Friday night after the Auction at Demo Site 1. The prizes are: \$50 for first place, \$30 for second place and \$20 for third place! Bring your hammers and tongs - and be ready to beat on some metal!

## SATURDAY MEMORIAL AT 2PM

The memorial observance of the "Ringing of the Anvil" will celebrate the lives of friends, both past and present. Do not miss the opportunity to attend this time-honored tradition!

## **2025 SBA CONFERENCE MAIN DEMONSTRATORS**

### **MARK LING**

Mark Ling is a young blacksmith in College Station, Texas who began blacksmithing at the age of 11 after having the desire to make his own knife. Since then he has had the chance of working with many other more knowledgeable smiths, who influenced him to the style and type of forging he now does. Mark currently forges tools for the blacksmith, bladesmith, and farrier, as well as offering classes teaching the techniques involved in tool making, and other aspects of forging.

### **FORREST 'BUTCH' SHEELY**

Butch Sheely started bladesmithing and blacksmithing in 1982, after getting involved in historic re-enacting. For the next twenty plus years he forged knives, tomahawks and various other items, mostly for re-enactors. Sixteen years ago he started bladesmithing and blacksmithing full time. Butch takes great pride in making the best knives and tomahawks that he can, starting with forging, grinding, and heat treating and including the hand sewn leather sheaths.

Butch joined the American Bladesmith Society in 2005, after attending a number of ABS hammer-ins in Michigan and Ohio. In 2009 he was awarded his Journeyman rating from the ABS. Butch's long term goal is to achieve the Master Smith rating.

He has always enjoyed traditional style knives, axes and hawks.

Most of the working knives that Butch makes are forged from 5160, he also uses 1084, 1095, W2 and 52100. The majority of the Damascus that he makes is 1084 and 15N20. He uses only natural materials for handles, including wood, stag, antler, horn and bone. His belief is that the appearance and feel of natural materials fit the style that he makes.

## **PLUS DEMONSTRATIONS FROM EACH MEMBER ORGANIZATION**

### **JORDAN THOMAS - FABA**

**Sculptural Candle Holder with Traditional Joinery**

### **BUSTER GRUBBS - OBG**

**General Blacksmithing** - Buster was on Forged in Fire - Season 4 Episode

### **RUSTY OSBORNE - PSABG**

**Scrolls** - Rusty Osburn began his blacksmithing journey in 2019 joining the PSABG that same year. He became a board member of the PSABG in 2022 and serves on the ABANA board as well.

Rusty is a qualified instructor for the ABANA level 1 National Curriculum and will be available to certify anyone that has completed their project / techniques as outlined in the Level 1 Student Packet.

### **JOHNNY WOOLSEY - AACB**

**Patina Processes** - John has been creating custom metal sculpture and architectural work since 1995. What began as a hobby turned into a full-time realization of his passion to create.

Working in both ferrous and non-ferrous metals, his work is constantly evolving between contemporary and traditional styles from silhouettes to forged and fabricated 3-D sculpture.

### **STEVE ALFORD - AFC**

**Blacksmith pocketknife or "how to build a folding knife without a machine shop"** - Steve "discovered" blacksmithing around 2001 after reading a book, Toolmaking for Woodworkers, and then found the AFC when a coworker overheard him talking about getting a forge working and suggested meeting with some crazy people his son had been hanging out with. Twenty-some years later, he's spent enough on blacksmithing to have just bought all the woodworking tools anyone could've wanted!

### **LANCE ZEIGLER - ABBA**

Lance is a self-taught artist blacksmith. He lives in the North Georgia mountains with his wife and six children. Lance has taught classes to many students at the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina. He works full-time from his home forge as a blacksmith. "We run a family business with each member helping as they can."

### **BRADLEY SCHWARZ - NC-ABANA**

An artisan metalsmith based in Durham North Carolina. Bradley prefers to work with antique tools and belt-driven machinery. I plan to run my workshop from a line shaft belt system in the future.

Currently Bradley is focused on exploring the intersection between modern practically useful items and early medieval designs. He is working on developing the processes used by early smiths to forge botanical and animal motifs, then incorporating them into his own designs.

# EXTENDED LEARNING CLASSES (A.K.A. FAMILY CLASSES)

## ADDITIONAL CLASS OFFERINGS ARE STILL BEING FINALIZED

*Be sure to register early to guarantee a space! You may register at the conference – if space is still available.*

### GREEN COAL BLACKSMITH CLASSES

This class is a must for beginning blacksmiths, and no skill is required. The class will be hands on, and students will be one-on-one with an instructor. All students will take home their own “masterpieces”. Expect to leave with printed handouts as well as a better understanding of the techniques of the trade. Sign up for one or more classes and sign up early! *The minimum age to take a Green Coal class is 12. Youths between the ages of 12 and 16 must be accompanied by an adult for help and supervision. The classes require the use of sharp objects and manual dexterity. The SBA will provide workstations, tools and materials. Bring your own safety glasses if you have them; if not, the SBA will offer some for sale. If you have a hammer or other tools that you prefer to use, you may bring them.*

### SAFETY

*Be sure to bring eye and ear protection to wear while watching the demonstrations or when in the green coal area. The SBA will have safety glasses for sale if needed. Parents must closely supervise their children at all times. Due to the nature of blacksmithing, all unsupervised children can pose risks – not only to themselves, but to other attendees as well.*

**CONFERENCE HOST**  
**ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL**

**CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN**  
**RONNIE HOWARD**

**CONFERENCE SPONSORS**  
**ALABAMA FORGE COUNCIL**  
([www.alaforge.org](http://www.alaforge.org))

**ALEX BEALER BLACKSMITH ASSN. OF GEORGIA**  
([www.alexbealer.org](http://www.alexbealer.org))

**APPALACHIAN AREA CHAPTER OF BLACKSMITHS**  
([www.AACBlacksmiths.org](http://www.AACBlacksmiths.org))

**FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION**  
([www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org))

**NORTH CAROLINA ARTIST BLACKSMITHS ASSN.**  
([www.ibiblio.org/nc-abana](http://www.ibiblio.org/nc-abana))

**PHILIP SIMMONS ARTIST BLACKSMITH GUILD**  
([www.philipsimmonsartistblacksmithguild.com](http://www.philipsimmonsartistblacksmithguild.com))

**OCMULGEE BLACKSMITHS GUILD OF GEORGIA**  
([www.ocmulgeebblacksmithsguild.org](http://www.ocmulgeebblacksmithsguild.org))

**CONFERENCE CONTACT**  
**(470) 231-9458**  
**[info@sbaconference.org](mailto:info@sbaconference.org)**

## **2025 CONFERENCE PROJECT**

### **FORGED FIREPLACE SETS**

The 2025 Conference Project will be a series of fireplace sets produced by each member organization. These will be voted on by the conference attendees for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> bragging rights. These original sets will then be auctioned off at the Friday Night Auction to raise money to benefit the operations and educational endeavors of the SBA.

**[www.sbaconference.org](http://www.sbaconference.org)**

Check us out on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/SBAconference/>

# 2025 SBA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY – MAY 15th

8AM – 5PM: Registration Begins  
8AM – CONF. END: Vendor Demos, Tailgate & Vendor Sales  
12:30PM – 4PM: AFC Demonstration  
6PM: Meet & Greet at the Quality Inn (Shown on Map)

## FRIDAY – MAY 16th

8AM – 5PM: Conference Registration  
9AM – 6PM: Blacksmith Exhibition Gallery  
8:30AM - 11:30AM: Demonstrations  
11AM: Open for Day Passes  
(\$25 Ages 17 and Up / \$10 Ages 16 and Under or Scouts)  
11:30AM – 12:30PM: Lunch  
12:30PM – 4PM: Demonstrations  
4PM – 5PM: Iron in the Hat  
5:PM – 6PM: All You Can Eat Seafood Banquet  
6PM: Pre-Auction Presentation  
6:30PM – 8:30PM: Auction  
9PM: Blacksmith Competition

## SATURDAY – MAY 17th

8AM – noon: Conference Registration  
Open for Day Passes  
(\$20 Ages 17 and Up / \$10 Ages 16 and Under or Scouts)  
8:30AM – 11:30AM: Demonstrations  
9AM – noon: SBA Member Gallery Open

11AM: SBA Member Gallery Judging Held  
11:30AM – 12:30PM: Lunch  
12:30PM – 1:30PM: Iron in the Hat & Tool Box Raffle  
2PM: Ringing of the Anvil Memorial Service  
3PM: Closing Auction

## EXTENDED LEARNING CLASS SCHEDULE

(A.K.A. FAMILY CLASSES)

### THURSDAY – MAY 15th

2PM – 3:30PM / 3:30PM – 5PM: **Green Coal**  
1PM – 4PM: **TO BE DETERMINED**

### FRIDAY – MAY 16th

8AM–9:30/9:30AM–11/12:30PM–2/2PM–3:30: **Green Coal**  
8:30AM – 11:30AM : **TO BE DETERMINED**  
1PM – 4PM: **TO BE DETERMINED**

### SATURDAY – MAY 17th

8AM–9:30/9:30AM–11AM: **Green Coal**  
8:30AM – 11:30AM: **TO BE DETERMINED**

**NOTE: A detailed Demonstration Schedule will be included with your registration package at the conference**

# LODGING INFORMATION AND MAP

## THE QUALITY INN

2001 Eatonton Road, Madison, GA 30650

706-342-1839

[www.qualityinn.com/hotel-madison-georgia-GA796](http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-madison-georgia-GA796)

This is where our organizers, teachers, and demonstrators will be staying. We have procured special rates, so be sure to mention that you are with the Southern Blacksmith Association Conference. We checked many hotels in the area and this meets our needs best, as it is clean, close to the conference grounds, has a swimming pool and is pet friendly.

**This is where the Thursday Evening Meet and Greet will be held.**

## OTHER HOTELS IN THE AREA

There are a few hotels located within proximity of the Conference location, like the Hampton Inn, Ramada Inn, Wingate Hotel and Deerfield Inn and Suites – check them out online!

## ON SITE TENT & TOW-BEHIND TRAILER CAMPING

There will be an area for onsite tent and tow-behind camping. There are no camper hookups but the fairground has water and restrooms. Space for camping is limited and will be provided on a first come first serve basis, so arrive early and ask about camping at the gate. Remember to bring your own firewood - plus extra firewood, easy-ups, and raingear!

## OFFSITE CAMPING

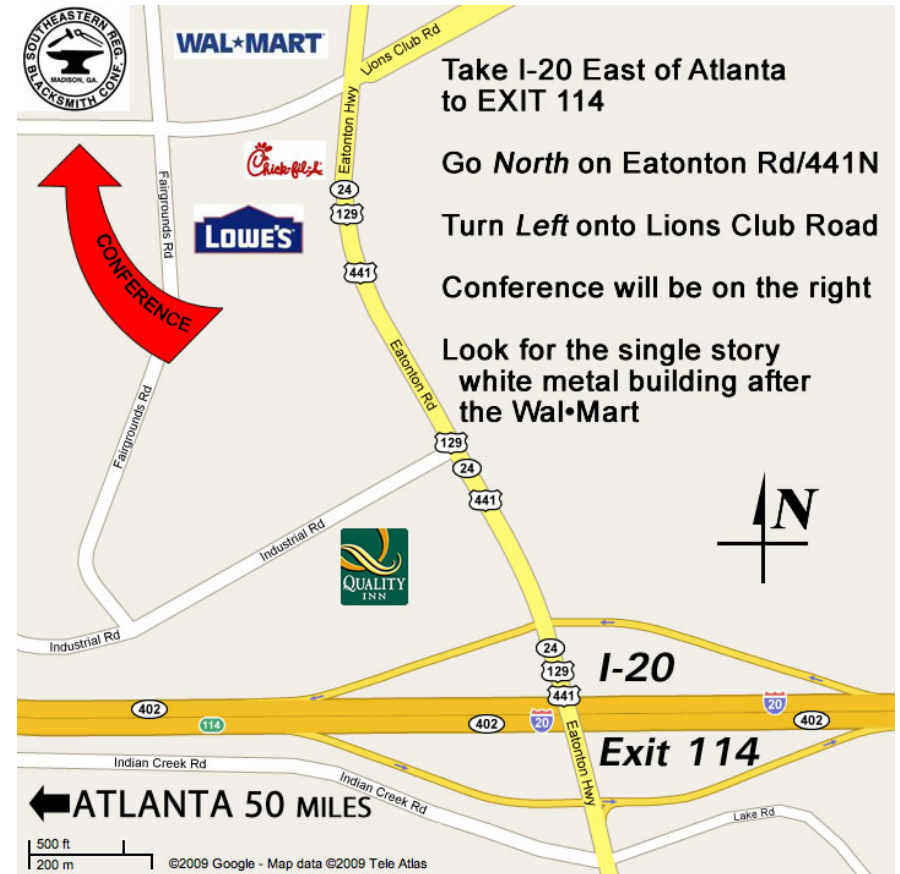
Talisman RV Resort, South of I-20, Ext. 114

Country Boy's RV Park, US 441

## RV PARKING

The WAL-MART next to the conference site permits RV Parking on an 'as

we are able' basis – They do request that you park 'at the top of the hill' – which is conveniently the section of the parking lot that is closest to the conference site. A few sites for RV's will be available on the conference grounds – first come first serve basis.



# 2025 REGISTRATION FORM

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

Spouse/Children: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone:(\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name for Name Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Name for Name Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRICING (\$65 in advance - \$75 at the gate)

### Family Registration for the Conference – Postmarked by May 1<sup>st</sup>:

Includes Admission to the Whole Conference for You and Your Family \$65.00

**Late Fee:** If you register after May 1st, add \$10.00.

### Register & Pay for Friday's All You Can Eat Seafood Banquet:

\$35 a Person Ages 13 and Up / \$20 Ages 12 and Under / Free Under 5

### How Many Banquet Meals:

\_\_\_\_ Adults, Age 13 and Up \_\_\_\_ Youth, Age 12 and Under

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Send This Form With Your Check Or Money Order Payable To:

Southern Blacksmith Association

Judd Clem, 111 Yorkshire Drive, Athens, AL 35613

(256) 232-2645 or email at clem.judd@att.net

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS ALSO NOW AVAILABLE AT

<http://sbaconference.org/registration/>

**THE COST OF THE CONFERENCE WILL BE \$75 AFTER MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>  
OR IF YOU REGISTER AT THE DOOR - SO REGISTER EARLY  
AND SAVE \$10!**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT, NOTICE AND RELEASE

**THE UNDERSIGNED** does hereby, for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators acknowledge that BLACKSMITHING activities are inherently dangerous, due to the very nature of hot metal, hot sparks, sharp objects, machinery and other activities. The use of safety glasses, long sleeved cotton or wool shirts and long cotton pants and leather high topped boots are recommended, in addition to any other safety devices available, as well as not going behind barriers and keeping a safe distance from all activities.

### WARNING:

I wish to participate in these activities knowing they can be dangerous. I accept and assume all the risks of injury (including death) to property and me. Should any person listed below require medical assistance for any reason during this activity and not be in a position to obtain, request or authorize such treatment at the time, such person hereby authorizes the Activity Sponsors to obtain such medical treatment or emergency care as they may deem necessary or desirable and such person agrees to hold the Activity Sponsors harmless with regard to any such emergency care or the expenses arising therefrom. The Activity Sponsors do not condone the drinking of alcohol or taking of drugs at Activities. If you are taking any drugs or medications that might affect your ability to participate in this Activity or are otherwise do not have the experience, knowledge or ability to participate in this Activity please do not participate. If your group includes a minor child, a parent or legal guardian must sign this Acknowledgment, Notice and Release for each minor child and the minor's name must be printed next to the parent or guardian's name.

### In case of emergency please notify:

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

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledged and agreed to this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Your Spouse's Signature

## REGISTRATION FOR EXTENDED LEARNING CLASSES (A.K.A. FAMILY PROGRAMS)

**Class registration and full class descriptions are now available  
online on the conference website – at  
<http://sbaconference.org/family-programs/>**

Classes are available on a first come first serve basis. The class fee includes any initial materials fees and is payable in advance and is non-refundable. If you cannot register online, contact Judd Clem at (256) 232-2645 to reserve a class and pay by check. Register now to guarantee a space. You may register at the conference if space is still available.