



GPFA NEWS

The official publication of the
Georgia Professional Farriers Association

FIRST QUARTER 2020



Photo by LIZ CRUMBLY

Chip Crumbly, CJF, AWCF, of Calhoun, Georgia, displays his shoe board from his associate-level certification with Britain's Worshipful Company of Farriers.

Meeting the British standard

Nine years on, Chip Crumbly talks about what it took to earn a certification with the Worshipful Company of Farriers

By **CHIP CRUMBLY, CJF, AWCF**

I'm a proponent of farrier education, competition and certification, so when I realized Americans were joining the ranks of British farriers by seeking recognition with that country's certifying organization, I put that

accomplishment on my bucket list. Little did I know the process I went through a decade ago now would stretch me mentally and physically in ways I didn't yet know were possible.

When I met Chris Gregory, FWCF, in 2009 at the American Farriers Association convention in Chattanooga,

Tennessee, I had already done my research on the man. I knew he was a Fellow with the British Worshipful Company of Farriers – a level of certification akin to a PhD in academia – and I knew he had

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These are the
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Come on out for some quality continued education options

I hope everyone has had a great start to 2020.

I would like to thank Morgan Hurst for his leadership over the past two years, and I'd also like to recognize Brian Beasley for the great job as treasurer.

I hope you are excited as I am about the coming year.



Travis Wallace, CJF
GPFA PRESIDENT

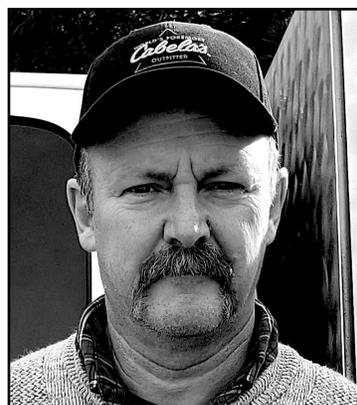
We are planning to have a lot of good opportunities for continuing education with a lot of help from our other officers and advice from lots of members. (I know some of you are tired of my phone calls and questions.)

We have a schedule planned, so mark your calendars, and I hope to

see you out there. Give me a call if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Travis Wallace CJF
GPFA President

FROM THE TREASURER



Scott Phillips, CF
GPFA TREASURER

Beginning balance.....	\$20,606.86
Checks -\$224.64.....	\$20,382.22
Merch sales +183.14.....	\$20,565.36
Trailer tag -\$27.38.....	\$20,537.98
Ben Yager -\$2,646.....	\$17,891.98
Arena rental (2020 cert./ precept. clinics) -\$1,050.....	\$16,841.98
Fees collected for tong making clinic +\$860.....	\$17,701.98
Glenn Reese -\$800.....	\$16,901.98
Glenn Reese hotel -\$114.....	\$16,787.98
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“

If we're dealing with with a certified journeyman,
we know their level of education.

— Dr. Dan Carter, DVM, CJF

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recently succeeded in making the Company's associate level test available stateside.

At the time, I had recently earned my AFA journeyman level certification, and Gregory told me I'd have to have it for two years before I could test to become an Associate with the Company. I started getting ready for the certification, traveling twice from my home in Calhoun, Georgia, to Gregory's Heartland Horseshoeing School in Lamar, Missouri, in the next two years to take his AWCF prep course. The third time I visited Lamar, it was to take the associate level test.

When I made my bid, there were only five Fellows in the United States, and at the end of the three-day test, I joined a handful of U.S. associate level

farriers. Most farriers are interested in the test itself, so I'm going to go into detail about it here. The test has changed somewhat since I took it, but a lot of it is still similar, so I think my experience is still relevant:

**I turned in a shoe board upon arrival that demonstrated many different aspects of my forge work.

**The 2 1/2-hour written portion consists of eight questions divided into three sections. I was required to answer at least one from each section. The answers had to be in essay or diagram/label form, depending on the question.

**I performed a live horse assessment in which I judged a specimen for conformation, soundness and gait quality.

**During the live shoeing, I

shod two feet. I had no idea what I'd be making until right before this portion of the test. The examiners didn't even know - they broke the seal on the envelope containing the shoe instructions right in front of me. I ended up making a concave, square toe, straight bar, quarter clip front shoe and a 3/4 fullered, straight bar, square toe, quarter clip hind shoe.

**During the modern materials portion, I glued an aluminum shoe onto a cadaver foot and patched a toe crack.

**The vet examination portion required me to work under the supervision of a vet while I looked at radiographs and was asked to identify structures, explain the angle of the shot and discuss any pathologies present. I also identified anatomical

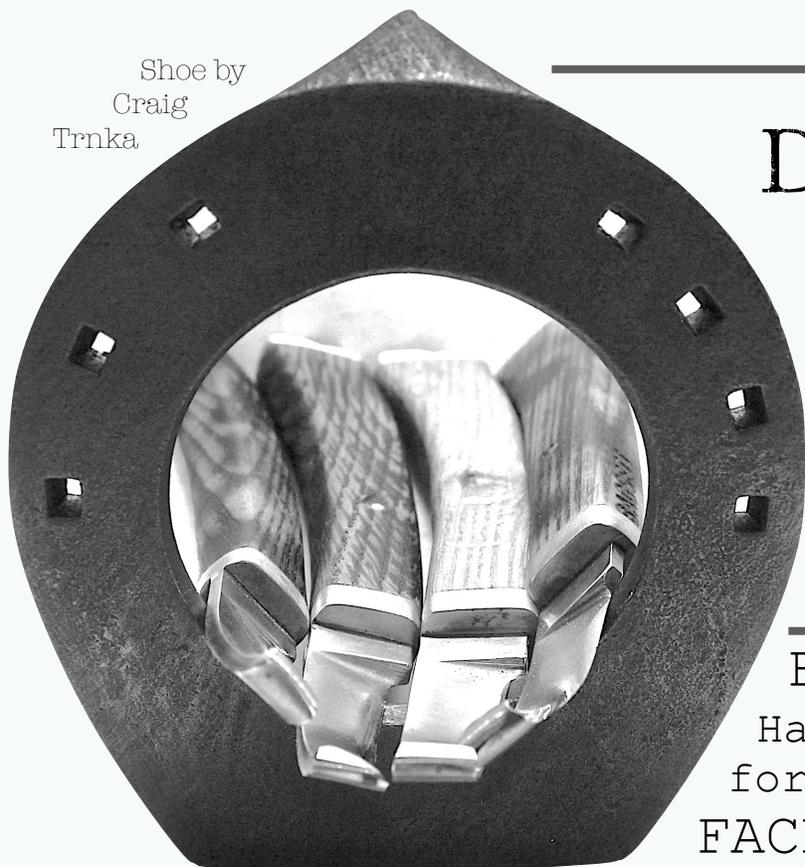
structures on a live horse and looked for potential problems with those structures.

** The oral exam involved a panel of two FWCF Farriers and one veterinary surgeon shooting questions at me and poring over my shoe board. Among their questions were those I hadn't answered on the written exam, and they had questions about statements I had made earlier in the process.

As you can tell, this was a full-out test of my knowledge and skill. It was a worthwhile process that greatly broadened my knowledge and elevated my skill at the horse. I'll leave you with a few recommendations in case you're thinking of taking this

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Shoe by
Craig
Trnka



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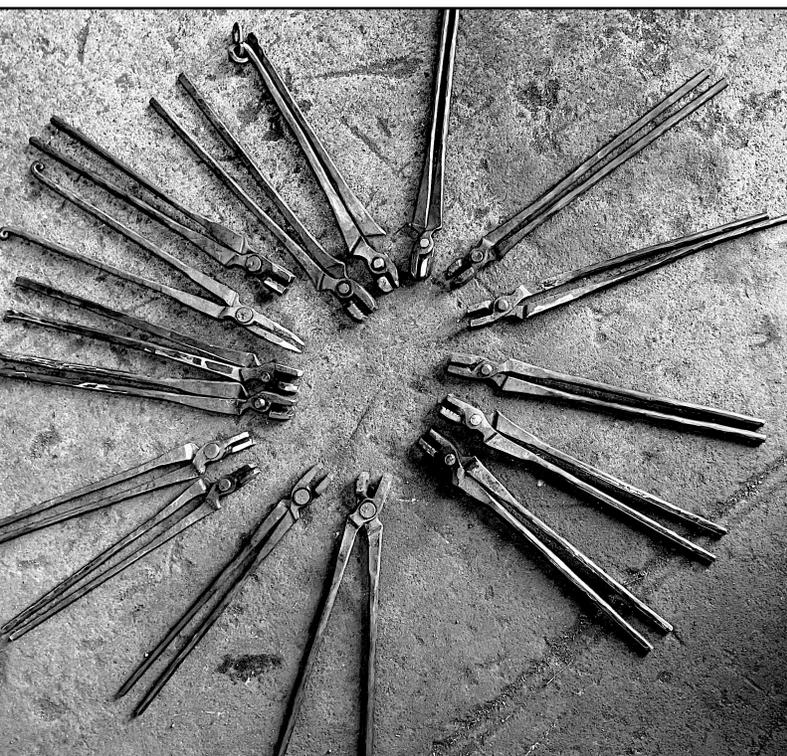
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Jan. toolmaking clinic: a focus on tongs

Glenn Reece drove over from Alabama for a tong making clinic Jan. 17-18 in Dawsonville at Jesse Crane's shop. The clinic was well attended, and Glenn did a great job. Everyone left with a few pairs of tongs and the ability to make countless numbers in the future. Whether we are forging tongs or horseshoes, the skills we develop make our day-to-day work that much easier. A big thanks goes to Jesse Crane for the use of his shop. Below: Scott Phillips, left, works on a pair of tongs with Glenn Reece. Bottom left: the results of our labor. Bottom right: the whole group with Glenn, fourth from left.



OUR UPCOMING YEAR

Feb. 15: GPFA- East Coast Farrier Supply Horseshoeing 101 clinic with Craig Trnka, CJF

Free to members - join on site \$50
290 Abbeville Hwy.
Hawinsville, Ga. 31036
Contact Julie at
East Coast Farrier Supply
478-783-2420

March 9-13: AFA Convention

March 28: Vet-Farrier Roundtable

160 Woodhaven Ln.
Ball Ground, Ga. 30107

April 3-4: Pre-certification Clinic

Heritage park
2543 Macon Hwy.
Watkinsville, Ga. 30677

Contact Travis Wallace,
CJF, 770-653-5930 to
reserve a spot

May 8-9: Certification

Heritage park
2543 Macon Hwy.
Watkinsville, Ga. 30677
Contact Travis Wallace,
CJF - 770-653-5930

May 23: Vet-Farrier Roundtable

with Mike Wharton, CJF
160 Woodhaven Ln.
Ball Ground, Ga. 30107

June 13: GPFA- Georgia Farrier Supply Clinic

4655 Dahlonge Hwy.
Cumming, Ga. 30028
Contact Travis Wallace,
CJF - 770-653-5930

July 25: Vet-Farrier Roundtable

160 Woodhaven Ln.
Ball Ground, Ga. 30107

Sept: Daniel Jones, CJF, Clinic - TBA

Oct 23-24: Contest/ Clinic

Judge Bodie Trnka, CJF
2600 S Milledge Ave.
Athens, Ga. 30605
Contact Travis Wallace,
CJF - 770-653-5930

British, from page 4

journey yourself. As challenging as my AFA journeyman certification was when I obtained it, it seemed more like graduating from high school in comparison to testing for my associate certification, which was more like jumping straight into a Master's degree program.

1. Be prepared for a very strictly run test. The examiners will refer to you by your candidate number. They will be dressed in lab coats, and they will not have a lot of interaction with you. You won't receive much feedback during the process.

2. Read all of Simon Curtis' books, concentrating especially on the "Corrective Farriery" volumes.

3. Read "Hickman's Farriery" by John Hickman and Martin Humphrey. This is pretty much the British bible of farriery, from what I understand.

Attend clinics and competitions and get a good farrier network going for yourself. You never know who you'll run into or how you can help each other.

4. Compete with the World Championship Blacksmiths organization. I believe seriously pursuing the WCB for one year will move your

skill level in the forge ahead 10 years. I learned to work under pressure, forge items I never would have attempted otherwise, learned the elements of a shoe and functions of those elements. The network of farriers I met was worth the effort. In 2010, Craig Trnka judged our GPFA competition and invited me to come out to Shreveport to the next World Championship Blacksmiths (WCB) competition. It was the first of many WCB competitions I would attend. Getting involved with the WCB brought my forging game up to a level that made it much more likely for me to be able to produce on the

day of my associate exam. In fact, several of the shoes I turned in on my AWCF shoe board were shoes I learned to make while practicing for a WCB competition.

5. Practice your writing and speaking skills. The written test is mostly essay type questions; I wrote over nine pages and drew two pages of diagrams for five questions. Make sure you really read the questions and understand what is being asked. Answer your written and verbal questions with confidence. And bring colored pencils to the test - they'll come in handy for the diagrams.