

# Steel & Fire



May, 2020



**The Winter Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild meeting was held at the cabin/shop of Harry & Charlie Mathews aka Twinblades. This was truly a family affair as you can see in the above picture. We always enjoy the time spent in Statesboro for this event.**

## **The Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild**

**Educating and informing the public about knife making  
Assisting, aiding, and teaching members, helping to develop their skill level,  
And how to promote their craft  
Establishing and following Standards of Conduct and Workmanship**

# Steel & Fire



Steel and Fire is the official publication of the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild. It is compiled and published in four issues annually. Compiled, published, and distributed by The Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild.

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The Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild was formed to meet the needs of a growing body of custom knifemakers in the southeastern United States. The purpose of this newsletter is to serve as a medium of exchange for the members of the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild.

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## Notes from the President

*Greetings Everyone! We hope this finds you all well and busy after this lockdown, aka shelter-in-place, we have gone through these past few months. We hated that we had to cancel the May get together and meeting but as we all know, it was in the best interest of the Guild. Missed seeing everyone and the good times we get to share at our meetings.*

*Hopefully all the makers had an opportunity to spend some quality time in their shops. I do know that Pops' Knife Supplies stayed busy keeping all the shops' stock supplied. A big shout-out to the guys over there, we appreciate you.*

*As you probably have heard/seen the BLADE SHOW has been moved to August 7,8,9th. Our Guild table will be open and I will be trying to recruit new members and collect dues. If you want to drop that by we would appreciate it. So if you can make it be sure to stop by to say hi.*

*We had some bad news back in March when I got word that fellow member, Donnie Daughtry, had a fire that took his entire knife shop, a total loss.*

*Many members jumped in and helped Donnie out with some supplies, materials and cash allowing him to rebuild and get his shop back up and he is now back in production! Way to go gang, that is what a Guild does! Welcome back Donnie.*

*A big THANK YOU to Twinblades for hosting our February meeting in Statesboro. Great food, great attendance and an excellent get together. The demo by Jerry McJilton on how to flat grind a blade had a packed room. Good Job Jerry.*

*And now on to the next meeting...Eddie Ray has set up a great demo for us at the summer meeting that will be in Blairsville, GA at the home/shop of Dennis & Beverly Bradley. This will take place on August 22nd with a Friday social on the 21st.*

*Since it will be our first meeting since February, we hope that everyone can make it. It will be good to see all!*

*The ICCE show in Fort Worth, Texas has been cancelled for this year. The new show dates will be April 2-3, 2021. The ad we had for the show book should roll over to next year's book. This will be a topic of discussion at our next meeting.*

*Keeping the Guild, all the members, families and friends, in our prayers for a safe, prosperous and healthy remainder of the year.*

Keep It Sharp!  
John I. Shore

### UPCOMING MEETING:

**The spring meeting of the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild was cancelled due to the Coronavirus situation. Our next meeting will be the summer meeting that will be held at the home/shop of Dennis and Beverly Bradley in Blairsville, GA. It will take place on Saturday, August 22nd with a Friday social on the 21st. The address for this meeting is 178 Bradley Acres Rd, Blairsville, GA.**

**Check the forum and the GA Guild FACEBOOK page for more information.**

**Guild shirts** are available. Contact Nola Costin for more information on purchasing a shirt. Sizes include S, M, 2XL, and 3XL at a cost of \$16.00.

The newer shirts sizes L and XL are \$20.00 due to the increase cost in purchasing them. Shirts will be available for purchase at the meeting.

### Guild hats...

We still have GA Guild hats available for purchase. The cost of the hat is \$15.00.

There is just one style left to chose from at this time.



### Cover Story:

Charlie & Harry Mathews have been hosting many of the February meetings over the past years. This year they were again joined by their wives Susan and Alice along with grandchildren, Tripp and Little Miss Perry.



Our winter Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild took place at the cabin/shop of Charlie and Harry Mathews...AKA Twinblades. They held a Friday social and were joined by their wives and two of their grandchildren.



Tripp and Perry playing checkers with cousin, Allen Mathews.





Time for fellowship  
and good food.





Several members set up to display/sell their knife related items. Dennis Bradley attends most meetings and is available to share his knowledge and talents to those that attend.



Knives on display from several different makers that attended this meeting in Statesboro.



Dave Smith shared some of his miniature knives and leather talent.

## Demo

Jerry McJilton shows fellow knife makers how to flat grind a blade..



## New Juried member



Steve Davis was juried in at this meeting. Congratulations, Steve!



Marsha Brewer, treasurer for the GA Guild, sets up to collect dues, get everyone signed -in, and sell tickets for the Scholarship knife and for Iron-in-the-Hat drawings. Craig Schneeberger joined in to help.



Scholarship Knife donated by Jerry McJilton and won by Jack Frost.



Remember, we need your help. If you can donate a knife to use for our Scholarship drawings for one of our upcoming meetings, please let Eddie Ray know .



## Calendar

**The Chattahoochee Cutlery Club and the Flint River Knife Club will have a meeting and picnic on June 20, 2020, at the home of Gary & Teresa Kennedy. For more information contact Nola Costin at [nolacostin2127@gmail.com](mailto:nolacostin2127@gmail.com)**

**The Atlanta Blade Show at the Cobb Galeria will be held August 7-9, 2020. This is a date change due to the Coronavirus issues.**

**The Summer GA Guild meeting will be held on August 21-22, 2020 at the home/shop of Dennis & Beverly Bradley in Blairsville, Georgia.**

**Southern Handmade Knife Show at Jaemor Farms, Alto, GA will be on Saturday, August 29, 2020**

**Fall Trackrock Hammer-In in Blairsville, GA will take place on September 25-26, 2020.**



### Knife Making Instructors List

This will remain in the newsletter for those that are interested in taking a class on some aspect of knife making? Here is a reprint of the list of some members who can help you out.

1. Joe Sangster-instruction on making pocket knives
2. Wayne Hensley-all phases of grinding & polishing.
3. Batson's at Tannehill State Park holds classes on various subjects. These are held on the first weekend in April.
4. Damon Lusky- Does a small training group in Dawsonville. Focus is on martial blades concepts.
5. Carl Rechsteiner-general bladesmithing & knife making instruction as well as leather work.
6. John C Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC
7. Charlie & Harry Mathews-basic knife making class @\$500.00
8. Stephan Fowler-basic class on forging a full tang hunter @\$425.00
9. Haywood Community College, Haywood/Canton, NC—ABS classes-check website for class schedule
10. Mark Hopper of Goat'n'Hammer Blacksmith Shop in Atlanta, GA. See their website for more information.

**See you on  
Saturday  
August 22, 2020  
Blairsville, Georgia  
but don't forget about  
the Atlanta Blade  
show on August 7-9th**



Please inform our newsletter editor, Nola Costin, of any classes that you teach or anyone that you know of or a facility that holds knife making classes. She can list them here.

Back in early March one of our members, Donnie Daughtery, had the misfortune of a shop fire that took his shop and everything in it. When we got news of this, the Board of Directors got together and with Donnie's permission posted the incident on our Facebook page. We included a request that if anyone had a spare bit of material, tools, tooling, handle material or cash they would want to contribute to help a fellow member out to please do so. The response was great. A big Thank YOU to all that helped. In just a couple of weeks and lots of work on Donnie's part, we are proud to announce that he now has a new shop and is back in production. The bad part was that this happened just when we had to social distance and had travel restrictions due to the Corona-virus situation. We couldn't give Donnie a hand in the rebuild, but with all that in less than a month, Donnie had his shop rebuilt, lights on and back to making knives. Just goes to show the strength, fortitude and determination that goes with one that is a member of the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild. I am proud to be a member of this group and to know Donnie Daughtery. This was the second member of the GA Guild that lost everything to a shop fire as James Mitchell went through the same thing just a couple years ago.





**Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild  
John Poythress Scholarship Fund Application**

The John Poythress Scholarship Fund was established in memory of the founding President of the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild. John was taken from us unexpectedly in 2005 and this fund was created by family and friends in memory of his passion for the art of knife making. This Scholarship will put up to \$500 towards any knife related course which is approved by the Board of Directors. The money can only be used to pay the course tuition and any related supplies used by the student. Applicants should contact a member of the Scholarship Committee prior to attending a course to verify that the particular class, school or member knife-maker teaching the course has been approved.

There are requirements and obligations that the applicant must meet in order to receive this scholarship and he/she hereby agrees to the following terms:

- 1) The course must be attended within 1 year of approval unless waived by the Board.
- 2) Membership in the G.C.K.G. must be current and paid in full.
- 3) You must be a member of the G.C.K.G. for at least one year prior to approval.
- 4) Payment will be made after proof of satisfactory attendance is submitted.
- 5) You agree to demonstrate an acquired skill to the members of the Guild within 3 scheduled meetings after attending the course.
- 6) Applicants will not be eligible for another scholarship for three years following receipt of a previous scholarship.

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

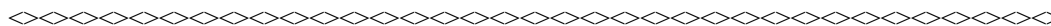
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date You Joined The G.C.K.G.: \_\_\_\_\_

What Course Are You Planning To Attend? \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that all of the information I have provided on this application is true and correct.

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



Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_