

Steel & Fire



April, 2026



The Atlanta Blade Show is fast approaching. Plan to be there June 5-7, 2026 for the 45th annual BLADE Show 2026.

This is the World's Largest Knife Show with more than 950 exhibitors. Blade Show Atlanta is located at the Cobb Galleria Centre, 2 Galleria Parkway SE, Atlanta, Georgia.

Hours:

Friday, June 5: 11 AM —6 PM (Early Bird: 10 AM)

Saturday, June 6: 9 AM—6 PM

Sunday, June 7: 9 AM—2 PM



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.

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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Please address correspondence about this newsletter to the President or the Editor at the following addresses. Please direct requests for information about the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild to the President.

Guild Officers and Directors

President:	Eddie Ray 678-858-6201 raye38@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Jerry McJilton 305-409-3828 jaimoeknives@yahoo.com
Secretary/Treasurer:	Cindy Acker 678-502-8883 cindyacker@bellsouth.net
Member-At-Large:	Dan Acker 404-263-4497 dackerusa@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Nola Costin 404-660-1709 nolacostin2127@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Dan Acker dackerusa@gmail.com
Director/Chairman, Poythress Scholarship Fund	John Shore 407-878-9591 messermacher@yahoo.com

Notes from the President

Greetings Everyone!

I hope this finds you all well and prosperous. I want to express my deepest appreciation to each and everyone of you all for the phone calls and texts over the last few months checking in on how I am doing since my heart procedures. I am happy to say the interventional cardiologist has give me two thumbs up, and they got all the major blockages open.

We are just days away from our next meeting at Pops Knife Supply, this coming Saturday, May 2nd starting at 9 am. Along with a Friday night social starting around 5pm. This will be a meeting you don't want to miss. Allen at Pops has told me they have two amazing demos planned for everyone on Saturday. Walter Sorrells will be doing a demo on the use of jigs for grinding. And there will also be a demo on Gun& Knife finishing.

Please remember to bring something for the Iron-in-the-Hat tables as this helps with the sale of tickets for this. Money from this goes to help pay for the food for our meeting.

I also want to encourage you all to attend the Friday night social. We will be having street tacos for the meal and if you have never had these, you are missing some great food. And we all know the lunch they provide on Saturday will be excellent.

As always we want to thank the guys at Pops for all they do to host these meetings and all the hard work that their employees put into making these meetings such a great time for all. I hope to see you all there and I am looking forward to an amazing meeting.

Blessings and safe travels to all.
Eddie Ray

UPCOMING MEETING:

Our Spring meeting of the Georgia Guild will take place on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at Pops Knife Supply shop in Gainesville, Georgia. Saturday's meeting will start at 9:00. Friday night social will start around 5:00, with Street Tacos around 6:00.

Address is 1742 Candler Road
Gainesville, Georgia

Remember that your annual dues are due each year in February. If you have not paid, please do so now so that you will not be removed from our list of members. The dues are \$60 per year unless you are 70 or over, then they are \$25 per year.

**PAY YOUR DUES WITH CASH
PAY PAL
OR BY CREDIT CARD!!!**

•••••
• **Cindy Acker, our Georgia**
• **Custom Knifemakers' Guild**
• **Treasurer, has Pay Pal**
• **available to pay those dues.**
• **Or you can pay by check or cash**
• **at our meeting.**
• *We also can now do a*
• *credit card payment!!!*
•••••



The Winter meeting of the Georgia Guild was hosted by Lee & Candi Dykes, in Cochran, Georgia. This is such a great venue with the shop and large covered area for gathering and eating. Thank you Lee & Candi for allowing us to hold another meeting at your home/shop.



As Eddie Ray was not able to attend this meeting, the VP, Jerry McJilton, took charge of the meeting.



This could be a future knife maker and member of the Georgia Guild. Love the look of the overalls, hat and boots.



There's always plenty of time for fellowship and great food at these meetings.



Many members share their handmade knives & knife related items at the Guild meetings. If you want to bring some knives to the upcoming meeting on Saturday, May 2nd, please feel free to do so.



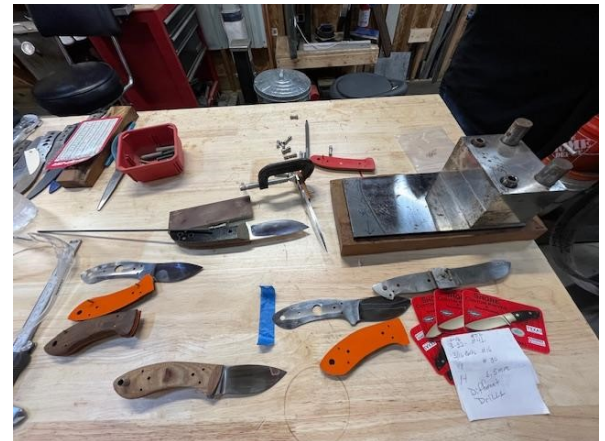
Some folks' knives are easy to identify, but it is always best to bring a business card to identify your special handmade items.



Demos at this meeting included Lee Dykes and John Shore. Lee had taken a Scholarship class on making folders and shared this with the group.

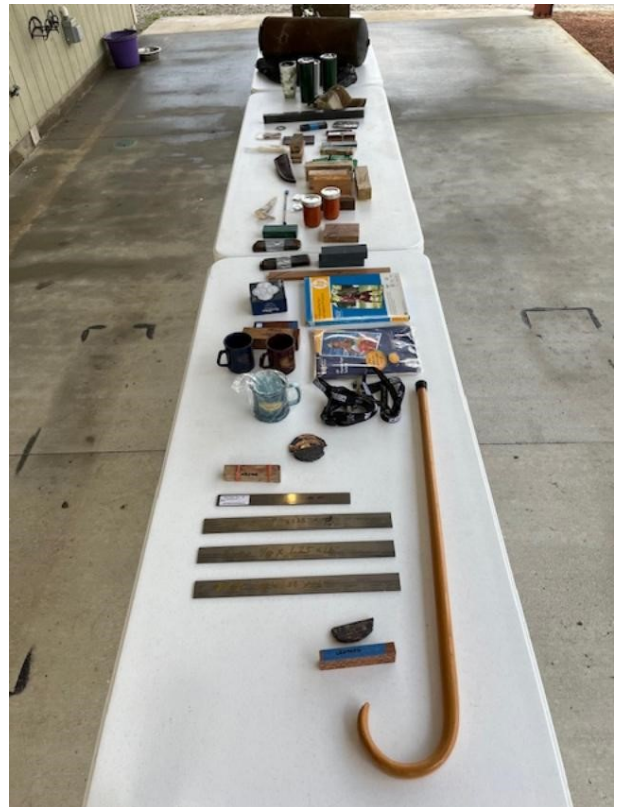


John Shore gave a demo on applying handles to his knives.





Blade Magazine had an article about the Scrimshaw work that is done by Jimmie Smith of Florida.
The Scrimshaw was of a Mountain Man, aka the Atlanta Mountain Man. This was done from a picture of Jerry Costin dressed in his outfit while attending the Atlanta Blade Show.
Nola Costin now owns this knife...though Smitty, as he is known, had to be persuaded to sell this knife.



Remember to bring something for the Iron-in-the-Hat tables.

Scholarship Knife

Donated by Lee Dykes

Please help by donating a knife for future Scholarship Knife drawings.

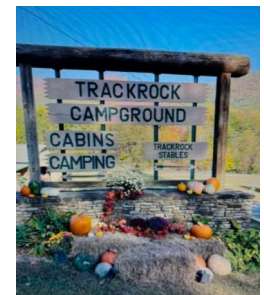


UPCOMING EVENTS—

Spring GA Guild meeting will take place on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at Pops' Knife Supply shop, 1742 Candler Road, Gainesville, GA.

Atlanta Blade Show at the Cobb Galleria on June 5-7, 2026 (See the front Cover page for more information and check them out on FACEBOOK.

Fall Trackrock Hammer-In will take place on September 18-19, 2026 in Blairsville, Georgia. Check it out on Facebook for more information.



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. Batson's at Tannehill State Park holds classes on various subjects. These are held on the first weekend in April.
3. Damon Lusky- Does a small training group in Dawsonville, GA. Focus is on martial blades concepts.
4. Carl Rechsteiner-general bladesmithing & knife making instruction as well as leather work.
5. John C Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC
6. Stephan Fowler-basic class on forging a full tang Hunter.
7. Haywood Community College, Haywood/Canton, NC ABS classes-check website for class schedule
8. Mark Hopper of Goat'N'Hammer Blacksmith Shop in Douglasville, GA. See their website for more Information.

****Please let me know if you would like to be added to or removed from this list.**

REMINDER

See you on
 Friday & Saturday
 May 1-2, 2026
 In Gainesville, Georgia.
 Pops' Knife Supply Shop
 Please bring something for
Iron-in-the-Hat.



That's all Folks for this edition. Hope to see you at the upcoming meeting!!

