

Steel & Fire



September, 2026



Have you ever watched a worker with a billet of steel for making Damascus? Well, that's one huge billet of several layers of various types of steel and iron slices that are welded together to form this billet. The billet is drawn out and folded until the desired number of layers is formed. Pattern-welded steel has been referred to as "Damascus steel" since 1973 when bladesmith William F. Moran unveiled his "Damascus knives" at the Knifemakers' Guild Show. This picture is from Brad Vice's shop in Alabama. It is a great experience to visit his shop and watch this in action! (See more in this issue of Steel & Fire on page 8)

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



After winning the competition at the joint meeting of the Flint River Knife Club & the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild, Tony Crabtree took the knife home and gave it a more finished look.

Notes from the President

I hope this finds everyone doing well and enjoying this cooler weather, at least in the morning. We are fast approaching our next meeting at Pops'. This will be Pops' Fall Festival along with our fall Guild meeting. This is a great opportunity for each member who is able to attend, to meet those who attend and extend an invitation to become part of the Georgia Guild. I'm sure there will be new makers there that may want to be part of the Guild. I encourage all members to make sure you speak to as many visitors as possible, and if they have an interest in joining, please introduce them to Cindy Acker or Scott Davidson.

A huge shout-out thanks to Will Dutton for being willing to bring his equipment to set up and forge nails into small swords for the children who will be attending the festival/meeting.

Also, a thank you to Richard Gallagher and his wife for hosting our last meeting at their shop in Suches, Georgia. We had a great meeting and some excellent demos. If you missed that meeting, you missed a good Friday night social as Richard and his wife know how to make some great wood fired pizzas.

I want to take a moment and say thanks for all the calls and texts and most of all the Prayers for me and my family. I had the procedure to remove the tumor from my bladder and it tested negative for any cancer. I will be going to Emory the first of November to meet with one of their leading kidney oncologist to discuss the next step for getting a diagnosis for the growths on my kidneys.

I hope you all are able to attend this upcoming meeting. I know some won't be able to be there due to scheduling conflicts with festivals that they do. However, we enjoy seeing you all every chance we get. Take care and safe travels to all.

Eddie Ray

UPCOMING MEETING:

Our Fall meeting of the Georgia Guild will take place at Pop's Knife Supply shop on Saturday, October 10, 2026. There will also be a Friday gathering. Saturday's meeting will start at 9:00. Friday night social will start around 5:00.

Their shop is located at 1742 Candler Rd, Gainesville, GA.

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,
CHECK, 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 Summer meeting of the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild was held at the home/shop of Richard & Mary Gallagher in Suches, Georgia. Thank you for sharing of your home/shop for our meeting.



One of the special things about having a meeting at Richard's home is his homemade pizzas in his outdoor pizza oven. They are oh, so good!!!



Lunch is equally good having a catered meal of BBQ and the fixins'.



Several members were juried in at this meeting. Various styles of knives and swords.



Mark Mercer from Cornelia, GA



Rick Lammons from Jefferson, GA



Joe Bosarge from Martinez, GA



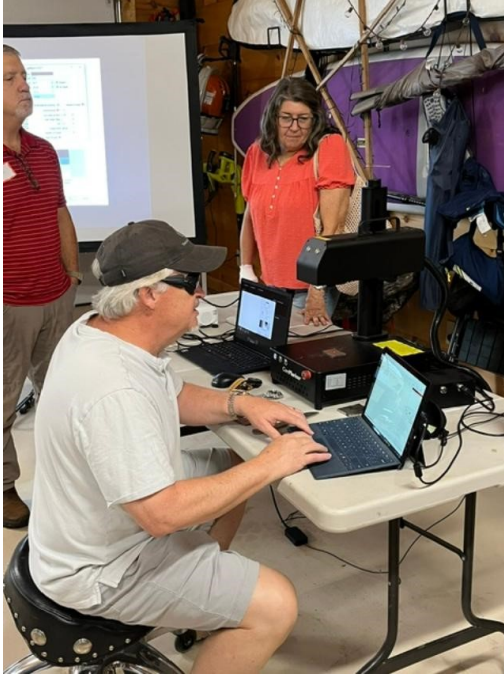
Zack Zhang from Marietta, GA



Corey Pelton from Blue Ridge, GA



Demos:
Richard Gallagher shared with the group a demo on laser etching. Technology is a big thing these days.



Jerry McJilton gave a demo on slip joints. Several tools were shared to help make this a much easier process.



Scholarship Knife

Donated by Jeff McCullough and won by Richard Gallagher. Please help by donating a knife for future Scholarship Knife drawings. Thank you Jeff and congratulations to Richard!



Members can bring items to sell or display at a guild meeting.



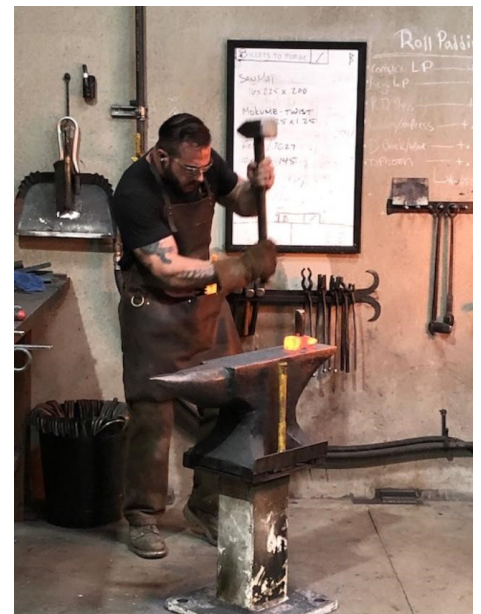
Remember to bring something for the Iron-in-the-Hat tables. All the money made from the sale of the tickets, helps to pay for the lunch at these meetings.

The art of making Damascus—

Alabama Damascus located in Jacksonville, Alabama has been in operation since 1985, operated by Brad Vice. They offer a wide array of distinctive signature patterns. You don't have to have a fancy shop to make some of the best Damascus in the world!



Vegas Forge Damascus is located in Sunrise Manor, Nevada. It is noted for its American-made hand-crafted Damascus distinctive visual designs. Jerry & Nola Costin visited this shop a few years ago. Quite impressive and just outside of Las Vegas, Nevada.



Another noted maker of Damascus is Robert Eggerling from Mertztown, Pennsylvania. Robert recently retired, but his Mosaic Damascus that he is noted for making (for over 25 years) will live on. Here are a couple of pictures of some of his unique mosaic patterns. Check with Dave Smith if you would like more information on Eggerling Damascus.



UPCOMING EVENTS—

Fall GA Guild meeting will take place on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at Pops' Knife Supply shop in Gainesville, Georgia. Friday evening gathering also starting at 5:00.

Spring Trackrock Hammer-In will take place on March 19-20, 2027, 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
October 9-10, 2026
Pops' Knife Supply Shop
In Gainesville, Georgia
Please bring
something for
Iron-in-the-Hat.



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

