



28th Annual Batson Bladesmithing Symposium & Knife Show

On April 1-3, 2016

At
TANNEHILL IRONWORKS at Exit 100 off I-20, 11 miles West of Bessemer, Alabama

The Registration fee is \$75 for AFC members & \$100 for others
(for a one year Membership in the Alabama Forge Council).
Knife Show Table Fee and Tannehill State Park Fee are included in Registration.

Please pre-register. Send your name, address, and phone number with registration fee
And how many people that will attend the Demonstrators Dinner on Thursday evening
To Judd Clem, 111 Yorkshire Dr, Athens, AL 35613,
Or contact by phone 256/232-2645, or by e-mail, clem.judd@att.net.
Your Park fee is paid by the Alabama Forge Council.

Youth Hands-On Forging Sites for Boy Scouts and other youths with adult, free to youths under 16. We should have the best Knife Show ever. Your table fee is free to paid participants.

Bring a knife for the
Railroad Spike Knife Contest.

There will be **Knife Suppliers, Tail Gate Sales and Tool Venders**
Bring items for the **Auction.**

Featured Demonstrators

Bert Gaston ~ Bill Burke ~ Tim Potier

**Joe Keeslar, Joe Seabolt, Mel Pardue, Alex Daniels, Caroline Hughes, BR Hughes,
Jim Batson, Neil Falkenberry, Ken Durham, Raymond Head, Mark Haddix,
Billy Bates, Mary Bailey**



Bert Gaston of Little Rock, AR, is a current board member of the ABS. He received his Master Smith stamp in 1993. Bert is a veteran teacher at the ABS school. Bert's blades have been featured in Blade Magazine, Knives Illustrated, Knife World, Fighting Knives and other periodicals.

Specialties: Bowies and Bowie variations, hunters and straight knives of my design. Technical: Damascus is 15N20 and 1084 and carbon steel knives of 5160, 1084 and 52100. Only use natural handle material and Sambar Stag is the favored. Touch Mark: Stylized "G" or last name in arc with M.S.



Knife Maker: Bill Burke

Photo By: Eric Eggly, PointSeven Studios

My name is Bill Burke. I make high performance working knives by forging 52100 bearing grade carbon steel, 5160 carbon steel, and my own Damascus. In 2008, I was honored to become an American Bladesmith Society Mastersmith.

My first knives were made from hacksaw blades at the age of six or seven. These were very crude knives and I never put handles on any of them. I also made several knives from power hacksaw blades in high school metal shop class. These knives were better made and cut fairly well after I drew them to a blue temper on top of the wood stove used for heating the house that I lived in. I made numerous other knives from different materials, very few of which were ever fully finished. It wasn't until 1998 that I started forging.

During the two decades that passed between high school and forging, I searched for a knife that could stand up to the everyday tasks that were a part of my life. I purchased and then threw away, wore out and returned so many knives that, had I invested the money that I spent on knives, I could have retired by this time. In late August of 1998, while looking for a specific brand of gun powder, I happened across a copy of *Knife Talk*, written by Ed Fowler. I stood in the store and leafed through this book for nearly an hour. The thought that a knife was capable of doing the things that Mr. Fowler was claiming his knives could do seemed to me to border on magic. I had to have this book and the knowledge that was between its covers.

At first, I read only the stories that had to do with the actual making of a knife. Then, realizing that there was an underlying message in the other stories, I read the whole book from cover to cover. Armed with my newfound knowledge and the fact that "*I have been millwright and a welder and I can do anything with metal that anyone else can do*" I went to the garage to forge a knife.

When my first several forged knives failed to hold a good edge, it was time to swallow some pride and call for some words of advice from the author of "my knife forging Bible," Ed Fowler. Since that first call for help in 1998, I have been to Ed's home and shop in Riverton, Wyoming many times. These trips resulted in marathon sessions of making, testing, and discussing knives. The knives that I now make are a result of those trips and many hours of forging and many, many failures -- but in each failure, there has been a lesson learned. The knives that I now make have been borne of the hundreds of pounds of broken and bent test blades in my scrap pile.



TIM POTIER

My first knife was made in 1981 in an attempt to replicate a knife a forester had used every day in the woods. I began working as a full time forester with the Louisiana Forestry Commission in 1974 and continue to this day, 35 years later.

During a land owners inspection of his property he noticed my knife and informed me of a neighbor who also made knives. We visited his shop and “Vois La”, the style knives were the same as the forester’s knife that I tried to replicate. He was Pete Hamilton’s son who worked as foreman of the forge for Randall Knives in Orlando, Florida.

We worked together making 25 to 30 knives. I bought his equipment and struck out on my own grinding approximately 200 knives, each sharing a semblance of a Randall style.

I began reading about the American Bladesmith Society whose knives would cut a one inch rope, cut 2x4’s and still remain razor sharp, and bend 90 degrees without breaking. Could this be true? I had to find out!



maker – Timothy Potier, MS

image – Caleb Royer

I attended a one week course taught by Master Smith Jerry Fisk at the Texarkana School of Bladesmithing in Arkansas in 1981. I received my Journeyman Smith Rating in 1992. I received my Master Smith rating in 1994.

This past year 2008, I received the privilege to instruct students on the skills and techniques in producing the same style knives that I once only read about.

Type and Style of Blade Work: Large camp knives and Bowies, Axes, hunters, bird and trout, skinners, specialty knives, miniatures, differential heat treating revealing temper lines, file work, and checkering.

Timothy Potier, Master Smith

- DAMASCUS STEEL-----BILL BURKE
- FINISHES, HANDLES & GUARDS-----BERT GASTON
- SILVER WIRE INLAY & LEATHER SHEATHS -----JOE KEESLAR
- BLADE FORGING, GRINDING & HEAT TREAT -----TIMOTHY POTIER
- RENDESVOUS KNIVES & TOMAHAWKS-----JOE SEABOLT
- AUTOMATIC FOLDERS-----MEL PARDUE
- LOCKBACK FOLDERS -----ALEX DANIELS
- MARKETING-----CAROLYN HUGHES
- ABS KNIFE JUDGING-----B R HUGHES
- BOWIE: MAN & KNIFE----- B R HUGHES & JIM BATSON
- HANDS-ON FORGING----- NEIL FAULKENBERRY & KEN DURHAM
- YOUTH HANDS-ON FORGING ----- RAYMOND HEAD & MARK HADDIX
- HAMMER & GRAVER ENGRAVING-----BILLY BATES
- LEARN TO SCRIMSHAW-----MARY BAILEY
- AUCTION----- COLONEL TIM RYAN

AGENDA

Thursday, March 31, 2016

- 3 to 6 pm.....Check-in
- 6 to 8 pm.....Demonstrators Dinner

Friday, April 1, 2016

- 7-8 am.....Check-in
- 8-12 noon.....Demonstrations
- Lunch.
- 1-5 pm.....Demonstrations
- 5-6 pm.....Cookout
- 7-9 pm.....Bowie: The Man, the knife

Saturday, April 2, 2016

- 7-8 am.....Check-in
- 8-12 noon.....Demonstrations
- Lunch
- 1-3 pm.....Knife Show & Collectors Exhibition
- 3-5 pm.....Auction

Sunday, April 3, 2016

- 8-12 noon.....Demonstrations

TANNEHILL IRONWORKS

The Alabama State Historical Park consists of an Iron & Steel Museum, Tannehill Furnaces, Craft Cabins, 195 improved campsites, Gristmill, cotton gin, 45 historical buildings, etc.

DIRECTIONS

Tannehill Ironworks is located at McCalla, Alabama about 11 miles west of Bessemer. From I-59 & I-20, take exit 100 and follow signs to Tannehill (about 2 miles). From I-459 take exit 1 and follow signs (about 7 miles). <http://www.tannehill.org>

BY AIR

Fly into the Birmingham Jetport which is located 40 miles from Tannehill. Transportation can be provided. Request in advance from Judd Clem (256/232-2645).

LODGING & ACCOMMODATIONS

FOOD is available at the Country Store, & Snack Bar.

CAMPING is available at Tannehill Ironworks near the Demonstration Area on Mill Creek. Improved (water & electricity) & Primitive camping. For reservations call 205/477-5711. Check in at Country store.

MOTELS, there are many motels & restaurants off I-459 and I-20/59 toward Bessemer and Birmingham.

Sleep Inn, 205/424-0000, 1259 Greenmor Drive @ Ala-52 at exit 6 off I-459 about 15 miles from Tannehill.
Demonstrator's Motel.

Hampton Inn, 205/425-2010, 4910 Civic Lane @ exit 108 off I-20/59 about 11 miles from Tannehill.

Best Western, 205/481-1950, 5041 Academy Lane @ exit 108 off I-20/59 about 11 miles from Tannehill.

Quality Inn, 205/428-3194, 5021 Academy Lane @ exit 108 off I-20/59 about 11 miles from Tannehill.

AUCTION

The Alabama Forge Council is a non-profit organization with over 400 members. The proceeds from this auction will go to the AFC Building Fund. The Clarence Kilby Scholarship will be awarded to a lucky paid participant.

BE AWARE!

No Alcoholic Beverages are allowed at Tannehill Ironworks

Bring examples of your work for the KNIFE SHOW, COLLECTION EXHIBITS & AUCTION
that will be held on the afternoon of Saturday April 2, 2016 from 1 to 5 pm.

The AUCTION will begin immediately after the KNIFE SHOW.

Collectors and knife enthusiasts are encouraged to attend the Symposium and
learn first hand how modern knives are forged and made.

Participate in the Railroad Spike Knife Contest. Bring a unique railroad spike knife

REMEMBER to BRING
KNIVES FOR KNIFE SHOW-----ITEMS TO DONATE FOR THE AUCTION
TOOLS & MATERIALS FOR TAIL GATE SALE

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Anytime Friday, Saturday or Sunday
Visit the Tail Gate Sales, Knife Suppliers, Demonstrations and the Hands on Forging

AUCTION ITEMS WILL BE TAKEN IN CIRCUS TENT

THURSDAY, 31 March 2016

3-6 HOOT N' HOLLER-----REGISTRATION & CHECK-IN
6 pm DEMONSTRATOR'S DINNER----- Everyone

FRIDAY, 1 April 2016

Bring Auction & Iron-in-the-hat Items to Circus Tent

7 am HOOT N' HOLLER-----REGISTRATION & CHECK-IN starts

8-10 FORGE PAVILION-----DAMASCUS STEEL with Bill Burke
VULCAN PAVILION-----RENDEZVOUS KNIVES with Joe Seabolt
CLASSROOM----- AUTOMATIC FOLDERS with Mel Pardue

10-12 FORGE PAVILION -----BLADE FORGING with Tim Potier
VULCAN PAVILION -----HANDLES & GUARDS with Bert Gaston
BATSON PAVILION-----HANDS ON SCRIMSHAW with Mary Bailey
BATSON PAVILION -----HANDS ON ENGRAVING with Billy Bates
YOUTH FORGING-----HANDS ON FORGING with Raymond & Mark

12 LUNCH

1-3 FORGE PAVILION----- DOGBONE BOWIE with Butch Sheely
VULCAN PAVILION ----- RENDEZVOUS KNIVES with Joe Seabolt
CLASSROOM----- LOCKBACK FOLDERS with Alex Daniels
BATSON PAVILION -----HANDS ON SCRIMSHAW with Mary Bailey
BATSON PAVILION -----HANDS ON ENGRAVING with Billy Bates
GREEN COAL-----HANDS ON FORGING with Neil Faulkenberry

3-5 FORGE PAVILION -----DAMASCUS STEEL with Bill Burke
VULCAN PAVILION -----SILVER WIRE INLAY with Joe Keeslar
CLASSROOM-----MARKETING with Carolyn Hughes
BATSON PAVILION -----HANDS ON SCRIMSHAW with Mary Bailey
BATSON PAVILION -----HANDS ON ENGRAVING with Billy Bates
GREEN COAL-----HANDS ON FORGING with Ken Durham

5-7 STEWART CABIN-----COOKOUT with Glynn Holmes

7-9 VULCAN PAVILION-----BOWIE: MAN & KNIFE with B R Hughes & J Batson

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SATURDAY, 2 April 2016

Bring Auction Items to Auction Table in Circus Tent-----Show your Knives
Knife Show & Auction are Open to the Public

- 7 am HOOT N' HOLLER-----REGISTRATION & CHECK-IN starts

- 8-10 FORGE PAVILION -----BLADE GRINDING & HEAT TREAT with Tim Potier
 VULCAN PAVILION -----OLD TIMEY KNIFE MAKING with Joe Seabolt
 CLASSROOM-----KNIFE MAKING QUESTIONS with Alex Daniels
 BATSON PAVILION -----HANDS ON SCRIMSHAW with Mary Bailey
 BATSON PAVILION -----HANDS ON ENGRAVING with Billy Bates
 GREEN COAL-----HANDS ON FORGING with Ken Durham

- 10-12` FORGE PAVILION -----DAMASCUS STEEL with Bill Burke
 VULCAN PAVILION -----LEATHER SHEATHES with Joe Keeslar
 CLASSROOM-----ABS KNIFE JUDGING with B R Hughes & Bert Gaston
 BATSON PAVILION -----HANDS ON SCRIMSHAW with Mary Bailey
 BATSON PAVILION -----HANDS ON ENGRAVING with Billy Bates
 YOUTH FORGING----- HANDS ON FORGING with Raymond & Mark

- 12 LUNCH

- 1 RAILROAD SPIKE KNIFE JUDGING
- 1-3:00 KNIFE SHOW & EXHIBITION with all
- 3-5:00 AUCTION with Auctioneer Col Tim Ryan

----- **AUCTION ITEMS DONATED by ATTENDEES** -----
 All Donations are tax deductible. PROCEEDS GO TO the Alabama Forge Council Building Fund.

SUNDAY, 3 April 2016

- 8-10 FORGE PAVILION ----- DAMASCUS STEEL ETCHING with Bill Burke
 VULCAN PAVILION ----- HANDLES & GUARDS with Bert Gaston
 CLASSROOM----- AUTOMATIC FOLDERS with Mel Pardue

- 10-12 FORGE PAVILION----- BLADE CUTTING & TESTING
 VULCAN PAVILION ----- DOGBONE BOWIE with Butch Sheely

HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY HOME & GOD BLESS