

AMERICAN BLADESMITH SOCIETY GREAT AMERICAN HAMMER-IN

Join us in Troy, Ohio for the first annual Great American Hammer-in!

Facility hosted by Southern Ohio Forge & Anvil Blacksmith Association

August 24 – 27, 2023

Miami County Fairgrounds • 650 County Road 25A • Troy

This event is for knife enthusiasts, collectors and knifemakers from beginners to Mastersmiths. Bladesmith and blacksmith supplies and equipment vendors are welcome.

Preregistration is \$75 • Registration at the door is \$90
Contact Cindy Sheely at the ABS Office to preregister:
(419) 832-0400 • cindy@americanbladesmith.com
Preregistration closes August 10.

Knife Show — All registered attendees are invited to have a table at a one-day knife show at this event. Tell all your collector friends! Table fee is included in the registration fee.

Testing for Journeyman and Master Bladesmith Certification — The American Bladesmith Society has made this event an official judging venue where Journeyman and Mastersmith applicants can submit their finished knives for judging. With this event, the ABS can offer members the certification process — from performance test, to judging, to awarding of the stamps — all in one location.

Live Entertainment with John Wayne Wiggins — John has been a country singer and song writer for most of his life, having cuts on Alan Jackson, Ricky Skaggs, Reba McEntire and many other well-known country artists!

The Miami County Fairgrounds offers facilities that are second to none and features on-site camping for both tents and RVs. Be sure to join us for the Evening Social at the campgrounds.



Bill Ruple • Demo: Folding Knives
Bill has been making knives since 1988 and specializes in multi-blade folders.

His first love is reproducing some of the older patterns made by the early knife companies.

Bill has shared his knowledge of knife making with many others, in person at his shop, and at other venues.

Bill was inducted into The Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall of Fame in 2022.

Burt Foster

Demo: Kitchen Knives

Burt was awarded his JS stamp in 2002 and his MS stamp in 2004 and he largely credits the advice and guidance of ABS bladesmiths, particularly Tim Hancock.

Over the course of several years, Burt developed the process that is now widely used to make stainless/carbon laminated steel, and he continues to make fixed blades with this method of construction, as well as carbon steel and Damascus.



Joe Keeslar

Demo: Handles and Guards

After a stint in the United States Marine Corps, Joe completed his BS and MS degrees in Industrial Arts education at Murray State University. He received his Journeyman's rating in 1987 and Mastersmith in 1989. Joe has authored three successful books on knifemaking and served on the American Bladesmith Society board of directors with two very successful terms as chairman, retiring in 2015.



Steve Rapp

Demo: Silver Wrap Sheaths and Handles

Steve started making knives in 1980. He is a member of The Knifemaker's Guild and the Art Knife Invitational show. In Knives '98, he received

The Wooden Sword Award from Ken Warner. Steve has a passion for art and his unique, one-of-a-kind knives are evidence of that passion.

Will Stelter • Demo: YouTube and Social Media for the Bladesmith

Will is a 24 year old Journeyman Bladesmith, he began making knives at 14 and forging at 16.

After moving from Seattle to Bozeman Montana, Will began a career in YouTube by working with his friend Alec Steele, where he co-hosted Alec's popular channel for two years before moving into his own workspace.

Will now works full time as a YouTube content creator and Bladesmith, creating videos on bladesmithing, vintage machine restoration, and general metalworking and blacksmithing projects.



Andrew Meers • Demo: Damascus

Andrew is a bladesmith and metalsmith, earning his American Bladesmith Society Mastersmith rating in 2015. He is a Former Artist in Residence at The National Ornamental Metals Museum in Memphis TN, and a Former Artist in Residence at Penland School of Crafts. Andrew has been an instructor at Penland, New England School of Metalwork, and Touchstone Center for Crafts.



Nick Rossi

Demo: Forging and Grinding

Nick is an ABS Mastersmith, a member of the Maine Craft Guild, Maine Craft Association, Portland based Metals Collective and New England Bladesmith Guild. Nick teaches and gives demonstrations all over the country.

A full-time maker out of his studio in Vassalboro, Maine, Nick

creates dynamic, one-of-a-kind cutlery. His work is most influenced by Japanese, Southeast Asian and Scandinavian design as well as architecture, fine art and nature.

Howard Clark • Demo: Heat Treat

Howard became a Journeyman Smith in 1990 and a Mastersmith in 1992. Testing with Alfred Pendray for his JS was a life-changing experience for him, reaching a much better understanding of metallurgy. Alfred, along with Professor John Verhoeven of Iowa State University, would prove to be extremely influential in propelling Howard's understanding of metallurgy.

Howard collaborated on several research projects with both men, and co-authored a paper published in Elsevier Scientific's "Materials Characterizations" concerning carbon diffusion and alloy differentiation in the etching of modern pattern welded steel.



Tim Zowada

Demo: Straight Razors

Tim made his first knife in 1979, while still in high school. He made his first Damascus steel in 1982 and in 1983 knifemaking became Tim's full-time profession.

Since then, Tim has risen among the ranks of custom knife makers, whose work is among the most desired. He has also won several awards at knife shows and juried exhibitions.