



Newsletter - April 2024

Announcements

Bulletin:

- March 31st was the cutoff for 2024 membership renewals. Individuals can still make late payments to re-activate their membership.

Upcoming Events:

Next meeting: April 27th

Volunteer Opportunities:

- The foundation now has a monthly newsletter! Anyone wishing to highlight local events, submit articles, show off blades or advertise items for sale, please email johansen.ironworks@gmail.com.

Community Events:

- April 13th - A display of Moran knives will be at the **Interstate BBQ & Outdoor Expo**.
- April 20-21 - **The Blacksmith Guild of the Potomac (BGOP)** is hosting their annual Spring Fling at the Frederick County Fairgrounds in Clearbrook, VA.
- April 25-28 - Annual Fort Frederick 18th Century Market Fair.
- May 18-19 - The **Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland** is hosting their annual Blacksmith Days 2024.
- The 60 day countdown to Bladeshow Atlanta has begun. Tickets are now on sale!

Upcoming Classes:



Join us April 6-7 for a **Beginner Bladesmith** class with our Shop Manager and Educational Director, Ed Clarke. [Registration](#)



Join us April 20-21 for a class on **Advanced Heat Treating** with ABS Master Smith Kevin Cashen. [Registration](#)



Recent Highlights

Meet The Makers - Forged In Fire Alumni

A very special word of thanks to our friends Erin Aylor, Derick Kemper, Jarrett Cieslak, Rob Decker, Ed Clark & Matt Presti. These makers were so awesome answering questions about their experience being on the show and life after. We had over 50 members in attendance and so many great questions.

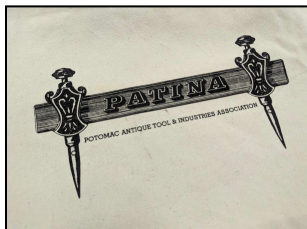


Butch Sheely - Tomahawk Class

Thank you to everyone who attended the Butch Sheely Tomahawk class in March. We hope to see a few tomahawks floating around at the next member meeting for show and tell. Cindy Sheely also hosted a **Leather Cord Beading** class highlighting potential future use of the shop and classroom, as the Bill Moran Museum and Foundation expands its educational offerings to the local community.

Hosting Girl Scouts

On March 12th, the Bill Moran Museum and Foundation hosted the local Boonsboro Girl Scouts troop with Steve Nuckels providing forging demos and insights into the museum and shop.



Fun at Patina

A handful of members made it out to the annual [Patina Tool Show and Auction](#) after the March 16th meeting. Lots of fun was had rummaging through droves of wood and metalworking tools only a short drive away in Damascus, MD. Readers should insert this gathering into next year's rolodex of cool local events.

Baltimore Antique Arms Show

The 68th annual [Baltimore Antique Arms Show](#) occurred over the March 16th meeting weekend. Our newsletter editor, Ken, was very sad to miss out on the show after attending in years past. For new members to the community, this is by far the largest antique arms show in Maryland. A wide array of antique blades from different cultures and time periods can normally be found at the show providing an excellent opportunity for makers to observe, handle or purchase historical pieces.



Featured Articles

Meet your Board of Directors: Jay Hendrickson



My career in knifemaking began in 1972. Just before Christmas my wife, Nancy, visited Bill Moran and bought me an Arkansas sharpening stone. Shortly after the holidays, I ventured to his Middletown Shop to meet Bill. That was the beginning of a long and cherished relationship with the Master Bladesmith Bill Moran. I made stock removal knives for ten years until I was able to attend what I believe to be the first two-week Basic Bladesmithing Course in the country. I was so enamored by the forging process that I decided to pursue a career in bladesmithing. I earned my ABS Journeyman Smith in 1986 and my Masters in 1989. I was elected to the ABS Board in 1986 and served as ABS Chairman 1990 through 1994. Bill had been Chairman for the first 15 years, and I became the second Chairman of the Society. I served on the ABS Board for 32 years before retiring.

Fast forward to 2005, Bill became ill and knew his days were limited. He was drawing up his Will, which stated that he wanted to preserve his shop and establish a museum to display all his knives, handmade tools and shop equipment. I was taken aback when Bill asked me if I would be the Executor of his estate. Bill passed away on February 12, 2006. It took approximately 10 months to settle his estate. On December 6, 2006, Nancy and I established “The William F. Moran, Jr. Museum and Foundation, Inc.” a 501C3 Non-Profit.

Many years have passed since our beginning. Looking back, I feel we have accomplished Bill Moran’s wishes. Our new school facility is outstanding with the best equipment and a full schedule of educational classes, and his old shop is his Museum which opens for special events where people can see where he worked and enjoy a spectacular display of his knives.



KNIFEMAKER - JAY HENDRICKSON, MS

IMAGE - SHARPBYCOOP.COM

Maker of the Month: Jarrett Cieslak

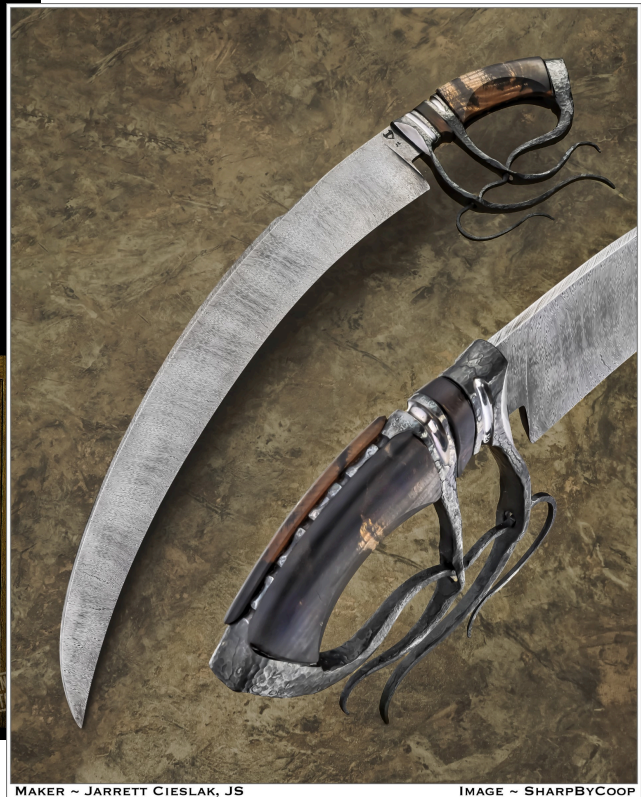


In 2013, when Jarrett was 15 years old, he stumbled upon a “Man at Arms” YouTube video starring Tony Swatton. He was hooked, and this led him to binge watch blacksmithing videos. Between 2014 and 2016, he received a machining certificate from Harford Community College, graduated North Harford High School, and was awarded welding certifications from Earlbeck Welding. Following his passion for bladesmithing, Jarret created Fire Beard Forge in 2019 and has since gained his ABS Journeyman Smith stamp and appeared on TV as a

Forged in Fire Contestant in Season 7. Taking pride in his craft, Jarret works in both mono steel and damascus making various styles of knives including EDC, hunting, bowies, daggers, and fighters.



[instagram.com/firebeardforge](https://www.instagram.com/firebeardforge)



MAKER ~ JARRETT CIESLAK, JS

IMAGE ~ SHARPBYCOOP



BILL MORAN

KNIFE OF THE MONTH

The Quillion Dagger

Blade length 10-1/2"

Overall length 16"



*Damascus blade with a fluted
twisted ivory handle and twisted
silver wire inlaid.*



W.F. MORAN
BLADESMITH &
ARTISAN ACADEMY



Member Knife Show and Tell

Maple Burl Hunting Knife by Odacir Pinto



Checked Ironwood Burl EDC by Jake Cook



Kitchen Paring Knife by Kenneth Johansen



Classifieds

Sales Items

Have items for sale? Please email johansen.ironworks@gmail.com to advertise sale items on our next monthly newsletter!

Advertising

SAVE THE DATE

BGOP SPRING FLING APRIL 20-21, 2024

*JOIN THE
BLACKSMITH'S GUILD
OF THE
POTOMAC
FOR OUR ANNUAL
SPRING FLING*

*FREDERICK CO.
FAIRGROUNDS
250 Fairground Rd
CLEARBROOK, VA*

*SETUP & CAMPING ON
APRIL 19th,
DEMONSTRATIONS
APRIL 20th & 21st*



DEMONSTRATOR

KIM THOMAS

Thomas Ironworks
@kimthomasironworks



DEMONSTRATOR

RICHARD SULLIVAN

Williamsburg Gunsmith