

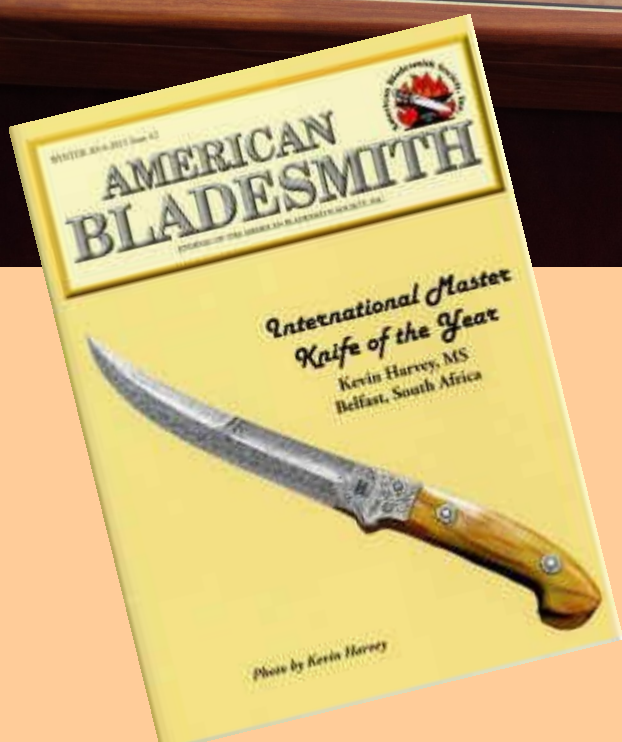


The Edgehog

Issue 1 - 2015

www.kgsa.co.za

December 2015





Indo-Persian Dagger. (on the cover)

Full tang construction from Kevin's "Persian Lace" Damascus, a twisted, mosaic, 4-bar composite, forged to shape. The steels used are K460 (01), 1084, 5160, 15N20 and K600 (L6).

Nickel silver bolsters engraved by Kevin in a fine floral pattern. Carved nickel silver pins and flower washers. File-worked nickel silver liners in "vine" pattern. Coloured and stabilized giraffe shin bone slabs.

Case donated by Brian Coetzee, www.briancoetseeboxmaker.co.za. Lid of Wild Olive, side panels of Snakebean and inlays of African Blackwood and Sneezeewood. Fabric lining in the case is from a Kashmiri shawl made in India.

Here is a link to the video clip on the making of the knife on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrrQMuWKJkw>

This knife was sent to USA for auction at Blade Show.

Visit www.heavenforge.co.za for the full story



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willie.venter@porsche.co.za*Chairman's Chat*

Ek beleef mesmakers oor die algemeen as die vriendelikste mense op aarde. Bel enige mesmaker en hy gesels al jou lugtyd op. Kyk maar op Facebook en al die mes forums - dis heel jaar n gesels en geraadgee en gespogger. Honderde fotos word geplaas en elkeen kry n duisend "likes". Dan breek Junie maand aan en skielik is dit doodstil. Bel n mesmaker en eers so teen die sesde pging antwoord hy sy foon en dan moet jy vinnig praat. Kyk dan op Facebook en as enigiemand iets plaas is dit baie kort en saaklik en gewoonlik oor iets wat hy dringend nodig het.

Gelukkig verstaan ons almal dit. Elkeen het verlede jaar aan die einde van die skou ons planne reg gehad oor presies wat ons op die volgende skou op ons tafels wil he. Oktober en November hard gewerk om die skou bestellings af te handel voor die fees seisoen. Oor kersfees en nuwe jaar slap gele en niks gedoen nie. Januarie en Februarie is swaar maande - niemand koop of verkoop messe nie. Maart maand net as jy aan jou skou messe wil begin werk kom al die vinnige dringende bestellings voor die jagseisoen in en omdat jy voel daar is nog baie tyd aanvaar jy alle bestellings en maak baie beloftes. Teen Mei maand is dit eers afgehandel en dan skielik besef jy daar is net 3 maande oor voor die Gilde skou.

Die 30 messe wat jy in jou planne gehad het word vinnig verminder na 15. Teen einde Mei is net 2 van hulle klaar so die doel verander nou na 10 messe. Dan tref die winter ons en die vingers is koud en dom en foute word gemaak so net nog 2 messe kom klaar en die humeur raak kort. Jy kyk nie eens meer na Facebook nie want jy kan nie glo watse nonsens daar gepraat word nie en elke keer as jy net mooi op dreef is bel een of ander langasem jou. Julie maand is die een waarin al jou masjiene altyd besluit om te breek en parte daag eers in Augustus op. Die paar masjiene wat wel hou is nutteloos want elke keer jy in die werkswinkel in-stap skop beurtkrag in.

So twee weke voor die skou kom jy agter jyt net mooi 2 skroefies te min en niemand naby jou het niks oor nie. Een week voor die skou wil jy moed opgee en die aand voor die skou gooi jy gou n tafel uitstalling bymekaar vir die 5 messe wat jy uiteindelik kon klaarkry. Dis vroeg opstaan om betyds vir die pre-show meeting te wees en oppad onthou jy van al die goed wat jy vergeet het en jy wik en weeg nog steeds of jy jou messe vir die kompetisie moet inskryf.

Dan skielik stap jy in n saal in en sien n klomp gesigte wat jy n jaar laas gesien het en wat jou hart sommer lekker laat voel. Almal groet mekaar met gevlekte en gepleisterde hande en jy voel so tuis want dis jou tipe mense die - ons verstaan mekaar.

Sterkte vir hierdie laaste lang skof manne - en gaan kyk gerus na ons nuwe weblad as julle kans kry dis nogal die moeite werd.

Voorspoed en skerp wees

Carel

**2015 / 2016
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Non-Guild member knifemaking competition 2015

A record breaking 80 entries were received for this years competition. More entries never made it as they were sent via the postal system and got held up in a staff go-slow and a partial postal strike.

The judges were Gawie Herbst, Carel Smith and Bertie Rietveld, with Thinus Herbst as a standby judge (and braai master).



From 80 down to the top 9...And the winner is....Pieter de Koker (his knife is third from the left)



From Left to Right :
Heather Harvey, Pieter de Koker, Jan Hendrik Viljoen,
Ettienne du Plooy, Thinus Herbst, Gawie Herbst,
Bertie Rietveld

Big Thank You to Gawie, Thinus and Jeannie Herbst for the excellent Competition organisation.

Thanks to Heavin, Ettienne, Herbst Knifemaking Academy and Bertie for the prizes.

Thanks to Wesley and Albie for their prizes (where were you when they took the pic?)

To all knifemakers who sent in knife entries—Well done !! The standard and quality was outstanding.

SABA held a dagger making project during the year at their club meetings and they sent in their finished entries for judging on the same day as the non-Guild member competition judging.

The Judges were Carel Smith, Bertie Rietveld and Gawie Herbst with Stuart as an observer

All the Competition entries and daggers made a fantastic display at the Guild Show .

Thank you all.



The top 4 entries.

The winner was Shaun Roodt

- his dagger is 3rd one from the left.

New Members 2015



New members were awarded their membership certificates by Charirman Carel Smith at the prizegiving ceremony on the friday afternoon during the Show..

They are:

Top left - Jaco de Kock Bottom left - Theo Lyon

Top Right - Alan Mitchell Bottom Right - Jonny Kable

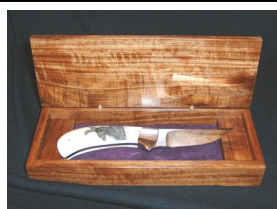


Scrimshaw by Sharon Burger

Cell: 083 789 1675

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← Willie Venter, Chief Judge for the competition announcing the winners and telling everyone how exceptionally high the standard of craftsmanship was of the knives entered into the competition by our talented members.

Competition Results

<u>Category</u>	<u>Winner</u>
Art Folder	Des Horn
Art Fixed Blade	Kevin Harvey
Bird & Trout	Bertie Rietveld
Hunting Knife	Alan Mitchell
Gentlemen's Folder	Des Horn
Working Folder	Andre' Thorburn and Andre' van Heerden - A ²
Gentlemen's Tactical Folder	John Arnold
Fighting Knife	Rob Brown
Dagger	Bertie Rietveld
Sets	Rob Brown
Swords	Bertie Rietveld
Best New Knifemaker	Alan Mitchell
Best Overall Knifemaker	Bertie Rietveld
Best Knife on Show	Bertie Rietveld

Edgehog

Any knife-worthy articles, news, club news, knife pics...

Please send for publication :

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Kevin Harvey accepting his award

Alan Mitchell received the trophy for Best new knifemaker



Chairman's Award

Heather and Kevin Harvey also known as Heavin, received the Chairman's Award 2015. for their exceptional contribution to knifemaking in SA and their fantastic international achievements.

Congratulations



Rob Brown accepting his award

Des Horn accepting his award



Thanx to Heavin for the photo's of
the prizegiving

Bertie Rietveld accepting his award



Below is the award winning Best Sword and Best Knife
on Show - Gladius Sword made by Bertie Rietveld.



Knife Maker: Bertie Rietveld

Photo by: www.photosbydorian.com

AMERICAN BLADESMITH SOCIETY APPROVED TWO-WEEK, INTRODUCTION TO BLADESMITHING COURSE

Pupils per course - 6 (minimum of 4)

Duration: 2-weeks, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm

Accommodation - room for 6 in our bunkhouse at R100 per person per night, self-catering, or other guest houses in the area.

Cost: R9 000 per person.

Booking through heavin@heavinforge.co.za. VIEW THE VIDEO CLIP INTRODUCING THE COURSE HERE <http://youtu.be/pVb54WNCOAww>

For anyone, beginner or advanced, who is serious about their Bladesmithing.

Particularly important for ABS Apprentice Smiths wishing to submit their knives for ABS Journeyman Smith evaluation, as attending the course, cuts one year off their three year apprenticeship.

Recognised by the American Bladesmith Society, this course is presented by the only two ABS Master Bladesmiths on the African continent, husband and wife team, Kevin and Heather Harvey. This is an intensive two week, eighty hour, hands on course which covers all aspects of forging, grinding, heat treating and sharpening blades. One blade will be used to do the

(unofficial) ABS Journeyman performance (cut and bend) test at the end of the course. This test is also required if submitting forged blades for evaluation to gain entry into the Knifemakers' Guild of Southern Africa.

Kevin and Heather have taught this Introduction to Bladesmithing course a number of times at the Moran School of Bladesmithing in Old Washington, Arkansas, U.S.A. They endeavour to impart their knowledge and love of the forged blade to their students. Numerous different forged blade shapes are taught to educate the students as to the many varied ways of forging, heat treating and grinding.

Lectures are given each day on subjects covering how to select your steel, designing knives, safety in the workshop, the use of coal and gas forges, blade geometry, heat treatment, grinding, hand finishing, fullers, filing, forging unusual shaped knives/weapons, forging other metals, the business side of knifemaking, the ABS testing and much more.

Evenings will be spent watching ABS forging DVD's. Each student is entitled to take home his finished blades to complete at home. This course does not cover handles and sheaths. A certificate will be issued at the end of the course. On the weekend in the middle of the course, a shop tour to a local bladesmith will be arranged. Kevin and Heather have a vast

library of knifemaking/Bladesmithing/blacksmithing books and videos which can be read/viewed while on course.

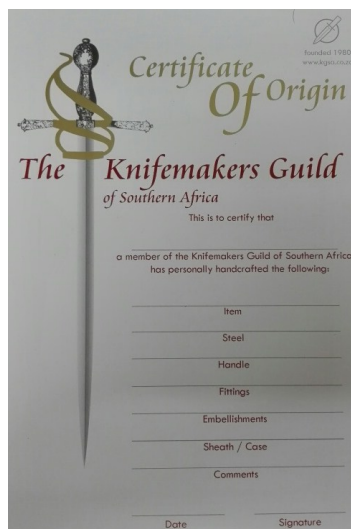
Comprehensive notes are provided as well as a denim apron, safety glasses, leather gloves, simple face mask, tin of Harvey's Conservation Wax and all consumables. Tea, coffee, cool drinks and biscuits are provided.

Heavin Forge offers shared, basic, self-catering accommodation in their bunkhouse. Six people can be accommodated. All bedding, towels, cutlery, crockery etc. is provided. The bunkhouse has a fully equipped kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom with shower and toilet and a separate toilet. Braai (barbeque) facilities as well as a wood burning pizza oven are available for use. There are heaters in each room as well as electric blankets on all beds for our cold winter nights. Safe parking within the garden is provided.

A shuttle bus runs five times a day between O.R Tambo airport in Johannesburg and Belfast (a two hour trip). We can collect you from the bus stop and organise to do your grocery shopping if you come by bus. If you are here by car and stay the weekend, we can help organise a few fun activities in the area such as whisky tasting, a visit to our micro-brewery in Dullstroom - Anvil Ale, fly-fishing, horse riding, clay-pigeon shooting, archery, hiking or game viewing. If you are coming from overseas, we strongly suggest that you include a holiday to the Kruger National Park, just three hours away from us as well as sightseeing in the area or a visit to the Kingdom of Swaziland, just two hours away from us. If you wish to plan a safari please contact our nephew, Ian Shoebotham through his company Dry Season Safaris, www.dryseasonsafaris.com.

Heavin Forge plan to present two to three ABS Introduction to Bladesmithing, two-week courses a year in between their other scheduled courses, three day "Basic Bladesmithing" and five day "Full House" courses. Please contact us if you have any questions, heavin@heavinforge.co.za.





Certificate of Origin for your knives

These certificates are issued by knifemakers to inform the collectors when the knife was made, who made the knife and what materials were used in its construction.

This certificate is used to determine the provenance of a knife should it be re-sold or passed on and will greatly assist with knife valuation too.

We heard of a collector who had a break in and lost almost all his knives that he collected over a 20 year period. He now has to prove to the insurance that he owned all the knives that were stolen. What better way than to produce the Certificate of origin.

So please inform your collectors that it would be wise to keep the knives and the certificates in separate places. Some pictures of the knives will also help here if they are attached to the certificates.

Good news is that you don't have to do a print run of 1000's of your own certificate, The Knifemakers Guild has had these certificates printed with the Guild logo prominently displayed and these certificates are available to our members at R2-00 a certificate + postage. They are also available at the show.

Contact Melinda Rietveld - melinda@rietveldknives.com to place your order.

Brown bagging at Knife Shows

No, that doesn't mean bringing your own lunch in a brown paper bag !! Brown bagging at Shows is the intentional move to sell your own knives and products without purchasing exhibitor space and participating in the atmosphere that is established by the show, and by profiting from this.

What typically happens is that a knifemaker attends the show as a visitor, and then clandestinely hauls out a few knives and shows them to collectors that came to the show, and offers them for sale. This might just seem a good place to sell a knife or two for the knifemaker, but let's examine what is actually happening here. Every Guild member table holder has paid for the privilege of being at the show and the Guild has paid many thousands for the venue, and then the show organiser has spent countless hours advertising, organising and inviting our collectors to be there so they can buy our knives. Now an opportunist sees all this and hauls out some of his knives and shows it to a collector, and if he makes the sale, that is one less knife that a table holder will sell. The Guild frowns very heavily on this practice and anyone caught doing this will be banned from attending future shows.

If you see or hear anyone that is brown bagging at our show, please let Guild management know.

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During the weekend of 6 to 8 Nov 2015 the Rand Bladecrafters and Miniature Knife Club had their annual year end jol at Kevin Klopper's farm Random Rocks near Dullstroom. Sixteen members attended what has become a traditional break away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Thank you to Wesley Muller who organised the event and to Kevin who made his property available. Most of the knife makers arrived Friday afternoon and the first beers found their way down keen throats almost immediately.

Random Rocks is nestled in a rocky valley with a view that turns city stress into pure bliss within minutes. The koppies, trout dams, amazing sunsets and wind whispering through the trees are just awe inspiring to us city dwellers.

Lots of jokes and laughter cracked late into the night after a dinner of home baked bread (thx John) and a meat burning exercise on a fire which proved to be quite a success. A konka provided a friendly atmosphere and some heat against the coolness of a Highveld summer evening.

On Saturday morning, after coffee and rusks (and ice cold water for some to quench the thirst caused by leaking beer cans the preceding evening) several guys shared their expertise demonstrating some of the finer intricacies of pocket knife and pouch making techniques. Thereafter the AGM ensued. A vote confirmed reselection of the current committee for another year (Wesley Muller, Gavin Dickerson and Albie Wantenaar). The year's events were discussed and a new program established for 2016. The annual knife swop followed which created much excitement and apprehension as to whose knife will become part of the collection of a proud new owner. Some inputs and ideas were considered and weighed for the 2016 project knife and the Loveless design claimed victory.

Clay pigeon shooting was first on the program and it quickly trimmed the fervour of certain self acclaimed sharpshooters. Other more tentative participants affirmed their involvement in the army.

Kettie shooting proved to be more expressive to the avid stone throwers as it reminded everybody of their ancestry. Flaunting a line up of liquid refreshments to be claimed by somebody with flawless aim quickly turned the event much more competitive. Many laughs and near misses and admittance that the group would be more effective to use their body weight as a barrier against an enemy attack rather than shooting them finally produced some winners.

Some of the attendants visited the local pub in Tonteldoos in the afternoon whilst others went bass fishing. Some of the avid fisherman earned bragging rights but nothing was caught to garnish a pot on the fire.

The evening slowly tapered down to relaxed conversation revealing that the day's activities were somewhat tiring. An excellent dinner of steaks and home made pepper sauce (thx Albie) and the always loved putu pap and sauce (thx Kevin) rounded the day perfectly. Most guys crept into their beds reasonably early for a well deserved rest.

After coffee and some rusks and cleaning and packing on Sunday morning everybody headed home, surely inspired to tackle the next knife with keen enthusiasm.

Till next year.

Dick Beets

Rand Bladecrafters Knife Club

End of year weekend away



Clay pigeon shooting



Kettie shoot



Swap knives



Relaxing around the braai

Pricing your knives....

This is a tricky subject and not always an easy task to do...

I've heard of people pricing their knives by the inch, some makers walk around the Show, looking for similar knives to the ones they've made and to see what others price their knives and then they take R100 off and that's the price they charge.

Leave it to someone who had a lot of time on their hands and worked out a craft calculator and published it online.....Its free to download and works quite accurately.

Try it :

- 1) Download the craft calculator (use link below or Google - Craft Calculator)

<http://www.craftprofessional.com/craft-pricing-formula.html>

- 2) Enter the values for a knife you have already sold and see if you received a fair price for your knife or if you were totally underpriced or over priced and what a fair price should be.

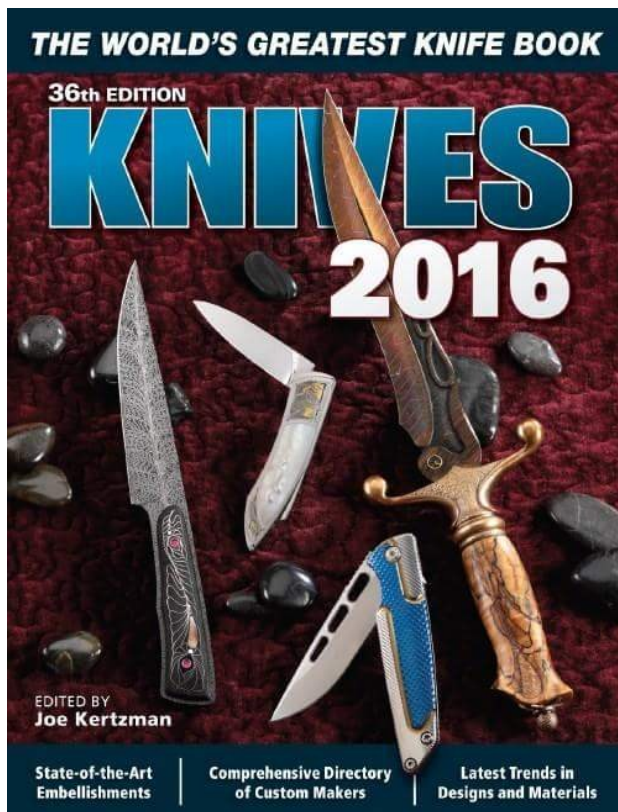
Creative Knife Solutions



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www.creativeknifesolutions.co.za

Or phone Sharon 083 789 1675



Congratulations to Peter Mason — his knife is on the front cover of Knives 2016
It's the dagger on the right.



Seen on the internet, thought
you'd enjoy this

Booyen Engraving Studio.



Cell: 073-284 1493
Home: (011) 915-7054
Email: chris@cbknives.com
(Near Mall @ Carnival)

Lawrence Rd. Dalpark Ext.11, Brakpan

Hand Engraving
Fire-Arms & Knives
Jewellery
Inside Ring
Watches

Knifemakers Guild Book

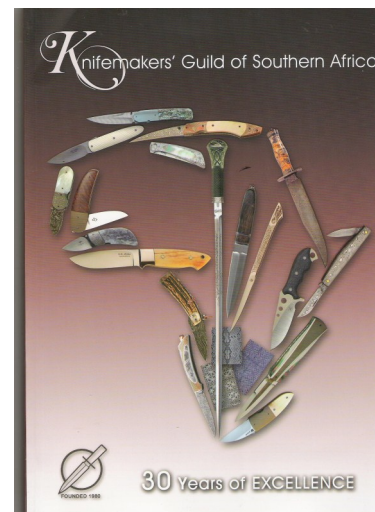
The book costs **R 295.00 softcover +courier fee**

There are still a few copies of this great book available

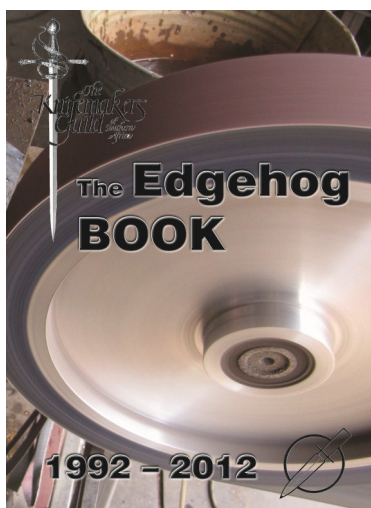
To purchase:

Contact

Melinda 071 303 5259 edgehog1@gmail.com



Meet the members of the Knifemakers Guild and see beautiful photo's of their knives.
Read the history of the Knifemakers Guild of SA. Established in 1980.



The Edgehog Book

The book costs **R 280.00 softcover + courier fee**

To purchase:

Contact

Melinda 071 303 5259 edgehog1@gmail.com

The Edgehog book contains articles written for Edgehog newsletter between 1992 and 2012.
The articles are written by the knifemakers about their personal experiences with knifemaking in South Africa.
There are plenty of workshop articles and tips n hints.

Guild Show date

19 - 20 August 2016

**@ Mosaiëk Lifestyle Centre,
Danielle Street, Fairlands, JHB**

The last word:

Experience is one thing you can't get for nothing
Oscar Wilde