



NEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ Goddard Spyderco
- ✓ Al Barton
- ✓ Antler Handles
- ✓ Damascus
- ✓ Goddard Clipits
- ✓ Sheath Making

Our *international* membership is happily involved with "Anything that goes 'cut'!"

September 2022

A Look at the Goddard Spyderco Knife

ibdennis


On any given day one can find a Spyderco folding knife for sale on eBay. One can very often also find a Wayne Goddard designed Spyderco at this site. Those that start with a two digit bid usually wind up with a three digit sale. The Goddard design was unique in its blade shape that followed the lines of the handle and still freely gave access to the hole that distinguishes the opening method.

Whenever Wayne received his first shipment of his Wayne Goddard Spderco designed knives, I got a call alerting me to this event. We always purchased two. One for elayne and one for me. It was in May 2004 when I received word that the latest pattern was received. It was the first knife C16PGY that used VG10 steel for the blade. It went immediately in my pocket, and I can say that I have carried it 96% of the time since 2004. I tried sleeping with it at night once, but that was when elayne drew the "no" line.

The knife had FRN (Fiberglass Reinforced Nylon) gray handles which provided a great grip and was made in both the partially serrated and in the plain edge which was saber hollow ground. I am a fan of the plain edge for the uses I give a knife. I liked this knife so much that I bought a couple extra. Good that I did that as son Ray talked me out of one to take on his trip up Mount Kilimanjaro. From his right handed father went this C16PGY to his left handed son. A perfect match, as the clip can be reversed for the favor of the carrier. Mine is right pocket carry, point up and to the rear.

It served Ray well and the native population were in awe of this knife. But alas and alack, when Ray returned, his dog decided that this knife tasted good and left tell tale marks in the FRN handles. Still functional but cosmetically a downer. Ray hit his father for another knife; and the softy that I am, could not say no.

VG10 is a great steel which takes an edge quickly and retains that edge when sharpened. My knife has been sharpened a bazillion times just to maintain that razor edge. The steel looks as new as it has a slight stainless property that wards off the rust buddies. The blade pops open with a flourish when needed and provides quick access when danger approaches. Like lions and tigers and things that go bump in the night.

Spyderco has captured the market on easy open folding knives. Many of the older variations have long since been discontinued. As has the person who designed this knife. 



The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

The August dinner was held August 17, 2022. The attendance was 20. Thank you for attending. We announced that we do expect to host a Winter/Holiday/December 10 Show. We will not take payments until the October *Knewslettter*. We will have flyers available at the September meeting. If you need flyers and are unable to attend the meeting, contact us. They can be mailed to you.

We have started to coordinate our efforts for an April 2023 Show. We will have a table application form in the October *Knewslettter* and also post one on our website. We have sent our proof for the flyers to the printer for the 2023 Show. We are negotiating with the Valley River Inn for a special room rate for our guests to the April 2023 Show.

A special thank you to all who have supported our organization with well wishes, encouragement, membership renewals, donations and articles for publication in our *Knewslettter*. If you had not stepped up, we would not have been able to publish a *Knewslettter* for a 12 month period as we have done for 2020, 2021 and 2022. It is with your support that we can and will continue. The officers appreciate this acknowledgment from you, our members.


My thank you to all who have contributed articles for the *Knewslettter*. This issue has articles from **Wayne Goddard and Larry Davis**. All of the individuals who have contributed articles to our publication need all of the acknowledgments and encouragement we can provide. Please continue to forward articles (handwritten, typed or emailed). Remember: even you can contribute to our publication.

Send us your "I want" or "I have for sale." It will be printed in our *Knewslettter*. You can also add it to our Facebook page, however you must have a current (2022 or greater) membership.

If you call, please leave a message. It will be returned.

Please be sure to thank **Lisa Wages** for the monitoring of the OKCA Facebook page. It is a never ending, arduous task which has become a job.

Also thank you to **Bernard Levine** for the emails to remind the members of the Club meeting dates.

See you at the Sizzler Wednesday, September 21, 2022. It will be an opportunity to enjoy a dinner out and talk knives with others who have the same interests. 



OKCA Knews & Musings

ibdennis

Spyderco and Wayne

I was taking stock of our Spyderco Wayne Goddard knives and discovered my daily relationship with a knife that suits me in everyday life (my EDC). This favorite knife is clipped in my pocket every day and is a friend if needed. It has been awhile since I told the Wayne story; so this issue will lay out the details of these knives. If you are interested in the history of the Spyderco Wayne knives, this is the issue.

Get ready, Get set.....

October will be the first volley to prepare for the December Show and the April 2023 Show. The contracts for tables will be part of the October *Knewsletter*.

December

The Winter/Holiday/December/before Christmas Show is on for December

10. Information about this event will start in October. In the fall of the year.

Those who

had tables at the 2019 Show and supported this organization with current membership will be assured of their 2019 table locations. Others who leap on will mostly get a table but no guaranty of the same GPS location. I anticipate a sell out Show; our schedule and plan is to pick up where we left out. The OKCA has always been a winner. Our goal was to make this a global attendee Show. The theme has always been a melting pot of cutlery in all facets. The pandemic is winding down, and travel has become easier. It is best to pick up where we left off.

Words

This month we see articles by **Wayne Goddard and Larry Davis**. We will continue to publish the *Knewsletter* on a monthly basis with the support of the word makers. Remember, all of us have interests and information to be shared. No problem if you cannot type or email. Just write it

(cursive, printed or typed) on paper and forward to us. Our Seek-
Re-Tary will type it for publication.



Ads R Us

Don't forget about the free ads in our *Knewsletter*! Just pop an email us with your for sale or wants to us, and they will be added to the adverts page. The results have been quite successful. You can also advertise on our Facebook page. Remember you must be a current member of the OKCA (2022 or greater) to advertise in our *Knewsletter* or on our Facebook page or be on our links page.

Club Meeting

We will meet at the Sizzler on September 21, Wednesday. See you. 🐾



Al Barton

ibdennis

I recently purchased an Al Barton camp knife with Damascus blade and stag handle. It is 15" overall and a beautiful knife. I was always so busy at the Shows in the 1990s I never had an opportunity to purchase one of his knives. Until now.



It was back in the year 1998 that I tangled with Al Barton. It was a friendly tangle, kind of like a rock and a moveable

force. Al was the force, and I was the rock. They say that dripping water will eventually get through a rock, and that is indeed true.

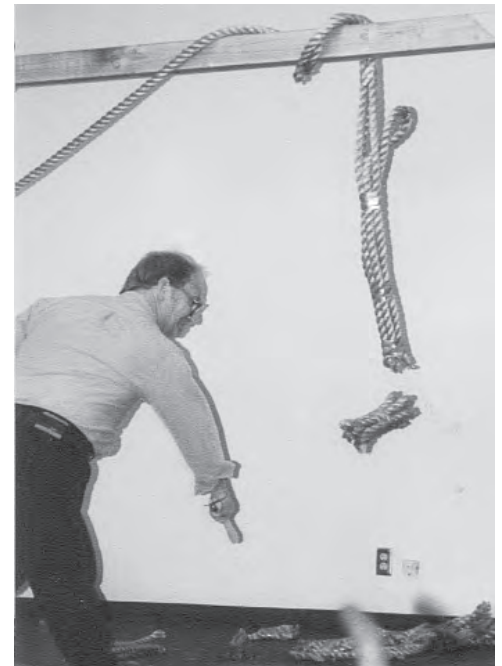
Al had been doing the forging demonstrations at our April Shows starting in 1990 which continued as a yearly event. About 1998 Al started chirping at me about a free hanging rope cutting competition. For safety concerns and economic reasons, I declined. Al was insistent, and eventually the dripping water got through. Al furnished the rope that first year, and Wayne Goddard and Al Barton built scaffolding that supported the free hanging rope.

Nervous as I was, it turned out as a spectacular event at our yearly Show. A free hanging 1" diameter hemp rope was attacked by a knife handmade by the knifemaker. Each round added another 1" rope to the bundle, making the target rope thicker. I think the largest bundle was 8" thick. The last year we had this event, I think Ed Schempp did

nine 1" cuttings. He equated this task to hitting a brick wall with his fist. But his blade made the cut.

The free hanging rope contest came to a stop with concerns about safety. The variables were huge. Blade tempering, wrist thong or not, possible shattering of the blade, operator error losing control of the blade, an audience accident from a flying blade and the handling of the rope. Also the rope was getting expensive and hard to find. When I discovered the rope had chemicals in it that could cause injury to a person allergic to the allergens, I said no more. I insisted on gloves, but that fell on deaf ears.

The final straw was the reporting of an accident at a Show where the swinger cut open his inner thigh just inches from his femoral artery. Oh yeah, the insurance company, once they discovered we were doing this, said we could not afford the premium. The event was spectacular, and I took time off to see this presentation. I miss the excitement of this event. I hear that some knife shows still feature this event, and I wish them well. 🙏



Elk and Deer Antler Knife Handles Part 1

Wayne Goddard

I spent the summer of my twelfth year on my grandparent's ranch in the Bitterroot Valley in Montana. The ranch had a meager shop, and it was one of my favorite places to fool around in. All of the "power" tools were human powered. My memories of the shop include a box of cow horns and elk antler parts. I got in trouble for grinding on a piece of elk horn with the hand-crank sickle bar grinder. It seems that Granddad Specht didn't like the way the wheel worked after it was plugged up with burnt antler goo. Little did I know that I would spend most of my life grinding steel, antler and such.

I watched my dad use a piece of that elk antler to make a new handle on a skillet. That elk antler handle lasted over thirty years but in the end suffered from the

same fate as the original wood handle... excess heat.

When it came time for the first knifemaker to put a handle on that first blade, it was an easy and natural choice to use something that fit the hand and was near the correct size. A piece of deer or elk antler would perfectly fill the bill. An advantage of using antler is that the soft core made it easy to create the hole for the tang. Pitch would have sufficed to hold the blade into the handle. And so it continues today, knifemakers use native and imported stag for handle material.

Antler/stag handles are often called "horn," and the term "deer horns" is often used. There is a Deerhorn Road not too far east of Springfield, Oregon. The truth is that animals with true horns keep them through life. Antlers, on the other hand, are shed every year; and then a new set is grown. Antlers grow as an extension of the animal's skull. They are true bone and are a single structure and usually found only on the males.

Horns have a two-part structure, a bony interior with an outer sheath made of highly specialized hair follicles. The interior of bone (also an extension of the skull) is covered by an exterior sheath grown by specialized hair follicles, as are your fingernails. In fact, your fingernails and the exterior sheath of horns are made of very similar materials. Horns are found on antelope (pronghorn), bighorn sheep, buffalo and the common domestic cow. Horns are never shed and continue to grow throughout the animals life. The exception to this rule is the pronghorn which sheds and regrows its horn sheath each year.

In order for craftsmen in Oregon to legally work deer and elk antlers into knife handles or other crafts, an antler dealer license must be purchased. Applicable parts of the law are: Oregon Administrative Rules #635-200-0050 Deer, Elk, and Antelope (Pronghorn), which can be found on the Internet. 🐾



"This was a very unusual Sambar Stag crown that allowed the author to make it into a folder without disturbing the button. The color and cracked appearance of the button indicated that it had been through a fire. It has been reported that the natives in India will set fire to grassland in order to be able to find the shed Sambar antlers. This unusual crown would be proof of that. The blade is wire Damascus, bolsters are snakewood."

An Introduction To Damascus Steel

Wayne Goddard

The material known as Damascus steel has been made in many parts of the world over a long period of time. It seems to have been made and used for both its decorative and physical properties. The form of Damascus known as pattern welded was made in Germany as late as WWII, but the knowledge of working it in the United States was apparently unknown.

Bill Moran sparked the rebirth of Damascus steel in the United States. After working on developing it as a blade material for four or five years, he laid out pattern welded Damascus blades at the Knifemakers Guild Show in 1973.

Knifemaker/author was not at that Show but did see what Moran displayed in 1974. Like most that saw the material, it was fascinating to see something that seemed to have come out of the "Old Times." Compared to the pattern welded steel, the common knife blade became quite boring. I caught the bug to make some Damascus for myself; but it was nine years before I got started ...but that is another story for another day.

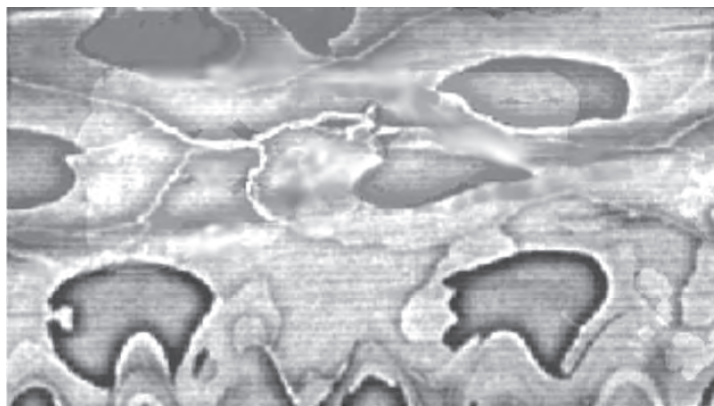
Moran's original blades were the simplest form of pattern welding, alternating layers of iron and steel. Today most pattern-welded steel is all high carbon material. Contrast in the finished blade is achieved by using alternating layers with different alloy content. In order to have good cutting ability a certain amount of carbon needs to be present in the finished blade. There is some loss during the welding, so starting with more than is necessary is good. My personal favorite mix is simple high carbon steel alternated with bandsaw steel. The bandsaw steel has a nickel content of approximately 2%, which creates a nice contrast in the pattern.

The common size for a starting billet can be anywhere from three layers to thirty. The limiting factor is the size of the forge and the size of the hammer, either hand

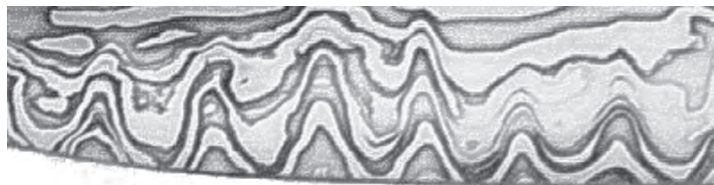
hammer or power hammer. After the first weld, the billet is stretched out and doubled or tripled on itself. This is continued until the desired number of layers is reached. The layer count in a finished blade is usually from 200 to 500 or more.

More is not necessarily better when it comes to layer count. As the layers become thinner, the alloy elements become equally distributed through the billet, and some pattern can be lost. Once the desired layer count is reached, it is time for some simple pattern development or not. Without any attempt at patterning, a wood grain pattern will be apparent on the finished blade. Personally, I find the wood grain very attractive. Grooves can be carved into the steel; and then it is forged out, creating a ladder pattern or tooth appearance, when only the edge is carved. Another method is to forge the billet into a round bar, twist it up tight, then forge into a blade shape; this will give a nice spiral pattern in the blade surface.

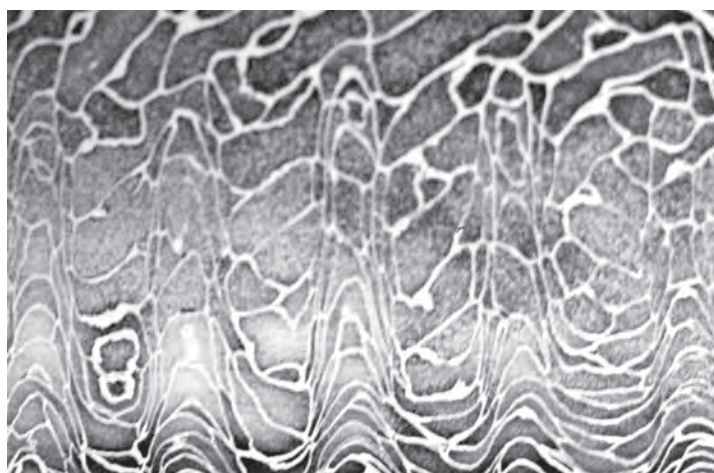
As to forging and heat-treating a Damascus blade, it isn't that much different from working a common alloy steel blade. What takes special care is



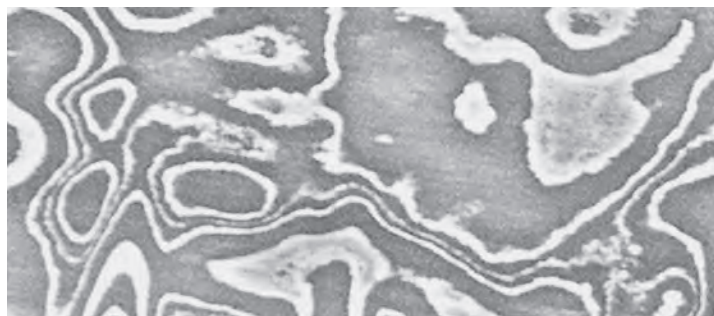
Chainsaw chain



Motorcycle chain



Wire Rope



Wood Grain PW

the blade finish prior to etching to bring out the pattern. Some pattern will show on a hardened and tempered blade that isn't etched. It takes a proper etching to bring out the full beauty of the steel. A fine hand rubbed finish to at least 600-800 grit is essential for a good etch.

Continued on page 7

An Introduction ...continued from page 6

Some makers polish their blades prior to etching and again after etching. I don't do it that way, because it washes out what can be a crisp pattern. Some makers use acid to bring out the pattern, but I don't like working with it. I find ferric chloride to be safer and more than adequate. Some blades respond well to a ten or fifteen minute etch, others need etching, then hand rubbing with 1500 grit paper, then more etching. There are times I spend almost as much time bringing out the pattern in a blade as it took to weld it up. It takes experimentation with

the strength of the etchant and time of etching. Hard and fast rules don't always work. I tell my students to treat each new Damascus blade as an individual that needs to be acquainted with.

The etched blade is neutralized in a solution of TSP, a cleaner found in the paint department of stores that sell hardware. The blade is then dried off, heated up to 80-degrees and given a blue treatment with Birchwood Casey's Super Blue. Use the directions on the container. Using the finest abrasive paper, lightly rub the blade to highlight the surface while not disturbing the

blued deeper part. The blade is given a dose of Liquid Wrench or WD-40. The treatment is allowed to soak in for an hour or so, wiped off; and the blade is ready for the handle and guard.

As to sharpening, nothing special is required except to stay away from the pattern with the stone. This is where the sharpening jigs are a good thing. The jig lessens the chance of a mistake on the stone that could ruin the finish on a blade.

Damascus blades that see much use will lose their finish. If the appearance is a problem, contact the maker to see if they will refinish it. 🐦

Fun With Sheathmaking

Wayne Goddard

There is much more to making a sheath than making it good looking. The way I see it, a sheath has several duties. First and most important, it must protect the owner from the knife. The sheath should also protect the knife from being lost. The ideal sheath will also be pleasant to look at and will carry the knife where it is easily accessible.

Making sheaths was the worst part of my first ten years as a knifemaker. I didn't know what I was doing, and the results showed it. I don't mind frustrating work so much, if the finished product is something I can be proud of. The sheath for my first knife was riveted together with aircraft rivets found at a surplus store. (See photo.) I used the only rivets I thought I could afford. I knew how to use copper harness rivets, but they were too expensive for me. Those early sheaths were not only ugly, but they were not entirely serviceable. I guess it would be better to have an ugly sheath that protected the user from the knife and the knife from loss, than a pretty one that was a disaster waiting to happen.

My first clues as to what I was doing wrong came when I found a young saddlemaker who was willing to make sheaths for me. I'm not sure he really wanted to make sheaths; but when a craftsman is struggling to get

established, whatever work comes in helps pay the bills. I arrived early one day and got to see how he ground and polished the edges of the sheaths. He had already showed me that the lightweight leather I had been using was not adequate for knife sheaths. He moved away after awhile, so I was on my own with my sheath making.

I started using heavier leather and they were finished better, but I didn't sew any of them. They were all held together with the two-piece "Jiffy" type rivets. Ugly is a good word for those sheaths. It was a few years later that I learned to sew with a hook needle. I had found a different saddlemaker who would machine sew my glued up sheaths. One day he offered to show me how to sew with a hook needle. I informed him that I wanted a machine made lock-stitch; a hand-stitched sheath wouldn't do. He then showed me that sewing with a hook needle makes the exact same stitch that a machine makes. He set me up with a hook needle, and I went home and made myself a stitching horse. That was the last major item in my learning process, I was on my way to working out the total package.



I've had many makers look at my sheaths and ask what type machine I used to sew them. They are usually surprised when I tell them it is a hand-sewn lock-stitch.

Most other methods of punching create an irregular line of stitches. To solve this problem, I made a punch out of a reloading press. It makes the holes nice and straight, and that's what makes the difference in hand stitched sheaths. The

hole for a lock-stitch is not punched with a hole punch, because the leather would not grip the stitch. The punch for my press is shaped like a tiny bayonet; it spreads the leather without removing any of it. The leather grips the lock-stitch tightly; so even if one stitch got cut, the next stitches would hold tight. Sewing with a hook needle is very fast, once it is mastered.

It was a lot of little tricks and techniques, picked up a piece at a time, that brought me to where I was satisfied with my sheaths. Once I was making great looking and serviceable sheaths, what had been a dreaded part of my occupation became a fun finale to the whole package. 🐦

Goddard/Spyderco Clipit History

Wayne Goddard

Wayne's handmade prototype of the C-16 was delivered to Sal Glesser in April of 1990.

First production models delivered November 1991, C-16 black Micarta handles full serrated or partially serrated. The full serrated were discontinued in 1996.

The C-18 "Junior" Goddard prototype was delivered to Spyderco in April 1992. The first production models of the "Junior" Goddard Clipit were made in November 1992. It was available in full serrated or 50-50 edge. The full serrated was discontinued in 1996.

In June of 1993 Phyllis Goddard purchased a limited edition of five hundred plain edge Junior Goddard Clipits from Spyderco. These were received in November of 1993.

The "Baby" Goddard (C-22), key chain size folder pattern, was sent to Spyderco in November 1992. Spyderco shipped the first "Baby" Goddard Spyderco's in June 1993. It was made only with the 50-50 edge; and being a key-chain-sized knife it does not have the Clipit clip. The last Micarta handled Goddard in production was the Baby, C-20PS. It was discontinued in November 2001. (As of April 2009, a sprint run of Baby Goddard's was planned.)

We received the prototype of the FRN (Zytel type material, Black) handled C-16 on January 17, 1997. It was a good looking knife with the cast handle and the new, right/left changeable clip. It also had the new steel, ATS-55. The Lightweight Goddard was the first Spyderco Clipit to feature ATS-55 and the changeable Clipit clip. We received the first production Lightweight Goddard's in May of '97, these were partially serrated. The first Lightweight Goddard's with plain edge were delivered in May '99. The Lightweight was well received and sales were very good.

Spyderco did a sprint run of 1,200 Lightweight Goddard's with a gray handle in early 2004. We received the first shipment May 21, 2004. It was available in both partially serrated and plain edge.

In May 2006 Spyderco did another sprint of 600 knives on the Lightweight Goddard with a burgundy handle. C16PSBRG. Only partially serrated were made, no plain edged like with the Black and Gray Lightweight Goddard. Approximately 60 of these were numbered for the Spyderco collectors.

We received the first shipment of the Junior Goddard Clipit with white Micarta handles and partial serrated blade in May, 2008. This was a sprint run of 1,200 knives.

Ed note:

The last knife pattern was in 2013 making a total of 15 factory variations of the Wayne Goddard knives. ↘

Wayne Goddard - Spyderco Knives

MODEL	YEAR	HANDLE	STEEL	NOTES	PRODUCED
1 C16PS	1991	Black Micarta	G2	No plain edges made in this model	?
2 C16S	1991	"	G2	Micarta handle full serration	?
3 C18PS	1992	"	G2	Junior 50/50 edge	?
4 C18S	1992	"	G2	Junior full serration	?
5 C18P	1993	"	G2	Limited edition Junior - plain edge	600
6 C20PS	1993	Black Micarta	G2	"Baby" Goddard 50/50 edge	?
7 C16PS	1998	Custom	G2	OKCA Club Knife	60
8 C16PSBK	1997	Black FRN	ATS55	60/40 serration	?
9 C16PBK	1999	"	ATS55	Plain edge	?
10 C16PSGY	2004	Gray FRN	VG10	60/40 serration	600
11 C16PGY	2004	"	VG10	Plain edge	600
12 C16PSBRG	2006	Burgundy	VG10	60/40 serration	600
13 C18PWMP	2008	White Micarta	VG10	60/40 serration	1200
14 C20BGMP	2009	Burgundy/Brown	VG10	60/40 serration	600
15 C16POD	2013	Olive drab	VG10	Plain edge	1200

PS = Partial serration edge	Baby - 2.750" - 4.625"	C20
P = Plain edge	Junior - 4.250" - 7.000"	C18
S = Full serration edge	Papa - 5.500" - 9.000"	C16
FRN =Fiberglass reinforced nylon		





OKCA Free Classified Ads

Free classified ads will run up to three issues and then be dropped. Available only to paid members. Write your ad on anything you have handy (Stantia Reflexous leaves) and email or snail mail to the OKCA PO Box 2091 Eugene OR 97402. The number and size of ads submitted by a single member will be accepted, or excepted, dependent on available space and the mood of the editors.

For Sale: Collection of Bronze Knives. Eight (8) pieces that include five (5) bronze daggers, a bronze Roman spear point, a Roman bronze friction folder and a bronze war axe head. These were featured in the April 2022 issue of the Knewsletter. I will throw in a bronze bracelet and some bronze Roman coins. \$2,500.00 for all. I also have a meteorite blade from Indonesia and a very early steel sword blade from England. Contact Dan @ Westlind@wwestsky.net

WANTED to buy: American made Bowie and dirk knives from the Civil War and earlier, plus fancy California knives and push daggers. Mark Zalesky (865)310-0576 (leave msg) or email knifepub@gmail.com

For Sale - Vintage and other knives for sale on eBay under MAYERI BOUTIQUE. Carbon steel, German and Japanese knives and more. Becky Pierce.

Randall Made™ Knives, A Timeline 'The Quick Reference Guide – 4th Edition. Created to provide collectors and enthusiasts of Randall knives with a handy lightweight guide, useful around the house or for taking to gun and knife shows. A quick reference guide covering notable characteristics of both the knives and sheaths. Printed on waterproof synthetic paper. Six panel double-sided 12-1/2" x 25" accordion folded chart style format. \$30.00 Check or M.O. payable to Blue Star Knives. PO Box 862, Bigfork MT 59911

Wanted: high grade minty pre 1940 three blade stock knives 3-1/2" to 4-1/2" closed, in unusual and rare brands. Call Jerry (360)253-0366 (PST).

Ernst Bruckmann knives wanted. Not the run-of-the-mill Bruckmann knives, please. What I'm after are the larger knives, multi-blade knives and unusual knives in all their various handle materials. Call Bob (604)538-6214 or email crescentknifeworks@gmail.com

Randall Made Knives: Buy, sell or trade. Also many custom knives for sale or trade. Visit www.nifeboy.com or email jim@nifeboy.com or (209)295-5568.

For Sale - OKCA 2009 Bill Ruple Trapper #19. Only 25 made. Sale price \$1,000.00. Also the following Ltd. Ed. William Henry: Sunset #B05 - 11/21/2007 #42/50; GenTac #G30 I - 10/17/2007; Attache #B10-CTD - 9/7/2006. All new, in original cases w/certificates. Interested? Contact Glenda gbgigi@comcast.net.

For Sale - Mint Randall 50 year commemorative #257 - Call Jim (562)716-9857 or email jpitt306@earthlink.net.

Custom Leather for 43 years. Horsehide and brass nailed knife sheaths. (951)303-4666. Visit website mountainmikecustomleather.com.

Wanted: Sequine knives that are unusual, such as custom orders, gut hooks, or any other unusual models. Please email jh5jh@aol.com with a picture attached or call (805)431-2222 and ask for Jack.

Wanted: Remington scout/utility knife with pioneer boys or highlander boy's shield or heroism shield. Email jpitt306@earthlink.net or phone Jim (562)716-9857.

Buying OKCA Club Knives for my personal collection. I am also interested in Wayne Goddard, Ron Lake, Lonewolf (Pre Benchmade), and Spyderco Kopa knives. Call or email Jordan (310)386-4928 - jgl321@aol.com

Wanted : Western Wildlife Series etched knives as follows: 532 bear, 532 eagle, 521 eagle, 534 antelope. Will pay fair price for any. Call Martin (406)442-2783 leave message.

Knives For Sale: Antique, custom & factory, pocketknives, folders, fixed blades, dirks, daggers, bowies, military, Indian, frontier, primitive & ethnic. Other collectibles also. Current colored catalog - FREE. Northwest Knives & Collectibles (503)362-9045 anytime.

Wanted: 2012 Case XX USA medium stockman #6318 PU CV jugged bone w/punch w/signature of Skip Lawrie. Nuno Sacramento (916)682-9305.

For Sale: Buck knives. Large consignment list available from Larry Oden. Typically have Buck standard production, limited edition, BCCI, Buck Custom and Yellow horse models. Email loden402@gmail.com or call (765)244-0614 8AM-8PM EST.

Mosaic pins and lanyard tubes by Sally. See at www.customknife.com, email at sally@customknife.com. (541)846-6755.

Blades and knifemaker supplies. All blades are ground by Gene Martin. I also do custom grinding. See at www.customknife.com, contact Gene at bladesmith@customknife.com or call (541)846-6755.

Want to Learn to Make a Knife? The \$50 Knife Shop by Wayne Goddard is back in print and available from Steve Goddard. Also has copies of the **Wonder of Knifemaking**. Books are \$25.00 plus shipping. Call Steve (541)870-6811 or send an email to sg2goddard@comcast.net

Useful reference books on blades. Collectible knives, custom knives and knifemaking, military knives, swords, tools, and anything else that has an edge. Email for a list. Quality Blade Books C/O Rick Wagner P O Box 41854 Eugene OR 97404 (541)688-6899 or wagner_r@pacinfo.com.

Knife Laws on-line. Federal, state, local. Bernard Levine (541)484-0294 www.knife-expert.com.

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Cocobolo: Got An Itch For It?

Larry Davis

One is hard pressed to find a more utilitarian, elegant handle wood than *Dalbergia retusa* or Cocobolo as we know it. In Mexico it's referred to as Granadillo (not to be confused with Granadillo). Cocobolo ranges from Mexico down the West Coast of Central America and comprises several species within the pea family, Leguminosae. Resources are plentiful and harvesting methods in Mexico are strictly controlled and enforced to insure environmental "softness" on the tropical forests. No heavy equipment is allowed, and trees are felled with chainsaws; logs are ripped into cants by chainsaw and the cants are hand loaded onto mules for the pack to the sawmill.

Cocobolo's natural rosewood oil puts this wood into kitchen use with good confidence. Good outdoor weather resistance for skimmers, too. That same protective oil can be a bit problematic when finishing, but sanding and polishing before applying shellac in a French polish method is a sure winner. Gluing can be accomplished with epoxy. A friendly humidor maker in Nicaragua once told me he soaks his wood in alcohol overnight to keep the bright colors vibrant, but I've never tried this....

Moderately priced, Cocobolo is hard to beat for that simple elegant look. It does not stabilize well, but there is no need with its high oil content.

A bit of caution should be used when working this wood. No need to be over alarmed, but simple good housekeeping will prevent all reactions except sensitizing. Cocobolo is an irritant and sensitizer, as are many woods. Matter of fact, Australia has declared ALL wood dust to be carcinogenic (liable to cause cancer). Good hygiene is necessary to keep dermatitis, irritation to nose and throat, conjunctivitis and bronchial asthma at bay. Cocobolo is a sensitizer, meaning a latent period of hours, months or years may occur before experiencing any of these symptoms. Once acquired, they will be with you for life. Wash hands after cutting/sanding and clean up all shop dust to prevent hives and skin rashes. Still got that itch? Go wash up.

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