

Howard Clark lives in Iowa with his wife and children on the farm where he grew up. Howard has been a full time bladesmith for over 30 years. His interest in knife making harks back to adolescence when, much to his mother's dismay, he would reshape and "improve" the household's kitchen knives.

Early in his career he mastered forging, damascus, and distal taper. As Morgan Valley Forge Howard produced knives with organic flow and keen balance. Everything he made was meant to be used, function first. The natural style of his work in straight fixed blades and folders is distinctive.

As an instructor and demonstrator Howard brings a life time of bladesmith, fabricating and metal working experience with a forte in heat treating to his classes. Howard has delved into the science of metallurgy. He taught himself how to read isothermal transformation diagrams as part of the quest to create what he desired as the best blade. One that was tough; would not chip, crack or break. One that was hard enough to hold its edge for prolonged use and still be able to be resharpened. He is grateful to Dr. John D. Verhoeven and the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Iowa State University. With access to the research tools of the metals lab Howard was able to verify his findings through scientific method. With known steel alloys, and controlled temperatures, the test of the metal is in the heat treatment. Howard knows that besides carbon content other alloys in a steel also play roles and change the dynamics of the heat treatment for a given steel to get the desired end product. In his research it is said Howard broke more blades deliberately than many knife-makers made. Much of what is readily accepted as standard practice in knife making now came originally from Howard Clark.

Howard is a long time member of ABANA and of the American Bladesmith Society. He earned ABS Journeyman in 1990 and Mastersmith in 1992. He is Omimi. Big Ear. The creator of the L6 Banite Katana which is the highest performance Japanese style sword blade in the world.

Howard enjoys teaching and demonstrating. He is grateful for the people he has met and places he has had the opportunity to experience through bladesmithing.