

# THE DRAWKNIFE

The Oklahoma Selfbow Society Newsletter  
Volume 11 Issue 2 — Summer 2019

## The Dog Days of Summer!

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The Warrior's Tools  
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**President — Jason Grace**

Hunting season in August? It's a wonderful thing to think my hunting season will start August 1 this year. We are Alaska bound on July 30 and will start hunting caribou on the James Dalton Highway August 1. Adventure awaits and a dream will come true. I've always longed for the grand adventure of chasing critters in Arctic Alaska. We will rent a truck in Anchorage do some grocery, and gear shopping and then head north of Fairbanks up the James Dalton Highway. Once you cross the Yukon river it becomes a special bow hunting only area for five miles right and left of the road. We have a 10 mile corridor that only Bowhunters can chase critters for a length of over 400 miles. That's 4000 square miles of bow hunting paradise. Only catch is you have to be Bowhunter Ed certified. We will spend 10 days hunting, fishing, and soaking in the Alaskan experience. I can't wait to share the stories and memories with you all around a campfire at OJAM, if not sooner.

Enough about me, the OSS is getting fired up again as we have quite a few things happening late summer and early fall. The first being a new event with us partnering up with the Tulsa PD and OSS helping to build 65 Rattan bows for the boys of the *Tulsa Boys Home*. The idea is to give some positive adult interaction to these boys through archery. They currently shoot archery weekly at the home. TBH has also teamed with 3 Rivers Archery and they will be supplying arrows for the boys. The event will start at 12:30 Saturday August 17 and end later that afternoon. I will need 10 to 12 OSS volunteers to help with the event. We will pair together with the TPD officers and help the boys personalize their bow and arrows by decorating and painting them. Should be a great event! Please call me if you would like to help!

Also coming up is the ODWC Wildlife Expo September 27-29. This is always a fun event where we get together to demonstrate our craft and give rattan bows away Saturday and Sunday. Look for a rattan work day date later in this newsletter and on Facebook.

Then, finally, one of my favorite OSS events is the members hunt on Kaw WMA. We camp at the Ponca Bowman's Association and share camp fires and food. As always, we'll have a potluck dinner Saturday evening. Seems we've been on a roll these last couple of years in that someone comes home with a deer. Come even if you don't hunt, the range is open and you can't beat the fellowship.

As always I want to say thank you to the folks that always support our functions and events. Without dedicated, selfless volunteers we would not be the successful organization that we are.

Recently a friend told me this, "I work to feed myself and make money to allow me to live. But I play music because it feeds my soul and I truly live!"

Serving people and this organization feeds my soul.

*Jason*

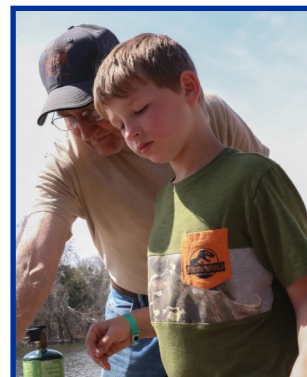
**Vice President — Conrad Kleinholz**

The Members Campout is over, and our next event is the rattan bow prep leading up to the Expo. If you haven't been there, you should really try to make it. The Expo is a great opportunity to demonstrate and talk to people about what we do. You also need to be there for the kids' bow giveaway. You may watch somebody's life change. Do you remember the day or event that got you started on this journey?

Expo is also a great time to talk with each other about our dreams, schemes and plans for October, and for some of us there may be a few post hunt stories to tell. I know I will have some. I am going to Alaska in August to chase caribou! I am exceptionally lucky to have this experience, and I also know that I probably wouldn't have this chance if not for the friends I have made through OSS.

While I am busy making a dozen new arrows and a takedown bow for this experience, I am also thinking about how this trip could affect the way I look forward to October 1. At this point, I think I may find that the excuses I usually make to miss a chance to be in the field, or to take somebody new, are pretty hollow. I may even find that new-comer during a visit at Expo. I hope to see you then.

*Conrad*



## Co-Event Coordinator — Tommy Leach

Hopefully each of you had an opportunity to attend to Summer Rendezvous. If not, you missed a great time. Although it seemed attendance was down a bit, for those of us there it was a great time. Haskell and Johnny put together a great range and we had a great shoot. This year we added a fun event, a Cherokee Cornstalk shoot. Cornstalks were not available so Jason substituted cane. Everyone got their exercise walking back and forth between the 80-yard butts. This is something we will do again! After another great fish fry and potluck dinner we had the annual coon shoot. Congratulations to Johnny McAdoo in another title. If you missed out you should put this on your calendar for next year. Great fellowship and laid-back atmosphere.

As we begin preparations for the ODWC Wildlife Expo we need to get the kids bows ready. Rodney Wilson has graciously offered up his shop for this endeavor. Our workday is September 7 at his house. We will plan on starting about 7:30 AM to beat the heat. Keep checking Facebook and our website for any updates or drop me an email. The Expo is September 27, 28 and 29. Plan on attending and working on your bows and sharing your knowledge with the public.

By time this is out the Oklahoma draw results are published. My son and I along with Jon Cunningham and his son Luke drew McAlester AAP the weekend of November 8th. Mike Hames and I also drew tags to head north to Kansas and hunt with Ralph. If you are

friends with Ralph on FB you will see his nemesis has returned. Pig, as he is commonly known, is an old mature buck with only 6 points. Ralph harvested the father several years back, another big 6, who scores high enough to qualify for P&Y. This buck will likely beat his dad and will weigh in at well over 225 lbs. I can't wait to get back up north this fall. Hopefully you too were successful in the draw.

In closing my continued condolences to Doug and all his family in the loss of Martha earlier this month. Martha and Ed welcomed the OJAM / OSS family to their property for the past fifteen years. They were both instrumental in the growth and success of our organization. My prayers continue for the family.

*Tommy*



## Non-Resident Representative — Ralph Renfro

Before the end of June, I undertook a major step in my recovery. In the past fourteen months I never even thought of undertaking a bow project. But late May, my friend Gary Cook came out from Fort Scott and I helped him make a BBO. After it was finished, I told Gary I really needed this. Over the last thirty years I had NEVER gone so long (14 months) without building a bow. That got my juices flowing to grab a piece of Osage and do what I love to do.



That was the inspiration for starting on what I'd come to call my "therapy Bow". I knew there were some issues with the stave, but since it was going to be lighter weight, I proceeded. Basically, ignoring the borer holed on the back and the drying checks in the belly. I figured that I could fill the holes with E-40 and the checks with CA. So on I went with the speed that could only be described as "sloth like".

Well about 2/3 of the way through chasing a ring, the stave became very hard and I was having a very tough time removing any wood at all. Exhausted I went inside hot and sore. Dianne asked me what I was go-

ing to do. I told her there was only one other person in Rice County Kansas that I knew of that could handle a drawknife, and that was my buddy that I started down the Bowyers path so many years ago, Shane (Coach) Cordell. So, I gave Shane a call and he came from Little River (19 miles) to bail me out.

Shane began working the stave and mentioned how tough it was. He was losing a bit of moisture, so he took a break. I told him I was glad to see him struggling a bit with the stave. He asked me why and I told him that because I was struggling so, that I was beginning to think that the stroke had turned me into a wimp. Seeing him struggling made me know it was just the stave.

The next day the work continued. I laid the bow out and roughed it out to rough dimensions and that's when I discovered that some the borer holes went clear through, from back to belly. NO problem. But add to that, some of the checks did the same. The rest of the day was spent adding smooth on to the holes and superglue to the cracks. At this point I had enough time and effort in it, that I'd either make a bow or kindling.

Next day I began wood removal, checking the holes and cracks as I went. I started the tillering process and floor tillering after any wood removal. Finally, I decided I was close enough for a short string to give it a

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try. The bow was 60" tip to tip, so sure enough on my extra string peg, there just happened to be a string that would work. So, I filed some string grooves and put it on the short string for the first time. I got lucky. It wasn't far off, A spot on the top limb was a little weak. ( That's the first picture if) A little more work and the tiller looked good.

I decided that I needed more weight, so I took some off to 55" tip to tip. I wasn't so lucky on the extra string peg this time. So, I grabbed some B-50 and my string jig and made my three bundles. I waxed them up good only to discover that it's hard for a one armed guy to make a Flemish twist string. Since I only knew one other person in Rice County, you know the drill, I called Shane. Thirty minutes later I was at Shane's house for more help.

I did some fine sanding, Di lettered for me, I use spray Poly and Wax for the finish. I then added strike plate, arrow rest and handle leather. I'm work on learning to use a release, as my fingers don't quite unfold real smoothly. So, I guess I made my Therapy

Bow and not firewood after all. I've made a lot of bows, but this ugly one with a 266 written on the oft side of the top limb may mean more to me than any of them.

*Ralph*



## Northeast Representative II — Todd Weldon

Greetings from North East Rep II. My luck is still holding out on the ODWC special draw hunts. The results are in and I'm on a 7 year dry spell for deer hunts. I have 25 preference points in the elk drawing. To those of you that did draw a hunt I wish you good luck and happy hunting. Maybe we can get some OSS selfbow kills and some rocks planted at McAllester.

### **It's not a race!**

A lot of times the first thing people will ask about self-bow building is, *How long does it take to make a bow?* When spending the weekend at the Wildlife Expo we get the chance to talk to a lot of people and give the club a lot of exposure. You will hear it over and over. *How long does it take?* I like to say it can take a year or maybe 2, just depends on how committed you are. If I was making bows for a living I would have to charge about \$40K per bow because I usually only make one or two a year. Some guys are slamming out bows like crazy, but I just don't seem to have the time. I actually had a bow in process for about 7 years, I didn't work on it the whole 7 years but it was in process. Then it blew up in the tillering.

When I first got involved in bow building a guy told me that a friend of his could build one in 4 hours. He could and he did. The thing is, it looked like a bow that was built in 4 hours. My question to you is, is that what you want? Or do you want to spend the extra time and do the extra work to make a really nice, sweet shooting selfbow? Now OJAM is a different story. We do have a time frame and we are helping a lot of people build a lot of bows. But after you get your first one finished at there, the pressure is off and you can build one at

home at your own pace. For me, I have to have the right mind set. If I am working on one and my mind is not right I will just set it down and come back to it later. If I feel like I'm rushing or getting frustrated with a problem on the stave, I will set it down and come back later. A whole lot of light weight kids bows have been made, unintentionally, by getting in a hurry and rushing. If you are making your own bows, your own arrows, bow strings and all the other gear and garb that goes with it, well then you are a craftsman. Whether we make one bow a year or 20 bows a year we are always learning something new and helping to teach others new things and how to work through problems.

Keep building bows and build them at a pace with which you are comfortable. Make them as nice as you can and try to make the next one even better. But always remember, **It's not a race.**

Hope to see everyone at the Wildlife Expo coming up in September.

*Todd*



**Deadline for submitting articles for the Fall edition of the Drawknife is September 30, 2019. Please drop me a note if you have ideas for articles or suggestions to improve the newsletter.**

*Leo*

## Northwest Representative — Mark Mann

Lee Roy Buffing was a friend of mine. Like so many other sons of Oklahoma that chose an agrarian existence, he lived and died only a short distance from the small town in which he was born and reared. And while only a remnant of what it once was, the tiny town of Bessie still exists. Its once busy main street is now guarded by the silent skeletal remains of the many small businesses that were at one time the life's blood of this once busy farming community. The school house continues to monopolize the same parcel of land that it did decades ago in the northern half of town, but it too has given up its ghost and serves now only as a monument to the many children who once lived in and around this northern Washita County hamlet.

Some of Mr. Buffing's farm bordered Boggy Creek, a deeply cut tributary that ultimately feeds the Washita River, the principal drainage vein of Custer and Washita counties. When a few spare moments appeared in my schedule, I enjoyed nothing more than visiting the ancient camp site that once occupied a small area on the south side of Boggy Creek on the Buffing farm. This thoughtful gentleman would frequently stop and visit when he found me there, and we had some wonderful conversations about the area and how it had changed since the days of his childhood, a time that included the infamous period known as the Dust Bowl. He chuckled when speaking of how the people of the community would scurry to close their windows and shutters when that rare vehicle was spotted motoring through town as the dust raised from the passage would linger for many minutes beyond the vehicle's passing. Before his passing in 2012, he had experienced the first two years of the recent drought. I recall him telling me that in spite of how bad the Dust Bowl era was, the summer of 2011 and 2012 in our area seemed drier and harsher, and the rainfall amounts of 17" and 14" for those two years seemed to add some credence to his observations as the average rainfall was typically double that. He conveyed a fear that we were moving back into that same weather pattern, and because he was a first-hand witness to the great dark boiling dust clouds of the dirty thirties, the fear was very real. When the skies opened up over our region of the Southern Plains in 2015, three years after his passing, I thought of Mr. Buffing, and how the great torrents of rain that occurred that spring, and the rising swift waterway that cut through his property would have lifted his spirits and demonstrated to him that all is right again in Oklahoma.

Mr. Buffing has again been on my mind as the rains of the recent spring and early summer has far exceeded anything experienced over the past two and a half decades. I'm certain Lee Roy would be smiling to know that the Mesonet collection station located less than two miles from his quaint farm house that collects an average of 32 inches of rainfall annually, has over the past 365 days collected 55.4 inches!, that's 1.7 times our average annual precipitation.

While most of us look favorably upon this much pre-

cipitation, it has come at a cost. Beyond the devastation to farms, homes and roadways seen across our state, the biologists tell us that a segment of wildlife hardest hit has been ground nesting birds, especially the turkey population. Dwayne Elmore, OSU Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist, tells us that we can expect large declines in our wild turkey population—declines that will likely be felt for the next couple of years. Elmore suggested that while the quail population has also been affected, these birds would still have time to nest subsequent to the time of the heaviest rains. As far as our whitetail population is concerned, Elmore believes that while a few fawns might have been lost, most of the flooding was over before the fawns were on the ground. Further, he reports that the state's vegetation is in great shape, augmenting the natural cover and food supply for many wildlife species of our state.



So, from my vantage point smack in the center of the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho nations, and as the Northwest Representative of the OSS, all is right again in Oklahoma! And for those procrastinating about fall hunting preparations, we're well under three months before the sun rises on the fall bow season, so bow up and bear down!

*Mark*





## Northeast Representative I — Rick Myers

Hello from the Northeast part of the state (actually Northcentral). The weather has been crazy this spring and summer, but I hope you have enjoyed your time outside. Everything has been a little bit later and lasted a little bit longer than normal; morels, the spawn, berry picking, etc., but everything appears to me to be in excess compared to most years. We even have a bumper crop of sand plums!



We have just returned from our rñnce in a lifetime, but we go every yearòtrip to the Boundary waters between Canada and Minnesota. Kayaks, fly rods, hand-tied flies, and parmesan-crusted fish. How can a person gain weight just eating fish? I can show you! It was another rñmemory makingòtrip with perfect weather, numerous Bronzeback, Largemouth, Bluegill, and Pike. We broke a couple of fly rods on fish, but had spares. If you ever go up there, make sure you paddle back in to lake rñXXò That is where all of the really good fishing is.

One of my sons, Garrett, went with us this year, as well as the Schoonover clan. Garrett was new to fly fishing and he had several practice sessions on our pond in the back yard. I was familiar with his frustration; the rod whooshing in the air, and the line piling up right in front of him. When you have spent your whole life learning how to cast a weighted lure, and now you have to learn how to cast a weighted line with a weightless fly, it takes a paradigm shift. It's kind of like trying to use your strength to crack an egg for the frying pan. It just ain't gonna work very well! The best teacher is time, and over the 3 or 4 days in the Boundary Waters working a fly rod 8-10 hours a day, he got it. I remember paddling up to him one evening as he was fishing out of his kayak in the dark. It was calm and I could see his reflection on the lake. He reminded me of Paul Mclean on the waters of the Gallatin

## Treasurer Report — Leo Staples

Once we get past the Members Campout the Society doesn't have much income or expense until the Wildlife Expo. A handful of members pay their dues in the summer and we do have a little income from the Bow Trade. Society operation for the year is in keeping with the approved budget.

Following OJAM the Board approved the creation of an online store setup where all sales go through store. The first test for this was the Bow Trade and so far all the feedback has been positive. Please let us know if you have problems.

The house project is finally finished, so our new address is 331172 East Highway 62, Harrah Oklahoma 73045. This is the official address for all OSS corre-

River. He was in his element, and he was good at it. It was an awesome thing for a dad to see, and it's something I'll keep with me. He was finally there and the fish didn't even know it.

I'm under the gun once again, trying to get ready for Caribou in Alaska. We are three weeks out and I haven't even started tillering the bow I'm taking. A recurring image of my life. I'm doing two things I have wanted to do for a long time; (1.) Make a take-down and (2.) back it with raw flax fiber. The take-down part has gone fairly smooth, just taking my time and frequently checking the fit of the mating pieces. As usual, I have definitely learned some things for the next time. The flax backing is a whole different story. I will admit that I am happy with the outcome, so far, but I have never seen anything so messy in my life. First of all, you had better have your bundles ALL laid out before you start. I thought I was ready, but needed more, and when I went back to the bundle to get more fibers; I apparently had glue in places that I had forgotten about. I now have a pretty good idea how it feels to be tarred and feathered! I let the fibers/TBII dry for two days and now I can start turning those sticks into a bow. Looking forward to seeing how it shoots.

I hope everyone gets to take some time away from work, and spend it with family and friends. God has given us everything, and he wants us to enjoy it.

*Rick*



spondence.

Finally, the search to fill open Board positions will start later this fall. We are blessed to have lots of members supporting OJAM, the related workdays, the Wildlife EXPO, and other Society activities. However it has become more difficult to find members who will take on a leadership position. OSS is not alone in this as nearly all nonprofit organizations are facing the same challenge. Learning the operational side of the organization takes time and we need some younger members to step up before old guys like me are gone.

*Leo*

## Campfire Cooking — K. P. Lehman

### VEGETABLES

Before you delete this article out of your newsletter because you do not like vegetables, you still might consider looking at some of these recipes. I tried to pick some that contain vegetables but have other ingredients that disguise the flavor of the vegetables. I have made and served some of them and most people actually liked them, guys included!

### BAKED CORN

1 16-oz can cream-style corn  
1 16-oz can whole kernel corn  
1 cup corn meal  
1 tbsp garlic salt  
2 cups grated cheese  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 cup cooking oil  
2 eggs beaten

Combine, corn, corn meal, garlic salt, cheese, baking powder and cooking oil. Beat eggs and add to mixture. Pour into Dutch oven and cook for 40 to 50 minutes.

### NOODLE BAKE

1 lb noodles, cooked  
2 cups yogurt  
2 eggs, beaten  
1 tsp salt  
1 cup cracker crumbs

Cook noodles, then put them in oiled Dutch oven. Mix yogurt, eggs and salt in a bowl and pour over the noodles. Sprinkle cracker crumbs on top. Bake about 15 minutes.

### SUCCOTASH

1 16-oz can lima beans  
1 16-oz can whole kernel corn  
1 lb salt pork diced in small pieces  
1 tsp salt

Combine all ingredients in Dutch oven, stir occasionally and cook for about 30 minutes making sure salt pork is cooked through.

### POTATO SOUP

2 tbsp margarine  
1 cup diced celery  
1.4 cup chopped onions  
4 cups diced potatoes  
2 cups water  
3 cups milk  
2 tsp salt  
2 tbsp parsley

Melt margarine and brown celery and onions in Dutch oven. Add potatoes and water, then cook with lid on for about 1 hour. Remove from water and mash vegetables for smoothness. Dispose of water. Add milk, salt and parsley and heat in Dutch oven again for 15 minutes or until it just boils.

Variations:

- Add finely chopped carrots
- Add finely chopped ham

KP

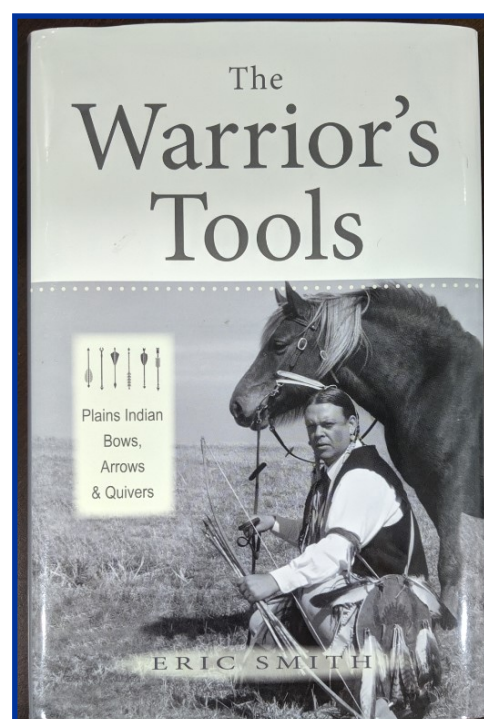


## Book Review By Leo Staples

Shortly after I built my first bow my wife bought me all four volumes of the Traditional Bowyer's Bible. I enjoyed reading the books and still refer to them from time to time. The latest addition to my library is "The Warrior's Tools" by Eric Smith. For several years I've been looking for a book that provided a comprehensive approach to building Native American bows and arrows without any luck. Eric provides the reader with his historic research, personal stories, and step by step instructions for crafting Native American Plains Indian bows, arrows, and quivers. I believe most readers will feel like they are engaged in a conversation with the author as they read the book. I recommend this book to all traditional bowyers.

**About the Author:** Many of you know Eric as one of our OJAM Vendors. A lifelong student, Eric has spent over 30 years studying the history of Native American archery and learning from older Native American Bowyers. Today he passes along his knowledge to Native American students across the United States. For more information about Eric, his book, and items for sale, check out:

<http://www.plainsindianbows.com/>





## In Search of Lithic Scatter Part 2 by Mark Mann

***The following information is not intended to serve as an exhaustive treatise on the subject of stone artifacts and projectile points, rather the author's opinion on various aspects of artifact collection. It is intended primary for those who have yet to experience the excitement of recovering an item last touched by human hands hundreds to thousands of years ago.***



It would be difficult to precisely define the allure of finding stone-age projectile points, edged tools, and other implements collectively known as lithic scatter. To be sure, owning a stone artifact or a collection of artifacts provides one with a tangible link to our distant forefathers, and gives some insight into how ancient man fed, clothed, and protected himself, but there is a greater magnetism. Perhaps it's in the excitement of actually finding such a piece as it was lost or discarded hundreds—and in many cases—thousands of years ago. Each piece recovered presents a unique set of questions as to its precise purpose. Each projectile point found stimulates the imagination as to the game that might have been hunted, or the inter-tribal conflicts or efforts of conquest that might have existed causing that particular object to be found in that specific locale. Like any other discipline, the study of archaeology—especially amateur archaeology—is fraught with misnomers, misidentifications, misunderstandings, and personal opinions. There have been discoveries that simply defy explanation, at least based upon the finite body of information available to an area or culture. For that reason, there is plenty of room for scientific theory and conjecture.

### Getting Started

For the seasoned surface hunter, determining where to search probably has more to do with recent weather or field conditions as most that have been at this merry chase for some time have multiple locations from which to choose. For the newcomer, getting started is more problematic. And while many dream of stumbling onto a yet undiscovered camp or kill site, the neophyte anthropologist would be better served kicking around a proven location. For no matter how much these sites have been picked over, it seems there's always more to be found. Searching proven ground frequently gives the searcher a head start as to the common materials used in that area, the approximate time in history the site was occupied, and what to expect in terms of styles of projectile points and other implements.

So how does one access a proven or previously excavated site? Ask! First, ask around about where artifacts have been historically found. These sites typi-

cally become common knowledge over the years as they continue to yield their treasure decades after they are first discovered. Talk to land owners about what they might have stumbled onto over the years. Ask about the presence of springs as these are frequently target-rich area. Familiarize yourself with successful collectors of the area. Like successful fishermen, they may not readily divulge their honey holes, but may provide clues to the more commonly-known stone age sites. Learn about the basic geology of an area and if there might be an outcropping of stone or raw materials to lends itself to tool-making.

Artifact hunters are a loose society of like-minded people. I've found most are friendly, and the majority of them enjoy sharing their own experiences.

Many of these people will divulge

where they've been successful, but a word of caution: Just as we've all experienced in the pursuit of game, there will be those venues pointed out with the instruc-



***Various projectile points, drills, cutting implements, and scrapers. The above artifacts were recovered on an afternoon in June after heavy rains.***

tion to "just go on out there, I know the landowner and he won't mind." Just as you would approach a land owner in securing a place to hunt or fish, consider the same when pursuing a place to search for artifacts. Never assume an area is open for exploration without permission, and in securing access, a firm handshake and an explanation of what you will and will not be doing will go a long way in reassuring the property owner or manager.

It's important to keep in mind that surveying a field of interest is a surface activity. For many reasons, it is important not to dig or disturb what may be below the surface as a campsite may have been home to inhabitants from multiple eras. Formal archaeology depends heavily upon the way artifacts or human remains have

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***The rare corner tang knife. Its exact purpose still eludes researchers***



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formed natural layers or strata over extended periods of time. Disturbing the strata may create a difficult situation if formal studies are performed after such disruption. Further, leaving a field of interest in an undisturbed condition should be the goal of any guest. The amateur artifact hunter may be ultimately looked upon with favor or disdain by the scientific community based upon how his efforts hinders or helps the field of archeology/ anthropology. Many discoveries are the result of information passed on by the casual stone age sleuth. Always be considerate to any who may follow you or your investigation.

### What am I looking for?

What specifically are you looking for? If the only objective of one's search is a museum-grade Folsom point, then the time afield, especially the first year or two, will very likely be a frustrated one. However, if the goal is to access a site and learn something about the civilization that once occupied the area while collecting a few representative pieces of that earlier time, then the neophyte archaeologist will likely not be disappointed. Realistically, any number of different implements may be recovered at any given location. In a confirmed village site, the tools of meat processing, skinning, hide finishing, tool fabrication, and grain and nut processing are typically common. Moreover, animal (and occasionally human) bone, earthenware reservoirs (typically broken and known as pottery shards) will be found in abundance. The scope of my searching typically includes scrapers, knives (and other various cutting implements), projectile points, percussion or hammerstones, sandstone abraders, drills or perforators, and frequently, worked pieces without a readily identifiable purpose. In addition to the above, my searches have more rarely turned up hematite celts, nutting stones, mother stones, mano and metate (grinding stones and bowls), human remains, stone pipes, wattle and daub, and an assortment of other artifacts that carry no common name.



*Six flint scrapers. The larger representing a period approximately 8000 years ago, and the smaller from an era less than 1,000 years ago. Often the size of an artifact readily identifies the era from which it came.*

Most newcomers to the field begin looking for that classic-appearing "arrowhead" with a flashing neon light and worked to a razor's edge. It's been suggested—and I agree wholeheartedly—that when an artifact hunter is first in the field, he should pursue not the silhouette of a projectile point, rather the appearance of the smooth stone referred to as flint. After a rain or wind storm, artifacts are sometime uncovered, covered, partially covered, or are just plain difficult to see.

Amazingly, the eye is easily trained to recognize the various materials unique to an area used in ancient tool-making. This is readily seen in those who spend large blocks of time hunting creek beds and other waterways. The ability of many of these individuals to discern a worked object no more than 2 cm in length tucked neatly in a labyrinth of hundreds of other common stones is nothing short of amazing. I occasionally surprise myself in finding a dull red alibates flint piece partially embedded in the similarly-colored soil of a plowed field. Ultimately, once the eye is trained, there's almost no stone artifact that is too small for detection.

### What are the clues to a productive site?

Those who have ever attempted to knap a stone point or edged weapon would readily agree that most of what is being produced in the process is a small mountain of flint chips referred to as "flakes." Inasmuch as flint doesn't readily degrade, the small flakes will alert the savvy searcher that pieces were fabricated in that locale. Moreover, pottery shards are very common, and will often provide clues to a productive area. Long before finding a worked stone implement, flint flakes should be visible. Of course, the surest way of accessing proven ground is at the direction of one who has experience at the site.

Once in an area that has the desirable characteristics, begin a slow methodical search, and be patient! Some pieces will demand time and discerning. Others seem to greet you at the gate. I've found it helpful to move parallel with a fence or creek, then expand my search by increments of about six or eight feet when each row is completed. This keeps my field of view at no more than three to four feet on either side of my general direction of travel. When a discovery is made, I frequently photograph it *in situ* (in its naturally found location) before handling it. Anything that has the appearance of flint should be examined closely for an edge that has been worked. Edges of flint that have been shaped into a cutting or scraping tool will have what appears to be a series of small "bites" removed that give it an almost serrated appearance. This is the most reliable sign that a piece was shaped by human hands. Campsites will be filled with all manner of stone that was probably used in every way imaginable, but without an obviously worked edge or shape, the stone's purpose will be nothing more than conjecture.

### What should I keep?

Unless an agreement has been made with the landowner to the contrary, collect any piece of interest that appears to have been shaped or sharpened. My first forays afield required several leather pouches to carry my finds from the field, not because my hunts were that productive, rather because I wasn't sure what clearly was an artifact, and what was simply an interesting stone (geofact). Nowadays, I rarely take anything more than a walking stick, cotton rag, and an empty medicine bottle. On a good day, the small medicine bottle will be half-filled. (Those who search areas

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of the Archaic or Paleo eras will have little use for medicine bottles). Once home with your finds, rinse them gently so as the character of each may be easily seen and studied. Then, use what references are available to correctly identify your pieces of interest. Importantly, one should have at least two or three reliable resources, and it's helpful if one of the resources has a pulse and will provide an educated opinion about a find.

I am served primarily by three "go-to" resources. First and foremost, I have made the acquaintance of a professor of archaeology at one of our larger universities. I initially made his acquaintance during a presentation at a Woodward museum, and later noticed that his name was very common to many of the area digs. I was fortunate enough to gain access to his email address, and while I try to only rarely prevail upon him, I do contact him when I'm simply stumped about an object or an object's purpose. Most university archaeologists are busy either excavating or teaching, but I've found virtually all with whom I've made contact are more than eager to help. My second resource is a publication, *Arrowheads and Stone Artifacts, A Practical Guide for the Amateur Archaeologist* by C. G. Yeager. Let me interject here that I strongly recommend this book for anybody short of the expert archaeologist. It is written by a non-archaeologist, but one with over 60 years experience. Mr. Yeager writes in a non-scientific style, and addresses issues most germane to the amateur. His primary area of experience involves the high plains of eastern Colorado and Wyoming. The book is readily available through Amazon and other book sellers for \$24.99. If you wish to own a small, very readable reference book that addresses the nomenclature, geology, geography, and methods of recovery of stone artifacts, then this will be a well-spent \$25. Lastly, I will occasionally access the website, <http://www.treasurenet.com/>. It can be accessed at treasurenet.com. About half way down the page in

## Arrows by Conrad Kleinholz

I just returned from the Member's Campout. The companionship was, as always, outstanding. I went with the sole intent of visiting with friends. During the day, I also was part of different, but related conversations, all of which centered on arrows. Why, this whole thing is about bows, right? Without arrows, bows are only ornaments. Regardless of length, draw weight, limb design, shooting style, glove vs. tab vs. fingers, our actions are complete only when we use our bows to send an arrow to some place beyond where we are sitting or standing. When everything works, that arrow lands where we intended.

There are lots of things to consider about arrows. Just like bows, simple isn't always easy. Let's start with the parts. First, we have shafting options. Each have their specific qualities and shortcomings.

Carbon shafts are strikingly uniform, exceptionally strong and are easily manipulated to tailor their total weight and the distribution of that weight along the

the "Forums" section is a category "Artifact Forums". There, look for "North American Indian Artifacts". Here, one will find a number of people with varying degrees of expertise, but most are very friendly and willing to help.

Once an item has been committed to your collection, document it! Many years ago, I actually logged in on paper each of my finds and the respective fields in which they were discovered. Nowadays, many of the cell phones with

camera will time stamp each photo, and even provide the exact location of each image. For this reason, I try to photograph every item of interest in the field at the time of discovery. Avoid hiding away your finds in the back of your sock drawer for posterity to dispose of shortly after your demise. Frame a few of your more presentable pieces; carry a few of your smaller points with you--they make great conversation pieces. Keep a couple of nice projectile points or thumbnail scrapers in a small medicine bottle with the basic information written on the outside of the container, and then show them off. Each piece is a work of art, shaped at a time when the world was much younger, and each made to address the needs of a primitive culture.

The collection and study of stone artifacts is only one small segment of archaeology, but it is a pursuit that can be interesting and rewarding--perhaps even more so by the common interests that bond us a group.

*Mark*



length of the shaft. Their chief downside is cost and their tendency to shatter on impact when they contact hard stuff like rocks. Aluminum shafts are also very uniform but weigh more than carbon shafts. My chief complaints are that they bend fairly easily with glancing blows and they are embarrassingly noisy when they rattle in a quiver or against an arrow rest. The noise has probably saved as much game as misses. And wood. Wood is organic and organic is good, right? Well, wood shafts are susceptible to warping, they break almost as easily as carbon shafts, and have variable weight and stiffness among groups of the same diameter and length. Wood shafts made from dimension lumber will also have significant differences in shaft stiffness depending on orientation of the wood grain to the arrow rest or strike plate on the bow.

In order to achieve our goal of placing an arrow in a specific spot at variable distances from the bow that

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launched it we must understand more than just the characteristics of shafting material. Manufacturers of commercial shafting have developed *respine charts* that can be used to estimate the necessary shaft diameter, weight and stiffness appropriate for use in generic bows. These charts assume that the archer is using an arrow length of 28". Different shaft length greatly affects functional stiffness. So does weight distribution along the length of the arrow, the type of nock used, the point weight, bow design and working limb length. Then, add the shooting variables of arrow release, whether a mechanical release, shooting glove, shooting tab or bare fingers. And don't forget fletching.

How do we make sense of all this? First, let me address our buddy, the *archers paradox*. We have all heard or read that the arrow must bend around the bow to get underway. Not so. The *paradox* is the simple result of instantaneous acceleration. The nock end of the arrow moves before the point, with the result that the shaft bends. The same thing happens when you punch the accelerator on a Corvette, as evidenced by the fishtail marks left on the pavement. In our case, the arrow apparently bends away around the bow simply because the bow is in the way on the shelf side of the arrow. All the discussions about nock height? Same thing. For a nock below arrow, if the nocking point is set too low, the arrow comes off the string at an angle greater than 90°. The instantaneous acceleration pushes the middle of the shaft upward (can't bend into the shelf) because the shaft starts out pointed upward. The nock end of the shaft then contacts the arrow shelf as it leaves the bow and you see the arrow porpoise on its way to the target.

If you shoot wood arrows, you can make this even more difficult by incorrect nock placement. The photo here is a comparison of two Port Orford shafts that came from the same shipment for our Kids' Arrow giveaway. The wood grain is easily visible in both the stained and bare shaft material. The shaft on the left would be a flat sawn board if it were not round and the one on the right is quarter sawn. To achieve the most consistency of arrow performance out of dimension dowels as shown here, we should treat them as if they were going to be a glue-up bow blank. Just like a bow, there is less variation in performance due to corresponding variation in growth ring thickness and density, or proximity to knots with quarter sawn lumber. Put the quarter sawn dimension against the arrow plate. That means the nock groove will be perpendicular to the



quarter sawn dimension. The stiffest and least variable orientation of the shaft will now flex away from the shelf during release. For the two shafts above, if you are using an index nock, the index would be on the top on the shaft on the left, and to the side of the shaft on the right.

Regardless of shaft material, shafts of a specific weight will have different stiffness depending on their total length. Increasing the length will decrease the stiffness due to the decrease in density when a longer shaft is selected. We also manipulate the stiffness by the accessories we add to the shaft. Index nocks have a parallel throat that slides uniformly from the bow string. Snap on or pinch nocks tend to grip a bow string more than an index nock. They have a smaller throat width than index nocks and a slight increase in throat size at the bottom of the nock. With light weight bows and arrows snap nocks can affect arrow flight because some of the energy from the bow limbs is lost when the nock grips and then pops loose from the string. Both types of nocks will cause erratic arrow flight if they are not mounted squarely on the shaft. Arrow stiffness is also affected by the addition of weight to either end of the shaft. Most often, this occurs on the point end of the shaft. The intention is to increase total shaft weight. The cost is decrease in shaft stiffness. Remedies are increase in fletching length and/or height to increase rear drag, or to decrease arrow weight at the nock end of the shaft, usually by tapering from somewhere near midlength to the nock. If you shoot aluminum or carbon arrows you can add weight inside the shaft with an insert that may actually increase arrow stiffness.

Regardless of actual shaft stiffness, arrow flight is affected by bow design and tiller. For any bow limb length, smoother arrow flight is achieved as more of the limb flexes during the draw and release. However, nock placement becomes more critical as brace height is reduced. Start with nock placement above perpendicular to the arrow shelf and adjust upward until porpoising disappears. A bow tillered to be shot with split fingers will often shoot poorly when shot with three fingers under the arrow unless the nocking point is adjusted even farther upward.

To address all these variables, some people spend a lot of time *fine-tuning* their arrows at short ranges of less than 15 yards. The assumption is that short range tuning will be correct for longer ranges. I watched hundreds of arrows fly 80 yards at a time during the cornstalk shoot, and some of them wobbled all the way to the target. Which variable/s caused that? I don't know, but it would be fun to find out and I bet it would make us better shots at shorter ranges, too.

*Conrad*

## Upcoming OSS Events

- Oklahoma Wildlife Department EXPO September 27-29, 2019 Lazy E Arena Edmond Oklahoma
- Members Hunt October 12-13, 2019 Ponca Bowman Facilities Ponca City Oklahoma



## Preserving The Heritage of Primitive Archery



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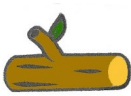
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