

The Drawknife



*The Oklahoma Selfbow Society Newsletter
Volume 10 Issue 4— Winter 2018*

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Editors Note: *The Drawknife cover photo was provided by Bill Owens. Bill was out bow hunting but couldn't get up on them so he took the photo. The elk were back on a neighbors property that is behind his land which is around Three Fork Montana.*



President — Jason Grace

2017 What a year. Like my parents told me; the days, weeks and years go by faster as you age. They were right.

2017 was a trying year for me as you can tell from past articles, but there were lots of great memories made. We had a very successful banquet last February, followed by a very fun, eventful OJAM. Our first ever Ralph Conrad Memorial Knapp-in and members rendezvous. Lots of our members traveled north to the big sky country to help host and put on the first Montana selfbow jamboree called Montanajam. We continue to grow as a society and our outreach expands daily on Facebook and by word of mouth.



I'm thankful for the hard work of the OSS board of directors, volunteers, and members that continually pass on our mission of sharing and teaching bow building, flintknapping, and other primitive skills unselfishly. OSS is the best club of its kind and OJAM is the largest bow building gathering because of your hard work and selflessness.

So bring on 2018! Again we've got a great banquet planned in February so make sure to RSVP. We got a impressive speaker coming, good food, demos, vending and, of course, one of a kind items that you can win in a raffle or by being the top bidder in the auction. Also, OJAM is right around the corner. I Look forward to the tails of the hunt and visiting with my OSS family soon. Master Bowyer or OSS hall of Fame nominations are due by Jan 6th. I hope everyone's trade bows are coming along. Please send Tommy or myself a message or email if you where successful in harvesting a big game animal. Let us know if you want to be involved in the behind the scenes part of the society as we have some board of directors positions up for re-election.

Happy New Year to all!

Jason

Vice President — Tommy Leach

We are down to the last two weeks of our Oklahoma deer season. I've hunted pretty hard this year and have yet to release my string on a deer. I've only had two deer within bow range, both fawns, and they got a pass. John Cooke and I spent a long weekend in Kansas with Ralph and really struggled to see much of anything. Hunting has been tough up there even for Ralph this year. This is the first time



since I met him he hadn't put at least two deer in the freezer. However, I wouldn't call this season unsuccessful. I've watched several beautiful sunrises and sunsets, seen a lot of animals and spent quality time with friends and family. Besides my Kansas trip, Jon Cunningham has taken me out several times as he has tried hard to put me on a buck. Each time we went I saw deer and had some close encounters, just no shots. I did get to help him load a really nice buck



he harvested with his muzzleloader.

On the ground I've hunted the past 16 years my son Drew and I saw a lot of deer early

this season. He was able to harvest the number one buck on our neighbors "hit list" the first Sunday of firearms season. This deer was 6 1/2 years old and a typical heavy racked 10 point. He was the heaviest we've taken on this property weighing in at 180 pounds field dressed. That evening he took a firearms season doe. A good year for him, needless to say. Later that week my daughter Lara joined us for a

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couple of outings. For me it's not about shooting something but the time spent with people I care



about. Whether I take a deer or not, it's been a great year. I've been able to share the woods with great friends and family.

As deer season draws to a close, it starts a busy time for OSS. Our banquet is approaching quickly. I

Past President — Mike Magee

I hope all of you are enjoying a great hunting season. My season has been more about spending quality time in the fields, in the mountains and in the woods with family and friends; the hunting was a minor part of those "hunting trips". While sharing some of those experiences via the various social media sites, I noticed some things. There appeared to be some finger pointing posts and a little friction regarding hunting methods and tactics. Hunting over bait. Passing up young bucks. Shooting beyond a reasonable effective range.

This may sound like a scolding. I don't mean it to be. This is more like an older uncle reminding his nephews to "play nice". My article for this newsletter may sound more like a rant, so forgive me for getting up on the soapbox for a minute. This has to do with hunting methods. I've read, several times, on some of our "traditional" social media web sites, where someone is knocking someone else for NOT hunting with a "traditional bow", for using a "wheelie bow", or a bow with "training wheels". Thankfully those flavored comments don't happen all that often but they do happen, and I have to say I rarely hear it in the OSS circles. So, here's my take on the subject.

I love to hunt with my traditional bows, but I also love the taste of wild, chemical-free meat. If I can



hope you are planning on attending and spending a great day with us. Our annual meeting will be held during the day, with that comes the election of officers. According to our bylaws we elect half of our board each year to a two year term. This philosophy keeps consistency within the Society. If you are interested in serving as a board member please contact myself or Jason. We will make sure your desire is passed on to the nominating committee. Also, if you have harvested an animal with your bow please send me your information, species, sex, type of bow and broadhead. Finally, I look forward to seeing the bows in the bow trade.

As I close with the banquet and OJAM approaching quickly, think about how you can continue to help our organization. Without your continued support we cannot sustain our current level of success. Each of you play an important role as we continue our mission of "Preserving the Heritage of Primitive Archery".

Tommy

harvest an animal with my trad bow, of course I will. But if I NEED to put some meat in the freezer, or if my western Oklahoma friend calls up and says the deer (about 30-50 per night!) are killing his crops or pasture land, I'll pull out a rifle during the appropriate season. If I have a hunting situation where I need to at least double my effective range with a bow, I'll pull out my "sniper bow", the one that has sites and wheels. Yes, I own a compound; shocker, I know! With it, I can reach out and touch someone.

You see, I've been blessed with many 4 to 5 yard shots with my trad bow. The "rock" that I planted at MCAAP was from an eight-yard shot. Those close-range shots occur, but they don't seem to occur as often as I have encountered those 25 to 35 yard shots. So if I NEED to put meat in the freezer for my family and me, or help a friend eliminate nuisance deer or wild hogs, I might pull out my "sniper bow". With that said, please have a little empathy and understanding for me and those that feel as I do; those that may not be as blessed as we are, to hunt with a simple stick and string. Remember, some don't have the skills. Some have physical impairments. Some have other reasons. To each his own. Please don't be quick to judge, but embrace the fact that we are so blessed to live in "Merica" where we can hunt at will. Something is always in season!

Looking forward to seeing my OSS brothers and sisters at the February banquet! Keep the wind in your face!

Mike

Treasurer — Leo Staples

2017 was another good year for our Society. All the OSS events were a success. Your generous financial support allowed the purchase of new bow building equipment, funded a project to trademark our three logos, and the purchase of a commercial copier.

On a personal note, 2017 was my first year of retirement. Julie and I have been busy working on house plans and now are talking with builders. If all goes well we hope to be in the house before the end of 2018.



time there few whitetail deer in our part of Oklahoma and we never saw any on the farm. I took my son on his first hunt here in 1996 and he shot his first deer in 1997. At that time the few bucks we saw had little basket cage racks. That started to change about five years ago when I started seeing some spikes with wide set antlers. Being retired I'm on the farm every day, which has given me lots of opportunities to observe the deer. In fact, I spent more time hunting in November than I have the past five years combined. Unfortunately, my bucks are very nocturnal. This photo is of the buck I call Ghost. He comes to the



feeder around 8 pm every day. In recent days, I've seen two new spikes and a four point buck on the game camera. As you know, hunting is more about spending time in nature than it is about killing something. I am constantly amazed by what I see

sitting in a deer stand.

On the bow building front, I've run into a few problems lately. That said, a bad day in the bow shop is still better than a good day at the office. The last bow I built was started in the morning and carried to the stand that evening. I had cut it out a few days earlier, but it had lots of wood to remove from the back and I had to straighten both limbs. Not exactly what I had planned, but I was under a deadline.

Happy New Year!

Leo



I continue to work on various projects around the farm and hope that 2018 will see livestock return to the farm. For those not on Facebook, I recently built this vanity for the bathroom in the barn from cedar slabs that were cut and milled by Billy Moore. I still have to build doors. Billy also cut me some slabs to build a 30" by 10' bar for the patio of the barn.

Many of you have heard my story of how my parents took three city boys to the farm in 1970. At that



Quartermaster — Tim Contway

It is the time of the year when people often reflect on what they have accomplished. As I find myself doing that, I think more about the people who I've met and, in some cases, helped this year. After all, it's often the small interactions and not always the big things that are important. In particular, I'm thinking about helping folks at the Members Only Campout and at the Montana Jamboree (MTJAM).

I also received a great deal of help from many good friends this year following the accident when I hurt my ankle. Helping around the place, taking Andrew to his appointments, and taking me to my appointments are just a few examples. I'm back to work, have started physical therapy, and all is going

well. The doctor asked me at my last appointment if I went hunting and I said no. I did get out during rifle season and was successful. Hopefully, 2018 will be a different story.

Thanks to everyone who kept me in their prayers and who helped my family out this year. I wish you all a blessed new year.

Tim



Northwest Representative — Mark Mann

Greetings from a frigid Western Oklahoma. What a difference a quarter of a year makes. I began my last report bragging about the amount of rainfall received up to that time. However, in my part of the state we're now replacing feeder corn with crushed ice.

Congratulations to all who have harvested game this year. With each passing season I'm reminded again of the challenges of hunting with primitive archery. For that, I offer my congratulations to all who carried their primitive bow to the field this year but returned with unfilled tags. As I've stated before, you have chosen the road much less traveled. Your enjoyment goes beyond the act of taking game as you've purposely stacked the deck against yourself. And while I fault no legal means of taking game, the hunter who chooses a selfbow will never have to apologize for playing on an uneven field. My experiences over the past spring and fall might serve to illustrate my point.

Many pride themselves on their ability to call in turkey, but my good friend Ben Radke is without a doubt the most talented I've ever seen or heard, much less hunted with. He advised me to practice my shooting from three to five yards. I was incredulous until his first attempt put a nice size bird within spitting distance. At about ten feet out, I provided the tom with a beautiful flattop haircut just before he exited to the south. Good-natured Ben only smiled. Fortunately, there was an abundance of birds looking for romance that day, and he pulled in another plump tom just an hour or two later. More tentative than the first, this bird came in just inside the 18-yard mark. With a slow proud strut, the bird presented himself after pausing for just a few seconds behind a small live oak. With a slight southern breeze blowing from left to right, I took my shot, and to my delight the arrow found its mark precisely where I desired to place it. After a few whippers of congratulations, we watched the bird ascend and quickly land again carrying 6" of the aft end of my arrow, the business end having shot completely through the turkey and lying broken in the buffalo grass where a strong right wing broke it during a hurried egress. Thinking how beautiful the big bird's fan would look on my office wall, we waited for his inevitable demise, and we waited, and waited, etc. I'll wrap up this scenario by describing the last scene as one of two camo-clad hunters with Muck boots in full sprint behind a fleet-footed Rio Grand who had not received the message that he had been shot cleanly through, and should oblige us with a picturesque death. I couldn't



The appearance of my second target, a tough bird with a tougher constitution.

swear to it, but I'm nearly certain that the tom was wearing a smile—no, more of a smirk—as he transcended the lower three wires of a tight 5-wire fence like a winged apparition headed west. Ben had the presence of mind to video the entire event, so not unlike slipping on ice and bruising your back side, the whole segment can be enjoyed again and again.

Before I leave this rather chafing incident behind, I should like to serve notice that I will countenance



The audacious bird can be seen here with a thin yellow projectile emerging from his right breast.

no more remarks about how this should have been a head shot. Perhaps those supplying that piece of helpful advice can hit a bobbing head on a strutting bird at 17 yards with a slight left to right breeze through a strand of briar and low-lying live oak limbs, but I was (momentarily) delighted just to hit the center of body mass. Besides, the bird being immortal wouldn't have succumbed to a head shot any more than a through-and-through body shot. I believe wild turkey meat may be a bit over-rated anyway.

After eight months of reoccurring night terrors and intense introspection, in the fall I again emerged with bow and quiver, atop my tree stand hoping for the appearance of one special buck whom I had caught on game camera only a few times. Because of his mostly late-night appearances on game camera, I was less than sanguine about my changes of a daylight meeting. Then on the 7th of November, fate smiled upon me and put him front and center. Before moving on with this story, have you ever noticed that when throwing a pass, sometimes the worst place for a quarterback to hit a receiver is in the hands?! Well that day the ball was thrown perfectly in my hands, with no opposing players, and just a few yards up field. This was such a gravity shot that I chose to video this trophy just before I intended to dispatch him in a humanely but elegant fashion. In fact, before releasing the arrow I thought about how surreal things seemed, and how this was just too easy. After much reflection I now fully believe that there is a physical force in this world that uniformly humbles hunters and fishermen, even when the smallest morsel of smugness takes root—even thoughts never verbalized. And while yet-unidentified,



The small white dot over the breast area depicts the point of contact of the arrow.

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this process of self-inflicted humility is as certain as gravity or the rotation of the earth. Even after noticing the arrow's penetration being less than desired, I bestowed upon myself all manner of personal accolades. I even felt obliged to text a few friends while awaiting the obligatory 30 minutes before claiming my trophy. After all, the arrow struck precisely where I was aiming, just behind the right shoulder. I don't recall now if the gastric distress set in before or after finding only tiny drops of blood. I was



The buck preens for the camera somewhere (way) inside of 20 yards from the stand.

able to defer the heavy sobbing by deluding myself with the idea that 6" of arrow penetration was plenty to drop this big guy. To perpetuate my humility, I troubled by buddy Ben to bring out his best trailing hound. I silently recalled the numerous success stories of Doug Rutter and his esteemed Beagles. The

nice 8-pointer was surely lying in state just beyond the dense row of evergreens north of my stand and magically, the hound would help me claim him. While I didn't realize a Walker coon hound could physically laugh, I suppose that should've been the sign to call it quits. But with what was left of my self-respect, I forged ahead. I walked out the creek north and south, and as the sun slowly began its descent in the west, it occurred to me that I wouldn't be accepting any big-game awards in February.

In closing, I hope to see you all this February at our annual dinner, auction, and bow trade. There will be also a big-game award ceremony during which time some of our more shallow and prideful members will be recognized for some trite achievement. After two rather large slices of humble pie this past year, I'll have no part in it.

Until then, bow up and bear down!

Mark



Target Panic, It's All In Your Head — Todd Weldon

From Wikipedia:

Target panic is a psychological—and perhaps neurological—condition experienced by many archers, both competitive and recreational. The condition has various effects on archers. Target panic was originally blamed on high levels of anxiety and a "fear of failure", but is now understood to be caused by the way in which the brain learns at a neurological level

There are three primary symptoms of target panic. An archer suffering from target panic may experience a premature anchor, where the bow appears to become very heavy and it is difficult for the shooter to come to a full anchor position. A second symptom is referred to as a premature hold, where an archer "locks up" or "hits a wall" that they are unable to move past as they try to align their arrow with the target. The third symptom is referred to as a premature release and is characterized by an inability to come to full anchor without releasing the arrow.

OSS. Bow building club or bow hunting club? Our club charter is "to pass on to interested individuals, the knowledge and skills involved in constructing and utilizing Primitive archery equipment". This includes building selfbows, bamboo backed bows, primitive arrows and flint knapping. From bows to arrows, stone points and trade points, to leather



goods, quivers and arm guards and Flemish twist bow strings. The list goes on and on. And we have a great club. What goes hand in hand with all of that is bow hunting. That is the selling point, so to speak. Make all of your own gear and go out and kill critters with it. So really, OSS is a bow building and bow hunting club.

This is where my dilemma comes in. A whole lot of you guys and gals are natural born killers with archery gear. Me, not so much. I love seeing all the pics on Facebook and it's especially cool hearing the stories of deer killed with stone points. My problem is that I have a very chronic case, if not a terminal case, of target panic. I have compared myself with the character in Mark Bakers song, "Chamel-Leon". The words go like this; 'Later when it plays out in the thickest of the plot, with bow in hand his nerves give out, he always blows the shot.'

Target panic is a real deal and I can remember exactly when and how it started. I was at a 3D shoot with 7 or 8 other people, when it was my turn to shoot I stepped up to the pin, focused on the target drew my bow to anchor and did what I call a double clutch. My hand let the bowstring go forward about 6 inches then I pulled back to anchor. My fingers didn't or wouldn't release the string. I let down my bow and the guy standing beside me said, "what was that?" I said, "I have no idea".

From there it just got worse. I either couldn't release when I was ready, or I would release before I

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hit anchor. When shooting at my bag target, I could pick out a hole from a previous arrow to shoot at and either hit it or be really close. The next shot I would completely miss the bag. One day I came up with the perfect ambush on some does. I relocated my stand, climbed in and patiently waited. Sure enough here they came. When the third doe presented the perfect quartering away 8 yard shot I drew my bow and about 3/4 draw I released the string. My draw hand hit me in the mouth, completely missed the deer and I couldn't figure out why I did that. It's like I lost control of my string fingers.

Target panic could be connected to stage fright, both of them being mind games. I have a pretty bad case of that too. In school I could cut up and joke around with the best of them. I lost count of how many times I got swats in school for something I said in class. The class would have a good laugh and I would go out in the hall for swats. I figured it was worth it for the laughs. When I got to high school and had to get up in front of the class to give a speech I thought I was going to die. There is a huge difference in saying something in the class versus saying something in front of the class. Here's another example; from the time my two boys were big enough to swing a bat I was pitching to them. All I had to do was throw the ball where the bat was going to be when they swung it. I did it all the time. Then, one year, when our oldest was in coach pitch, the coach went on vacation the weekend of our year end tournament. The other parents looked at me and said 'you have to pitch'. I was nervous on my way out to the mound but was thinking, I got this. I've done this a thousand times. Wrong. My hand turned into this tense gripping claw. I couldn't throw the ball to save my life. I struck out two and had one hit by pitch, which is not the goal when you are coach pitching to your own team of 8 year olds. I was mortified, and walked off the field and up to one of the other dads, and told him it was up to him. I don't know if these things are all related, but it seems like they could be. It's all in your head.

So back to target panic. People miss deer and people make bad shots on deer. Some bad shots turn out luckily for the good. Like the guy at MCAAP. He had the record for heaviest deer killed on the base at the time. He made a bad shot, hit the deer in the rear. That's like missing by two feet,

or more. Am I right? But his shot turned out to be one of those 'lucky' shots and cut an artery. Some bad shots end up with a 5 or 6 hour tracking job and no deer recovered. I've heard a lot of bow hunters say, 'that's gonna happen, just keep hunting and it will come together'. Well, all my bad shots only turned out bad. After a while, a guy has to stop wounding deer out of respect for the animals. So I didn't even bow hunt for a few years and I've turned down several invitations to go on different hunts with other club members because I knew what would happen. This year I decided to work on my problems. I had to get out and shoot at deer.

I was wanting to hunt from the ground but I opted to hang a stand low. I set a tree stand about 8 feet off the ground behind my house where I knew I would have a close shot. It seems my brain has really taken over because now I completely missed. Not one deer but two. How can I completely miss? I had lots of time, I really concentrated on my anchor and on a spot, made sure I bent at the waist, the release even felt good. Complete miss. Had that been a foam target I am pretty sure I would have made a decent shot. I have heard that a lot of professional sports figures have psychological coaches. Maybe that's what I need. For now I'm working on building myself a lighter bow, 40#, I'm reading books and watching videos, and I'm going to get out there and shoot a lot until I can get this thing called 'Target Panic' conquered. I can still fill my freezer with black powder and rifle. Funny that I don't seem to have a problem killing deer with these weapons. The next newsletter I'll write about ways to combat this phenomenon called Target Panic.

One of my buddies shared this pic with me a while back:

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Banquet and getting a new bow from the bow trade.

Todd

Todd Weldon
Northeast II Representative



2018 OSS Activities

OSS Annual Members Gathering February 3

Sooner Legends Inn & Suites, Norman, Oklahoma

OJAM March 22-25

Rutter Farm, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Members Campout June 15-17

Rutter Farm, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Members Campout June 15-17

Rutter Farm, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Members Hunt

Date and location to be determined

Wildlife EXPO September 22-23

Lazy E Arena, Guthrie, Oklahoma

Co Event Coordinator — John McAdoo

What comes to mind when you hold a “new” self-bow for the first time? For me, whether it is a simple wooden arc or an ornate work of art complete with snake skin, exotic horn, and tufts of fur, its always the same. I start to see and feel things that are not there. Well, at least nobody else seems to notice them. I feel a cold breeze make the hair stand up on the back of my neck. I hear the laughter of my friends intermingled with the rustling of leaves. I catch a glimpse of my ancestors stealing through the shadows in pursuit of some unseen quarry. I smell wood smoke in the air. I picture my children roaming through unspoiled wilderness launching primitive missiles at stumps and small game, their eyes alight with



wonderment and glee as their imaginations run wild. I see my Dad, determined to instill in his one and only wild child something that is wholesome and good.

It is hard to believe that among the masses, the bow is vaguely known to many as a splinter of history. Something, to them, that is no longer significant. We are a privileged few who intimately know this simple tool, and the truth, that without it, life as we know it would not exist. It has fed families and fought wars; it has helped set the course of history. I am in awe of the heritage and history that is embodied by the bow and arrow.

Each time I hold such a thing of beauty in my hands I am reminded that it was created by God and Nature and molded by man. I humbly take my place amongst my brethren who are determined to pass this heritage along to future generations.

John



Northeast I Representative — Gary Dement

Happy New Year to my OSS Family!!

As we enter the last few weeks of archery season for deer, I hope everyone has had the opportunity to make some memories in the field this year. With the problems I've been having with my back and shoulder, my hunting has not turned out the way I envisioned. I did go on a non ambulatory draw hunt at Oolagah Lake COE and was fortunate to harvest a buck and doe. So we have fresh venison for 2018. It was a rifle hunt, since you had to hunt from their blinds and it was impossible to shoot a bow out of them. I endured the back pain since to not show up would have meant I deprived someone else the chance to go. Austin went along as my helper and without his help it would have been very tough. Grandsons are one of the great gifts from God!! Thank you, Austin!!



I've greatly enjoyed the posts on Facebook made by our OSS members about their trips afield. Thank you to the ones who have taken the time to share their hunts and congratulations to all of the successful hunters. As a reminder, if you make a traditional harvest this year, don't forget to fill out and submit the form, so we can recognize your accomplishment at our Annual OSS Banquet in February.

This is a busy time of year for the OSS, with our Annual Banquet in February and OJAM in March. A lot of planning and preparation is required to make our events as exciting and successful as possible and in order to reach our maximum potential. I'm sure our Event Coordinators will be sharing more information with you, but it looks like some of our Montana friends will be at OJAM with some wood species that normally aren't available to bowyers in Oklahoma. Well, I need to get this to Leo so this issue of the Drawknife can reach you folks in time for you to make plans to be at the banquet. So I'll close with this:

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV)

As you begin a new year, meditate on these words from the Word of God. I pray that each of you have your most peaceful and prosperous year ever.

Gary



Campfire Cooking Over An Open Fire — K. P. Lehman

VENISON RECIPES

Here are some venison recipes you might try, hope you enjoy them.

STUFFED VENISON ROLL

2 to 4 lb. Boneless venison roast sliced so no more than 1" thick.
 1 pkg. Stuffing mix (Mushroom/onion flavor good to use with venison)
 1 jar Mushroom pieces
 3 slices Bacon, cut in half
 Pepper to taste
 Cotton kitchen string

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Prepare stuffing mix according to directions. "Butterfly" cut roast if necessary to desired thickness of 1 inch. Spread stuffing evenly over roast. Pat into place. Add mushrooms. Roll up in jelly-roll style. Tie roast with kitchen string with a loop of string about every inch. Place in roasting pan and top with halved slices of bacon. Add pepper to taste.

Cook for 20 – 25 minutes per pound of roast. A 2 pound roast for 40 – 45 minutes. Check half-way through cooking time so you don't overcook! Let sit for 10 – 15 minutes before carving for better slicing. Two pound roast will serve 4 – 6 people.

CHEESE-FILLED VENISON ROLL



Meat mixture

1 lb.	Ground venison meat
½ lb.	Ground pork
2 eggs	Beaten
½ cup	Fresh breadcrumbs
1 tsp.	Black pepper

Filling mixture

2/3 cup	Grated carrots
½ cup	Crumbled blue cheese
½ cup	Breadcrumbs
½ tsp.	Garlic powder

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all meat mixture ingredients and mix well. On a flat surface, place a double thick sheet of aluminum foil (1-1/2 feet

long and the wider, the better). Place meat on the foil and flatten to 1-inch thickness.

In a large bowl gently combine all filling ingredients. Place the mixture 3 inches from the bottom edge of the flattened meat and roll meat into a cylinder, enclosing in foil. Crimp ends of the foil.

Bake venison roll for one hour. Remove from foil. Cut into ½-inch thick slices and serve. It is good with horseradish, spicy mustard or chili peppers.

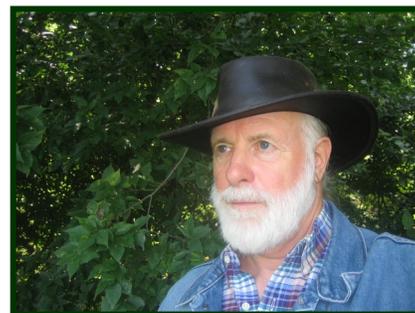
VENISON STEW PAPRIKA



2-1/2 – 3 lbs venison stew meat cut into 1 inch cubes
 ½ cup Flour
 3 tbsp. Paprika divided
 Salt and pepper
 2 tbsp. Butter
 2 Medium onions, chopped
 2 cloves Garlic
 1-11 oz. can Tomatoes or tomato sauce
 ½ cup Sour cream at room temperature
 ½ cup White wine or 7-up

Shake meat cubes in plastic bag with flour, 1 tbsp. paprika, salt and pepper. In a Dutch oven, melt butter and sauté coated venison cubes until browned. May have to do in stages, do not crowd them so they will be nicely browned. Remove cubes to a warm dish and in the same Dutch oven, sauté onions and garlic with 2 tbsp. paprika until soft. Add tomatoes and wine or 7-up. Add browned venison cubes and simmer over low heat until meat is tender (45 minutes to 1-1/2 hours). Just before serving, stir in ½ cup sour cream. Serve with egg noodles or rice.

KP



Co Event Coordinator and Chaplin — Rodney Wilson

It's cold out tonight so I decided I would write this article, no better time than now. It's been a successful season for me but I am still very much trying to harvest with a selfbow, sure haven't seen many in range. My good spots just haven't paid off.

I certainly pray that each of you are well and had a successful season yourself. I have noticed on face book several of our members have harvested nice deer with primitive gear, congratulations to all. I have a few bows started with different ideas on each, one will be my trade bow. I like each of them in its own way. As usually happens I have a difficult time picking out just which one I like the best. Let it be known I also have a hard time in writing and would rather just talk to each of you so often it takes me several days to write an article.

I woke up early this morning as normal and decided I needed to finish this article. However today is not normal because this is Christmas morning, so I can't help but tell about the real reason for the season. I get so tired sometimes of all the hustle bustle and worries. Many people have a lot of stress at this time trying to buy and go so many places I pray that each of you had a wonderful peaceful Christmas. As a reminder to most of you Christmas is really about celebrating the birth of our savior. Now I don't really believe he was born in the winter but this is the time selected for remembering his birth. We can read the birth account of Jesus in Luke chapters 1 and 2. In Luke 2:11 the angel said to the shepherds in the field Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you he is the Messiah, the Lord. The shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby in a manger. So Christ was born and lived on the earth for a few years showing us how to live and treat others and then died on the cross so we could all have the hope of eternal life. I do pray that each of you realize how much Christ means to you.

Now it's New Years Eve and I have got to finish this.

Non-Resident Representative — Ralph Renfro

As I write this article, it's December 16th and I have yet to put any venison in the freezer. Had a few chances early in the season, but since it's gotten cool enough to hang one I haven't had a chance to loose an arrow. I've heard from many others both in Kansas and Oklahoma of similar seasons. I understand a little about whitetails and know that populations of any animal species can vary widely from one area to the next. There can be a multitude of reasons why sightings drop off dramatically from one year to the next. But it can be very frustrating when your family depends on Venison for it's primary meat source.

Thus far I have had three OSS Brothers up to hunt. Between Tommy, John and Mikee, I've made

I know by the time you read this we will be in a new year so what kind of plans or goals are you making. Many of us will or have made resolutions. It takes 21 days to form a habit so stick with it whatever your resolution is. I strive every year to get better at giving of whatever I have to offer, money, time, knowledge, experience or so on. I know as an OSS member we truly have many members who try really hard to pass on the knowledge and skills for traditional archery. I have learned so much from many of you and will continue to do so. I also hope that I have been able to share what I have learned and each of us improves in our skills as bowyers. We have many wonderful bowyers and many workers and I Thank each of you for what you do to promote the traditional archery skills. I hope in this new year I can be more involved with those Friday night meetings and learn some new skills including breaking some rocks.

We are rapidly approaching the banquet and shortly after that is OJAM. I look forward to both each and every year. Please remember both of these functions require your help for success. If at any time you can help in anyway please join in so we can continue to pass on the skills we have acquired. As a new Co Event Coordinator I am very willing for suggestions, help and advice and more importantly as the Chaplin I am always willing to pray, listen and share with any of you any time you need. Contact me Rodneywilson5@gmail.com or call 405.747.7776.

Thanks and have a great New Year

Rodney



13 trips to the woods and while they were here and hunting, I've seen a grand total of five (5), that's five, deer. Three were antlerless and two were young bucks. That figures out to be 5 deer in 325 miles of driving from home to my place. That computes to a deer every 65 miles of driving to hunt. Runs up the price of venison.

When you look at the total time, trips, mileage, gas expense and deer sightings, it's easy to understand my feelings. Sixty two round trips of 25 miles for 1550 miles of driving. 210 hours on stand. And a grand total of 56 deer seen while on stand. In years gone by I'd see 56 while on stand in two weeks or

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less. Of the 56, I'd estimate that I've only seen 15 different deer, the rest are repeats of those 15. I won't go into the dollars spent on gasoline as my accountant may read this offering.

With all this being said, I have not given up on putting one in the freezer. I haven't gone through a single bowhunting season in my life without killing a deer. Don't plan on starting this year. I'll just continue to get out and try to let the air out of something. I may have to alter what I look for, mature bucks and big does. Dianne has reminded me that we are OUT of venison in the freezer. So I'll spend the rest of the season just trying to fill a tag with something.

On another note, I've visited with several of the Guys and Gals that are making Trade Bows. Sounds as if many are nearing completion. It's always so cool seeing the variety of bows made for this event.

Do You Have Game? — Mark Mann



In our last newsletter, I attempted to highlight those components of land considered to be desirable habitat for sustaining or improving white-tailed deer populations. It's no great revelation that a home range, that area that contains an animal's daily movements, should provide a source of quality food and water that is reproduceable and predictable. Because of occasional crop failures, and because the deer's diet includes over a hundred different plant species, land that offers a broad cross-section of foods including warm and cool season forage, quality soft mast, and large quantities of hard mast and browse will be highly desirable. Likewise, there must be ample cover for concealment, bedding, and fawning. We also know that when many of these desirable land characteristics are in proximity to each other, a trait known as interspersed, the landscape becomes even more attractive to the white-tail population, and an area is more likely to reach a higher "carrying capacity".

While some regions may be devoid of many of the more desirable landscape characteristics and thus never offer a great deal of potential for white-tail deer, other regions of lower deer populations may

I've made three this fall, two Bodark and one Kentucky Coffee Tree. All three have sapwood on the back. Just something different. One of the Osage Bows is my Trade Bow.

Banquet is coming up fast and hopefully we'll have another great turnout and event. The BOD works hard to put on a great event and I'm sure this one will be no different. Plan on coming, bringing the family and bring a friend to show them what OSS is all about.

Ralph



need only a few alterations to become more attractive and more productive. The following are recommendations put forth by state biologists to bolster a region's "antler appeal".

Prescribed Fire

Of all the tools available, prescribed fire is probably the oldest and most effective for use in land management and restoration. There is now good evidence that prescribed burning was in use by Native Americans long before Europeans arrived. Moreover, evidence suggests that natives had developed a system of prescribed burning implementing one to three-year breaks between the burns. Most accounts suggest purposeful burning was used by the native tribes to establish resource diversity and mosaics much the way prescribed burning is implemented today.



Fire is a natural part of both forest and grassland ecology.

While the thought of a range fire congers up images of catastrophic destruction and threat to human habitation and wildlife alike. In reality, prescribed burning probably does more to promote vegetation growth

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and diversity, and likely reduces the catastrophic effects of wildfires when they do occur. In wooded areas, strategic burning keeps the sapling hardwoods under control, but still allows resprouting. Fire promotes native grass growth by controlling taller hardwood saplings in the understory, and opening forest canopy to light. Fire removes dead vegetation (duff) that is currently in large supply over Oklahoma's forested areas resulting from the drought ending just two years ago. Fire can also reduce both internal and external parasites such as ticks. Simply stated, controlled burning can positively influence more land for less expense than any other management technique. For more information about the use of prescribed fire, see the following OSU publications:

- Using Prescribed Fire in Oklahoma E-927
- Fire Effects in Oklahoma F-2877
- Fire Prescriptions for Maintenance and Restoration of Native Plant Communities F-2878
- Prescribed Fire Associations F-2880
- Management After Wildfire F-2881



Photo on left is of a thick stand of chinaberry trees with dense undergrowth. The photo on the right is an adjacent area two years after fire. The photos were taken in the late winter at the same time of year.

Prescribed Grazing

Proper grazing is another important tool in habitat management. Heavy or over-grazing not only reduces vegetation as a food source, but eliminates the fuel source for prescribed burning. For optimal habitat management, light to moderate stocking is encouraged. It is important to reemphasize that apart from cover, most improved livestock forage grasses have little value to wildlife. And while we've all seen deer grazing the edges of a lush Bermuda or Bluestem meadow, biologists suggest that in those settings, the deer are probably feeding on the forbs and non-grass vegetation.



For grazing animals, it's not a one-size-fits-all. Enriched or hybrid grasses designed for domestic animals has little appeal to white-tailed deer.

Food Plots

Food plots can be an effective way of providing food for deer and other wildlife, especially in the late summer and winter stress periods. In heavily forested areas, food plots can reduce mortality when there is a major shortfall of hard mast. Food plots can be an effective attractant which can increase hunter success by concentrating the available wildlife near easily accessible forage. Food plots, however, represent a two-edged sword in that their long-term value to deer has been established only in unique emergency winter situations. Most traditional food plots lack diversity, they will frequently offer most of their nutritional value when deer do not need additional forage. They are frequently limited to one season, and because of expense of planting and maintenance, they are limited in size and distribution. In areas of high deer density, small plots will be rapidly grazed and offer little or no long-term benefit. Moreover, concentrating animals in relatively small areas can promote disease and poaching. In Southeastern Oklahoma, observations suggest that deer favored harvested or burned sites as much or more so than adjacent food plots. In terms of long-term habitat improvement, selective thinning of hardwoods in forested areas and the use of prescribed fire in native grasslands or forested habitats provides a more cost-effective and ecologically sound approach to managing food supplies for the white-tailed population. Food plots, not unlike deer feeders, offer the hunter--especially the traditional bow hunter-- a more predictable hunting venue as the animals "pattern" to the availability of food provided. It is a short-term benefit to both the sportsman and the local wildlife, but the introduction of a non-native nutrition source concentrated in a relatively small area and available for a limited time will never trump a more comprehensive approach that encompasses the improvement of diverse native vegetation that is adapted to Oklahoma soil.



For assistance with food plot development in Oklahoma, OSU has developed the app, Wildlife Food Plots. It is free, and in addition to food plot advice for white-tailed deer, it offers recommendations for migratory and upland game animals.

Water Development

For the white-tailed deer, the size or source of the water body would seem less important than it being routinely available. In the southeastern states, researchers suggest that during times when succulent plants are available, deer do not need daily surface water. Other research suggests that when succulent

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forage was available, white-tailed deer consume 0.75 (3/4) of a quart of water while needing 1-1/2 quarts when forage was air-dried. Captive deer in New York, while given processed food and available salt licks consumed three quarts per day per 100 pounds of body weight in the winter! At any rate, water sources are frequently at the center of a deer's home range, and the presence or absence of water has a noticeable effect on the deer's daily activity. Consequently, it is suggested that a deer's home range should have at least one water source. Since the smallest home range in the Texas-Oklahoma area is ~60 acres, it stands to reason that at least one water source per 60 acres is optimal whereas four water sources per section would represent minimal water provision. Because of the noise associated with rushing water, still water is often preferred by deer. Small drainage reservoirs can often be created with minimal expense using established lease roads, natural or created berms, springs, irrigation tail-water pits, and other natural water collection features of the landscape. When practical, establishing water collection sites near a tree line or forest edge (transition zone) will help to deter sediment collection and contamination. The leaves will provide some degree of filtering, and shade (in season) helping to keep water temperatures lower reducing evaporation. When oilfield or other industrial equipment is located near a water source, barriers should be established to protect water reservoirs against contaminated runoff or other sources of pollution such as pipeline leaks or tank overfilling.

When feasible, consider drilling or reconditioning a well for a readily-available and permanent supply of fresh water.

Finally, existing water sources are sometimes less than accessible because of dense undergrowth or restrictive riparian features, precipitous dams and shorelines, or human traffic. Clearing thick brush from a water's edge, or planting groundcover in areas of heavy traffic may make an area more appealing to deer. Likewise, an experienced large-equipment operator should be able to reduce a steep bank or dan-

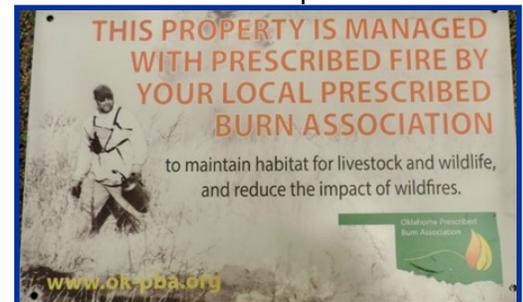
gerous drop-off making the water source more approachable.

Interspersion

As previously mentioned, a land mass becomes much more desirable when the above features are not only present, but in near proximity to each other. When considering the feasibility of habitat improvement, consider first what natural habitat features are present, what can be created, restored, or enhanced, and consider what, if any, might never be available.

It could be argued that deer habitat improvement is generally "land improvement" as a broad cross-section of nutritional vegetation, available water, well established wooded areas with a healthy understory combines to give property a generally desirable character. Most of these elements are conducive to the health of many other forms of wildlife, the presence of which provides enjoyment to the hunter and non-hunter alike. Healthy vegetation protects the soil and appropriate tree spacing and thinning promotes not only the health of the trees, but that of the undergrowth. Conversely, overgrown or over-grazed land has little appeal and less utility for wildlife or domestic use. Land scarred with erosion from poor drainage and lack of soil-gripping vegetation is easily spotted and stands in stark contrast to the land better managed by proven conservation and improvement techniques.

Mark



If you're considering a pro-active approach to habitat improvement on your property or lease, I strongly recommend White-tailed Deer Habitat Evaluation and Management Guide, OSU Publication E-979. This publication represents a large body of research, and makes recommendations based on foliage, climate

Tool Time: Choosing & Using Bandsaw Blades — Tim Contway

Choosing A Blade

Band saw blades come in a variety of widths, tooth design, materials, and configurations.

Choosing A Correct Width.

We use the word width but really it comes down to two things: The maximum capacity your bandsaw can accommodate and the minimum radius you want to cut. The Manufacturer's instructions should also be consulted. If you are doing re-sawing, cant or cut-off sawing, use the maximum blade width your machine allows. This will keep the cuts nice and straight and you'll get a decent feed rate without breaking blades. On the other end of the scale, if you do contour saw-

ing, you will want to use a blade that is narrow enough to cut the desired radius. The chart below shows the correlation between blade width and the minimum radius it will cut.

Blade Width	Min. Radius
1/8"	3/16"
3/16"	5/16"
1/4"	5/8"
3/8"	1 1/2"
1/2"	2 1/2"
5/8"	4"
3/4"	5 1/2"
1"	7"

Bandsaw Blade Thickness

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Choosing the proper thickness of the blade is important. Continual flexing and heating and cooling causes metal fatigue and ultimately, failure. The thickness of the blade depends on the diameter of the wheels, and the work to be done. Thick blades withstand more cutting strain from straight cuts but will break more easily from the bending and twisting action. Thinner blades are recommended for lighter work. The following guidelines indicate the blade thickness for various wheel diameters.

Wheel Diam.	Blade Thickness
4 – 6 inches	.014"
6 – 8 inches	.018"
8 – 10 inches	.020"
11 – 18 inches	.025"
18 – 24 inches	.032"
24 – 30 inches	.035"
30 inch and over	.042" .050" .063"

How Many Teeth?

Getting a balance between a good finish and a decent feed rate are the two objectives in determining how many TPI or teeth per inch you want to use. More teeth make a smoother but slower cut. Fewer teeth allow for faster cutting but with a slightly rougher finish.

For any kind of precision cutting, the rule of thumb is to always try to keep at least 3 teeth in the material at all times. This adds stability and accuracy and applies to cutting in both metal and wood. Coarse tooth blades of 2 or 3 TPI should be used for re-sawing and thicker materials. For general wood cutting duties in typical 3/4" material a range of between 4 TPI for coarse, fast cutting and 14 TPI for slower, smoother cutting. Something in the 6-8 range would be a good 'general purpose' blade. This same equation is applied whether you're cutting wood, or metal. An even finer 18-32 TPI tooth count should be used for thinner metals and plastics under 1/4".

Tooth Styles and Sets

There are three basic tooth styles in bandsaw blades, regular, skip and hook. Regular tooth blades have proportionally spaced teeth and are ideally suited as a general purpose blade for both cut-off and contour sawing. Used for cutting thin materials and where a fine finish is required.

The teeth on skip tooth blades are more widely spaced and have a 0° rake angle to prevent clogging when cutting soft, wood, non-ferrous metals and plastics. Hook tooth blades have a deeper gullet/larger tooth and a positive 10° rake angle which helps the blade to feed into the material more aggressively. The result is faster cutting rates. Hook tooth blades are commonly used for long cuts into thicker wood, hardwood, plastic and metal. Variable Pitch blades have alternating sets of different size teeth to provide both a fast but smooth finish cut and are often used in joinery and for cutting curves.

The "Set" on a blade can best be seen looking down on the teeth. A Raker tooth set has one tooth going to the left, one to the right, followed by a tooth

(which is called a 'raker') which is straight or, unset. In an Alternate tooth set, one tooth goes left, the next one goes right, then left, right, etc. There is no raker tooth. The Double Alternate plus raker, has an unset raker tooth following two left-right combinations. The Wavy tooth set has groups of teeth set left and right, separated by unset raker teeth. Wavy set blades are made primarily with the small teeth recommended for cutting thinner metal sections, tubes, pipes, thin sheets, etc.

What Is The Appropriate Set?

The appropriate set refers to the optimum balance between sawdust and air in the space between the body of the saw blade and the material it is cutting. A GOOD appropriate set is about 80/20 with 80% sawdust and 20% air being ejected. The sawdust should be warm to the touch, not hot or cold. Too much set results in too much air and not enough sawdust and will likely leave tooth marks. Too little set and there is not enough airflow for the amount of sawdust that needs to be pulled out of the cut. This will create hot, packed sawdust leading to short cutting times and premature blade breakage. This is about the worst thing you can do for your bandsaw blade. Excessively under set bands will cut in a wavy motion.

Know Your SFM

Knowing the SFM or Surface Feet Per Minute for the various settings of your bandsaw allows you to select the proper speed for the material you want to cut. Bandsaw blade manufacturer's will also provide a maximum SFM rating for their product. You should find the SFM settings in your Owners Manual. If you don't have the Manufacturer's specs, you can use this formulae.

Drive Wheel RPM X Drive Wheel Diameter X .262 = SFM

Size Matters!

Using the correct size of blade is essential to the performance of your bandsaw. If you don't have a manual and there is no marking on the machine, you can use this formula to determine the blade length you need.

- 1) Set the pulleys or wheels in working position.
- 2) Measure the center to center distance of the drive wheels. (C)
- 3) Measure the radius of the upper and lower drive wheels. (R1 & R2)

Blade Length = (R1 X 3.146) + (R2 X 3.146) + (2 X C)

Pre-Flight Checklist

Keep the table surface, the fence and the miter slots clean. Use a good paste wax to keep friction to a minimum.

- Round the back of your blades with a file or honing stone. This will remove any manufacturing imperfections and eliminate scouring of the thrust bearings and prevent binding when cutting curves.
- Clear away any sawdust buildup on blade guide

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bearings or drive components.

- Clear table insert blade guide of sawdust and debris.
- Always reduce blade tension at the end of the day.

De-tensioning After Use

Blades get hot from cutting. They expand and contract and, over time, can even over tension themselves. Like getting a flat spot on your tires from sitting in one spot for too long, leaving your blade under tension, strapped around the drive wheels, creates a memory in the steel that could lead to premature failure from metal fatigue. Leaving the band tight on the saw also distorts the crown and flattens the drive tires, making them very hard. Stress is also placed on the motor, shaft V-belt and drive pulleys.

So when you're done cutting for the day, always de-

tension the blade. Use a simple 'number of turns' formulae to completely relax the blade so you don't have to keep running the flutter test every time you want to use the saw.

Troubleshooting

Bandsaws are complex pieces of machinery require periodic adjustments for wear of the bandsaw itself as well as the blade. If you're having trouble with the cuts your bandsaw blades are giving you, whether you're cutting wood or metal, this hand PDF chart might be able to point you in the right direction.

Tim

Editors Note: Tim Contway is the OSS Quartermaster and is the person responsible for maintaining the Society Equipment. He is a great resource if you have equipment problems.

2018 Banquet Keynote Speakers

The Society Board of Directors is pleased to introduce our Banquet Keynote Speakers Gary and Connie Renfro. They have a combined 9 generation of ancestors in Colorado. With great grandparents homesteading Colorado as far back as the 1860's. Gary and Connie have shared many Bowhunting adventures together as a couple in the high country for the last 30 years. Building and hunting with selfbows off and on for the last 20 years makes any animal harvested a trophy to them.

In fact, some of their biggest trophies carry the smallest antlers due to this method of take. Gary is the 2nd bowhunter in Colorado to harvest the "Big Eight" three times and Connie is the first female bowhunter in Colorado to take the "Big Eight". Gary and Connie run a specialty archery web business called Traditional Archery Products (traditionalarcheryproducts.com) selling a variety of products exclusively for the traditional archer. They will talk this year about DIY elk hunting in Colorado. Take time and attend this year's Banquet to meet and enjoy an evening with Gary and Connie.



OJAM Workdays Saturday February 24 and Saturday March 17 at the Rutter Farm. We need lots of help getting the site ready and setting up for OJAM.

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