

THE DRAWKNIFE

The Oklahoma Selfbow Society Newsletter
Volume 10 Issue 4 — Fall 2018

Game On!



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President — Jason Grace

It's hunting season my friends! I know, a least the Okies in the Society, are glad for the cooler weather. I write this article as I sit in a stand waiting on a critter to present me a shot. Carrie, my wife, let me know before season that we were getting low on venison. Hopefully, I can do my part!

We have some special anniversaries coming down the pipe this year for OSS. Our banquet in February will be our 10th and Ojam in March will mark our 15th.

We have Marv Kilnky as our special guest this year at our banquet February 2nd 2019. It will be an all day event starting with breakfast Saturday morning. We will have a chance to tell lies and share stories. Following that, we will have a display of the trade bows and

Non-Resident Representative — Ralph Renfro

When I found myself hospital bound with a stroke the Monday after OJam, I immediately started looking down the road. Paralyzed on the right side, I set some goals for myself. Chief among them was being in the woods this hunting season. Being able to work on a bow was another. It's been a long, slow process. I was hospitalized till May 3rd. I've been in PT twice a week since then. Along with therapy I've been working at home. I'd like to tell you that I'm 100% back to normal, bet I'd be lying. Coming all the way back is a long process.



I have some weakness in my right arm and wrist. When I try to pull any poundage, it feels like it's trying to separate my wrist from my arm. I told my OT gal that we needed to make a splint to solve that problem. So on our last session that's exactly what we did, problem solved. Now I will need a lot of time to traverse a hundred yards or more to a blind. I'll be needing assistance if I'm fortunate enough to get one down. Blood trailing through the woods and downed timber will be nearly impossible. But I've got to try. My walking and

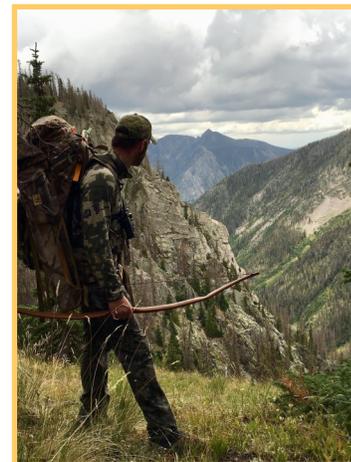
'meet and greet' the speaker. The OSS board will have a formal meeting that morning. Lunch will be on your own. At 1:00 p.m., we will start the general membership meeting. We will vote on the board's recommendation for new officers and will have general discussion of what is new, our annual budget, and upcoming events. Vendors will be present throughout the day in there own area. We will have demonstrations after the meeting until 5. The banquet starts at 6:00 p.m. with awards, trade bow presentations, dinner, guest speaker, live auction, and raffle. Make plans to attend because it's a great fundraiser and fellowship event.

Currently there is an **Ojam 15** committee being formed. We want to make our 15th anniversary year special. If you would like to help, participate or have your ideas heard, please let John McAdoo know. He is the committee chair.

Hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable hunting season. Enjoy the cool air and the warmth of a fire this fall and early winter. Take someone new and introduce them to God's beauty outside.

May your arrows find their mark!

Jason



balance is far from normal.

Now for a list of accomplishments. I can dress myself. I can put a belt through my own pant loops. I can put on socks and my hunting boots, including lacing the boots, I'm walking without a cane, this one drives Dianne nuts. I can shave myself. I can get into a shower and take that shower without help. I can drive my vehicles. I can trim my own fingernails. I can eat without any help. I could go on and on, but these are a few of the things that I couldn't do early on. Little things that become impossible for a stroke victim.

With prayers from family and friends I've come a long way. Continued Prayers will get me the rest of the way back. If the good Lord sees fit, I will kill my best trophy to date, ANY deer that I can pull the string on and put down quickly and humanely. Wish Me Luck.

Good luck to all my OSS Brothers and Sisters.

Ralph

Editor's Note: Thanks to Russell Yott for providing the cover photo. Members are encouraged to submit photos for consideration to treasurer@okselfbow.com. The higher resolution of the photo the better it looks when printed.

Treasurer — Leo Staples

Due to an open Board position my article will include information for both membership and financial information. As of October 15, the Society has 384 active members. This breaks down to 6 Corporate, 127 Family, 206 Individual, 28 Junior, and 17 Lifetime memberships. On the financial front, the Society continues to operate on budget. The bank balance as of September 30, was \$18,666.62.

Most of you know that we are building a house at the farm. After five months of trying to reach a deal with various builders, we decided to build it ourselves. We started digging the foundation



June 1st and the trim carpenter will finish on October 29th. If all goes well, the Winter Edition of the Drawknife will be produced in my new office.

I did take a short break from the project to spend a week in the South San Juan National Forest on a high adventure elk hunt. This was my second year and to go and come home without an elk. It is called hunting for a good reason and, for me, the adventure is far more important than simply killing something. For

Tool Care — Billy Moore Quartermaster

Ok folks it's fall and most of us are headed to the woods. Our bow building tends to slow down and our tools sit for extended periods of time. It's time to stop and think about how we can prolong the life of our tools and have them ready when we get back to working on bows.

Bandsaws: Applying a coat of paste wax on the table will help keep any moisture from rusting the cast iron. Inspect the blade guide bearings and replace any of them that feel rough or stiff. Remember to loosen the tension off on the blade if it is going to sit for any period of time. Check the drive belt and tires on the band wheels as some parts have a long delivery time. Finally, check to see that you have plenty of spare blades on hand.

Sanders: Inspect the drive belts and bearings. Some of the older sanders may have grease fittings. Inspect sanding belts, throw away belts that are worn out, and ordering new abrasive belts so you have plenty on hand for your next bow.

Hand tools: Now is a good time to inspect and sharpen draw knives and scrapers.

Supplies: Sealers, glues, and epoxies may need to be moved to a place so that they do not freeze.

Power Tools: Use an air hose or blower to remove sawdust and wipe off any loose dirt. Both can accu-



those who have not been, the altitude and elevation changes is a challenge. My longest day of hunting was just over 6 miles with 3100 feet of elevation change. I did see a nice 4X4 at about 200

yards and a couple of calves at about 50 yards. More importantly I got to spend time with some great folks who are part of our OSS family.

Finally, my article would not be complete without an update on my grandson Henry. He turned 6 months old on October 14th and needless to say he has stolen our hearts.

Good luck, stay safe, and take every opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors!

Leo



mulate in hard to reach places and with a little moisture will rust your tools.

Shop: Sawdust is a fire hazard if allowed to accumulate: It only takes a stray spark from a bearing or blade hitting a piece of steel to start a fire. These can smolder for hours and potentially flare up into fire when you leave the shop.

Now is a good time to gather the tools up for late winter Osage harvest. Having them ready means you get to spend more time in the woods looking for the right trees and less time trying to find your tools. Make sure there are no burrs on the splitting wedges that could fly off when struck. Sharpen the axes, inspect hammers and axes handles making sure the wood is solid and they still feel tight.

Good luck in the woods and may your arrows fly straight and true.

Billy



Past President — Mike Magee

Okay, what do you do if you know you need to submit it newsletter article but you're only real computer, which, in my case, is a 5 year old HP laptop, goes Tango Uniform, dead. So, of course, you use your cell phone to write your article. I'm going to use Siri to my advantage since I have 12 hours of driving ahead of me. The way she spells things and translates things should make this article pretty interesting. I will try to catch where Siri and I didn't meet eye-to-eye but I may not catch everything. So be patient and show a little grace to your bro Mike.

I want to thank all the people that helped put the Wildlife Expo together. Some of us more mature guys can't move quite like we did 20 or 30 years ago. Shoot, some of us can't even move quite like we did 10 years



ago! We sure do appreciate the youngbloods that are around to help set up the OJAM campout and the Expo. We also want the youngbloods to bring new and fresh ideas regarding how this wonderful organization could function. Some of those new ideas may improve our processes, make things easier, or make things even more fun. My key point is, we appreciate the younger men and women getting involved in the Oklahoma Self Bow Society because they are the future of the society.

The last point I want to make before I give Siri a break is this, take a friend or family member hunting. Especially if they haven't experienced what we have. I know we love to harvest wild game, but we also need to pass on the fun, the love and the skills that we enjoy to others.

Aim small and keep the wind in your face.

Mike

Northeast Representative — Gary Dement



Howdy Brothers and Sisters of the bow!! Hunting season is finally upon us and I'm sure everyone is excited to get into the field. I typically don't do much hunting until the weather cools. If I have problems locating a deer on an evening

hunt and need to let it lay overnight, I want to know the meat will survive the wait. Since I had back surgery in July, I'm hoping to be able to hunt more this year. I've been working on building up my strength, which is going slow, but even with that, I feel better than I have in the last few years.

Three grandsons and I were drawn for a hunt in Hominy at MCAAP on October 19-21. I haven't been in that area since the change to traditional gear started. I'm hoping a White Hat I know well is still assigned to that area, otherwise I'm open to any and all suggestions. This will be Joshua's first bow hunt and I'm eager to give him all the help I can to be successful. Austin and Lucas have been there before, but we are all looking for our first MCAAP deer. Maybe this is our year, if the weather cooperates. One thing I am sure of, I'm going to enjoy my time hunting with family. It's going to be a grand adventure!

The EXPO was extremely wet for the school day on Friday. We had some visitors before the rain hit, then they all moved indoors. That gave members time to make good progress on the projects we brought to work on over the weekend. Saturday and Sunday were busy, as usual, with the highlight being the drawing for one of the 300 Rattan Bows given away over the weekend.

Special thanks goes out to the arrow crew headed

by Conrad Kleinholz, who along with Alex Pugh and Chris Barton, provided 3 arrows for each bow recipient. I apologize if I left anyone out who helped Conrad on this project.

Also, thanks to The Heartland of The Prairie Dutch Oven crew that invited us to participate in their potluck suppers on Friday and Saturday evenings.

I'm getting this to Leo late and our Members Hunt with The Oklahoma Longbowmen at Kaw Lake is this weekend. I'm not participating this year, since I have hunts scheduled the next two weekends and I'm not sure I'm up to three in a row. I, also, don't think my wife, Marsha, would appreciate looking after my dog, Reba, that much.

It's been a wet weekend, but a good weekend to hunt for those that are out. I think some deer have been harvested, so I'm anxious to hear the stories. Regardless of the harvest success, the Members Hunt is always a great time of food and fellowship with friends.

With the Lord's help, I'll have some new stories to tell of my own after next weekend!

Good hunting and shoot small!!!

Gary



Conserving a Resource ... Preserving a Tradition — Maryann Heffley

Texas Brigades founder Dr. Dale Rollins often says that at the Texas Brigades they are turning lumps of coal into DIAMONDS. The lumps of coal are the students, which they refer to as cadets. What does it take to make diamond you may ask? HEAT, PRESSURE, and TIME. By utilizing the Texas HEAT, having the instructors put the cadets under PRESSURE with assignments and activities, and making it all come together in the five days of camp as the TIME factor the instructors truly succeed at their goal. Everyone who comes together to conduct these camps truly has a heart of gold and dearly cares about the next generation of conservationists.



I have been active in the outdoors, hunting, ranching, and fishing since I was very young, but The Texas Brigades took my experience to a whole other level. If you ask anyone else who has been to a Brigade camp, I am sure they will agree with me when I say, "There is no other organization like this



one." They successfully fit wildlife and leadership related activities into a 5-day time frame. As many of the instructors will tell you, "You are learning more here than most college undergraduates will learn throughout their four years of studies in the wildlife department as far as field work and studies go". The instructors who so generously devote and dedicate a

week of their time volunteering at camp, plus the many hours and weeks preparing before and after camp are so amazingly generous. Camp could not be put on without them. The food at camp isn't like most summer camps with hot dogs and junk food either. At the Texas Brigades, there is nothing but the best cooks volunteering to come out and dedicate a week of their time to cook delicious meals for breakfast, lunch, dinner,



and late-night snacks. It is these kinds of volunteers we need more of in the world to make camps and programs like this possible and more available in other states.

The Texas Brigades were founded in 1993 by Dr. Dale Rollins. He is an outstanding leader and public speaker. The Texas Brigades is a wildlife and natural resource summer camp geared towards leadership and team building development. The camps take place in June and July every summer. This experience is geared towards 13 to 17-year-old young adults who don't necessarily have to be interested in wildlife or the outdoors to attend, but it is great if they are. Maybe they are interested in the leadership or the public speaking part of camp which plays a big role as well. Adult leaders are an important part of camp, for they are mentoring and motivating their cadets all week and keeping them on schedule. If you love motivating youth, then I highly recommend that you apply as an adult leader. There is something for everyone to find interesting at camp. There is a tuition of 500 dollars required for cadets, but they suggest you go through local organizations who might be interested in helping with the cost and learning about your experience when you return home. Some of the many previous sponsors include: the NRCS; Texas Farm Bureau; Texas Wildlife Association; Texas A&M Agri Life Extension; Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and the Texas Wildlife Association Foundation. All of these are scholarship avenues for a cadet to pursue. There are 8 camps to choose from, and you can attend each camp once as a cadet. Depending on which sounds the most intriguing to the cadet when applying. A cadet selects their top three choices. The 8 camps are: North Texas Buckskin Brigade (NTBB); South Texas Buckskin Brigade (STBB); Rolling Plains Bobwhite Brigade (RPBB); South Texas Bobwhite Brigade; Coastal Brigade; Ranch Brigade; Bass Brigade; and Waterfowl Brigade. There is something for every youth to find interesting at any of the

camps.



At camp you are assigned a small group, usually consisting of 4-6 cadets, often called a herd, school, or covey. You are together for the next five days taking place in all activities together, you are a team after all.

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Your group is also competing for Top Herd, School, or Covey trying to earn points to win a hunt or some sort of reward to reunite you with your group later in the year. This is an important aspect of camp, because the team is working together toward a common goal. At camp, they also recognize Top Cadet. This is a recognition of a cadet who has stepped forward as a leader and displayed that they have been soaking in all the knowledge, as well as putting forth extra effort in the activities that occur daily. The days at camp are jam packed from sunrise to past sunset. The instructors constantly have activities for the cadets to partake in.

When the cadets, assistant leaders, and leaders arrive at camp they are given a silver bullet to memorize and recite in front of everyone at camp. These "Silver Bullets" were created to be somewhat like an icebreaker. They are meaningful quotes that each camp has put together and assigned to each cadet. Such as, "The dog in the kennel barks at his fleas, but the dog that is hunting does not feel them." – Anonymous. The cadet stands up in front of everyone and states their name, where they are from, their Silver Bullet, what it means to them, and then present a war cry with gusto and confidence. The whole herd, covey, or school is required to have completed this process from the cadets, to adult leaders before camp is over. Marching and cadences also play a big role at camp. Teamwork, leadership, and speaking out of your comfort zone are all aspects challenged and overcome at camp. The Texas Brigades are not military affiliated but admire the uniformity and comradery of the standards they uphold. Each camp also views and learns about plant identification and collection. Teaching cadets about what each of the animals of the camp the cadet is attending uses for food, cover, or even both. On day four, the cadets take part in tri-fold night at camp. On this night, each cadet gets a tri-fold board and creates an informative collaboration of information and pictures about a specific topic they learned at camp. This is also a great bonding experience for the cadets, because everyone must have their tri-fold finished before hitting the hay! At some of the camps, you will also observe or even perform a necropsy, (an autopsy on an animal). For the Texas Brigades motto is, "Tell me... I forget. Show me... I remember. Involve me... I understand". Therefore, the instructors are al-

ways advocating for a "hands on" experience which really does change the learning outcome of camp. Being personally involved and getting to examine with your own two hands, really does give a cadet an extremely different aspect in learning and observing.

No matter what career choice you want to pursue, or even if you haven't decided yet, the Texas Brigades will play a huge role in your life as a young adult. The experiences and acquaintances you obtain could very well last a lifetime. I met several people who were in the same covey, herd, or school as a group of cadets and created a lasting relationship together as friends and have continued to work and support the Texas Brigades. It is truly a great non-profit organization that continues to set the bar higher and higher each year when each camp and their instructors get assigned a new group of cadets each summer to shape and mold into "conservation leaders in every community". I highly recommend these camps and want to encourage everyone to go to their website at www.texasbrigades.com to learn more about applications and locations where the camps are held. Applications for cadets and adult leaders open on November



1st.

If you would like to speak to a previous cadet and learn more about the camps and application process, please feel free to contact me!

Maryann

Editors Note: Because Maryann is a minor we cannot give out her contact information. If you will send me a note I will be happy to forward your contact information

Campfire Cooking Breakfast Recipes — K. P. Lehman

Time for breakfast!

BISCUIT CUPS

12 Slices	bacon cooked until still pliable
6	frozen buttermilk biscuits
3 cans	chopped green chilies
2 cups	shredded sharp cheddar cheese
6	eggs
	salt and pepper to taste

salsa for topping if desired

Spray small muffin pan with cooking spray. Line sides of muffin cups with 2 slices of bacon, overlapping if needed. Place biscuits in muffin cup to fit inside bacon. Spoon one heaping tablespoon of green chilies on each biscuit. Spoon two tablespoons of cheddar cheese on green chilies on each biscuit. Crack one egg over cheese, and sprinkle two tablespoons of cheddar cheese over the egg.

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Place muffin pan in preheated Dutch oven and bake at 350 degrees without top coals, adding top coals after 15 minutes. Bake for an additional 30 to 35 minutes or until biscuits are done and egg whites are set. Top with salsa if desired.

COUNTRY BREAKFAST BURRITOS

1 lb.	pork sausage
8 ounces	shredded hash browns
8 to 10	eggs
½	medium onion chopped
½	medium bell pepper chopped
2 Tbsp.	butter
2 Tbsp.	flour
1 cup	milk
8	burrito size flour tortillas
	salt and pepper to taste
¼ cup	cooking oil

Warm tortillas in preheated Dutch oven using moist paper towels to prevent tortillas from drying out. Brown sausage in skillet over medium heat. While sausage is cooking heat another skillet with enough cooking oil to cover skillet over medium heat. When cooking oil is hot add shredded hash browns and allow to cook to desired doneness, stirring occasionally. When sausage is browned remove from pan leaving drippings. If necessary, add cooking oil for a total of 2 tablespoons of oil. Add two tablespoons of flour and stir until it is golden brown. Gradually add milk until gravy is the desired thickness. Stir in approximately one third of sausage and remove from heat. Wisk eggs and milk together until slightly frothy. Melt two tablespoons of butter in skillet and saute onions and bell peppers until tender. Add eggs and cook to desired doneness. Stir in remaining sausage and remove from heat. When all ingredients are complete place gravy in center of tortilla, top with egg/sausage mixture, then hash browns followed by more gravy, if

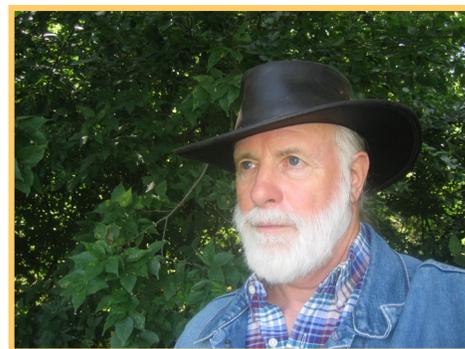
desired. Fold bottom of tortilla up and roll sides together.

EGG IN POTATO HOLLOWES

4 cups.	cold mashed potatoes
½ cup	crumbled crisp bacon or diced ham
¼ cup.	onion, minced
¼ cup	green bell pepper chopped
½ tsp.	black pepper
2 cloves	garlic, chopped
bacon grease	or butter
½ cup	dried bread crumbs
8	eggs
1 cup	shredded cheddar cheese

Combine mashed potatoes, bacon, onion, bell pepper, garlic and pepper, stir until well mixed. Grease Dutch oven with bacon grease, then sprinkle with bread crumbs. Spoon 8 mounds of potato mixture into Dutch oven. With back of large spoon make large depressions in potatoes large enough to contain eggs. Bake over medium/high heat with bottom coals only for 10 to 15 minutes or until potatoes are hot. Drop eggs into potato hollows. Add top coals and bake at 350 degrees for about 20 minutes or until eggs are set. Sprinkle with cheese and continue to bake until cheese is melted and eggs are done.

RP



Makin' Memories — Tommy Leach

I was putting the finishing touches on my article this past weekend and thinking about my closing while sitting in a stand Sunday morning. I checked Facebook and Jason had posted a picture of him and his son during the weekend youth hunt. Then Rick had posted memories of him and his son. Then I did the same. I talked about two of my sons', Landry and Drew. After the post I started thinking how



long ago that was. Twenty-five years ago! Where has time gone? The story was from firearms season in 1993. Landry was eight and Drew was six. It was a cold and frosty morning, so I took an old Army sleeping bag for them. They got cold and ended up both in the bag and falling asleep. We had a doe walk by at about 15 yards and they never knew she was around. Then I thought back a couple of more years earlier when my oldest, Adam, was sitting with me on the Monday of firearms season in 1991. I harvested the best deer of my life (and still is) with the two of us sitting in a big elm tree. He was a main frame eight point with matching extra points making him a 15 point. I've got so many memories stuck in my head. Each boy's first deer, Drew taking a doe at McAlester with a selfbow he made at fifteen years old. Landry being the first in

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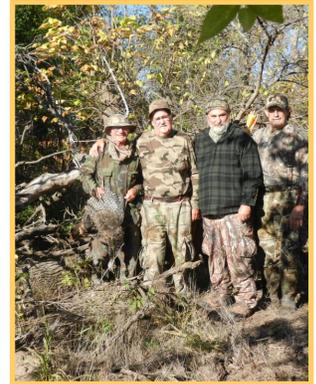
our family to take a deer with a muzzleloader. Now my daughter has begun to show an interest. She has that desire to harvest a buck and has started with my old Bear recurve.

This past weekend there were several “firsts”. Huck took his first deer that morning. This memory I know was etched in stone in Jason’s head. Gary Dement’s grandson, Austin, took his first with a selfbow while hunting at McAlester and Levi Smith took his first with a selfbow.

Unfortunately I didn’t make the member’s hunt this year and get to share time with many of my friends. I was whipped from trying to recover a doe I had shot on Friday evening. I lead with my memories to encourage each of you to go make memories for yourself. Many of my friends in this great organization have kids. Next time you go to the woods, take them with you. Every one of my kids have been deer hunting with me. They all started going when they were five or six years old. Fortunately, almost all have come back around and wanted to get back to the woods. Drew recently told me it had been sixteen years since he took that deer at McAlester. That it was time for him to build a new bow

and harvest his second bow whitetail.

The next best thing about hunting with your kids is going with friends. As many of you know Mikee, John, Terry and I have hunted with Ralph up in Kansas. These are memories I will never forget. Ralph talked about some of these in the last issue when Mikee, John and I went up for a visit during Ralph’s recovery. We went out to check on the water tank and told old hunting stories. Other great memories are some of my Bear hunts in Canada when Doug, Casey, Rodney and Leo took their first bears.



Light the fire early. Kindle it when you get old. We have the best group of people I know. Go make a memory. Who knows, they may have to load that big buck for you.

Tommy

OSS Online — Leo Staples

Have you seen the updates to the website? If not, since the last newsletter, pages have been added for OJAM, Tool Time, and the Big Game Harvest. Speaking of the Big Game Harvest, submitting an application online is as easy as going to the website (okselfbow.com), clicking on the Big Game Harvest menu button, entering you infor-



mation, and clicking on the Submit button. The system will confirm your submittal with a “Thanks for submitting” message.

In addition to the Big Game Harvest, members will be recognized at the upcoming OSS Banquet service to the Society. Categories include Volunteer of the Year, Master Bowyer, and Hall of Fame. In the coming weeks, nomination forms will be available on the OSS website.

Please use the following criteria when considering someone for one of these awards:

Volunteer of the Year

- Candidates must be a member of OSS in good standing

- Candidates may be nominated by any OSS member
- The nomination must include specific examples of the candidates support of OSS mission and objectives. Not just “He’s a great guy or gal”.
- Candidates should have gone above and beyond others, volunteering his/her time in supporting the OSS mission
- The Executive Committee of OSS (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) will review candidates and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.
- The Board will review the Executive Committee’s recommendations and vote to approve a candidate.
- A 51% majority vote is required to elect a candidate.

Typically, the nominee is not a member of the OSS Board of Directors as by their very positions these individuals expect to spend significant time supporting the mission.

Hall of Fame

- Candidates must be a member of OSS in good standing
- Recognizes long and enduring service to the Society
- Candidates may be nominated by any OSS member
- The nomination must include specific examples of candidates support of OSS mission and objectives.
- The Executive Committee of OSS (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) will review



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candidates and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

- The Board will review the Executive Committee’s recommendations and vote to approve a candidate.

Individuals elected to the Hall of Fame receive a lifetime membership in the Society.

Master Bowyer

- While membership in the Society is not required, candidates must be accomplished bowyers who have passed on their knowledge by teaching others.
- Candidates may be nominated by any OSS member
- The nomination must include specific examples of the candidates support of OSS mission and objectives. Not just “He’s a great guy or gal”.

- Candidates should have gone above and beyond others with in the organization volunteering his/her time in supporting the OSS mission
- The Master Bowers will review candidates and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.
- A 51% majority vote is required to elect a candidate.

In coming weeks we will add nomination pages these awards. Nominations for these will only be accepted online and must be receive by 12/31/2018.

Please contact your Area Representative or any member of the OSS Board if you have problems submitting a nomination.

Leo

Upcoming OSS Activities

Shown below are the current activities on the Society Calendar.

Annual Members Meeting & Banquet

February 2, 2019

Sooner Legends Inn & Suites

1200 24th Ave SW, Norman, OK 73072

(405) 701-8100

15th Annual OJAM

March 21-24, 2019

Rutter Farm

8010 East 80th Street, Stillwater, OK 74074

As mentioned in President Grace’s article the OJAM 15 Committee has been tasked with looking for ways to improve the event and to celebrate the 15th anniversary. The Board of Directors will review and act on their recommendations. Please stay tuned for future announcements on OJAM.

Your Story Could Be Here....But It Isn’t

First, we want to thank everyone who submitted articles for this edition. That said, putting together the last two editions of the newsletter has been somewhat of a struggle as we did not receive very many articles. One printed page of the newsletter (11” x 17”) is actually four (8 1/2” x 11”) pages. So with only 10 pages in this edition members receiving a printed copy will see two blank pages.

The real value of the Drawknife is in the personal stories submitted by you, our members. Write about a hunt, a bow you have built, tools you use, your experience at the Banquet, OJAM, the Members Campout, or the Members Hunt. You do not have to be a writer to submit an article. Julie and I will work with you to turn an idea into an article that you will be proud to have had published. Deadlines for submitting articles are April 1, July 1, October 1, and January 1. Of course, we would love to have articles a couple of weeks before the deadline.

Last year we changed the cover of the newsletter adding a photo highlighting a theme or a particular story in the newsletter. Just like articles, we need photos for future editions. For printing purposes the photos need to be as high resolution as possible.

So again, our thanks to those who contribute to the Drawknife this year.

Happy Holidays,

Leo



Hunters in the know...let little bucks grow!

7 SIMPLE STEPS FOR BETTER TREESTAND MAINTENANCE

Your hunting season has ended and the thought of spring has entered your mind. Turkey hunting and bass fishing can quickly steal the love for whitetail deer and leave it abandoned until archery season approaches next fall. Just don't

find yourself sacrificing a safe hunt next year because you don't want to spend a little extra time taking your stands down for maintenance.

The best time to complete a routine check is immediately following your hunting season, before storing your stands in a dry location. This is especially true in areas with more extreme weather conditions.

Here are our steps to assist you in carrying out your end of the season tree stand maintenance.

Step 1: Take It Down - Take your stand down as soon as the season is over. Leaving it out in the weather, or bed of a truck, exposes it to moisture and elements that can lead to damage.

Step 2: Observe & Assess - Before and after each use meticulously look over every single part of your treestand to detect and identify potential problems.

Step 3: Keep It Tight – go over and re-tighten all nuts and bolts that can become loose after a long season. Completing this step when you take your treestand down eliminates the need to remember to tighten bolts before hanging tree stands in July.

Step 4: Check Connection Points – make sure all cables and straps are in good working condition. Immediately replace any questionable parts. We provide a full line of Summit Treestand Accessories, including replacement parts.

Step 5: Examine Pins, Ratchets & S-Hooks –



carefully inspect all tree stand pins, ratchets and hooks for signs of rust, stress and wear. Be sure to inspect all straps used for hang-on stands and Bucksteps as well. **Step 6: Properly Care For Seats** – check padded seats for rips, tears and holes. Make sure all seats are completely dry before storing them inside of sealed plastic bags.

Step 7: Clean & Store – remove all dirt and debris before storing tree stands in a scent-free environment with a constant temperature. Fluctuating temperatures can generate problems with rust and mildew. Heavy plastic bags and large rubber storage containers are excellent choices. Use scent elimination products, like D/Code by Code Blue, to spray down your storage location.

It is critical to check all tags on load bearing straps for expiration dates. All Mounting Straps have a maximum life of 2 years, it then must be destroyed and tossed out. When in doubt throw it out! Dispose of any straps with missing tags (cut them up and throw them out). The same goes for any frayed or loose stitching. Also, be sure to take care of any warranty issues during the off season.

The same care should be taken for all safety harnesses. Harnesses have a max. life of 5 years, then they must be destroyed and tossed out. Also, it is important to wear your Summit Pro or Sport Harness when removing treestands from the tree.

Remember to perform a routine maintenance check before putting your stands back out in the summer. These simple steps will help keep you and your tree stands safe, quiet, and performing flawlessly season after season.

Posted on 2/13/18 by Summit Treestands, the article is available at <https://www.summitstands.com/summit-journal/7-simple-steps-for-better-treestand-maintenance/>. Posted on 4/25/18 by wideopenspaces is available at <https://www.wideopenspaces.com/the-mystery-behind-old-treestands-never-goes-away/>.

The OSS Family Loses One of Its Members

It is with a sad heart that we report that OSS member David Guinn Fortenberry passed away on October 25, 2018. David lived in Arcadia, Oklahoma and died surrounded by loved ones after a battle with cancer. David was born October 21, 1957 in Decatur, Texas to Ansel and Mary Nell Fortenberry. David was an elder at New Hope Church of Christ and was an avid outdoorsman.

He is survived by his wife, Rhonda Fortenberry, and his children, Lauren Fortenberry, Emily Fortenberry, Josie Fortenberry, step-children, Justin Prindle and wife Krista Prindle, Joshua Prindle, Jamie Newton and husband Zach Newton, his grandchildren, Kate Prindle, Jordyn Prindle, and James Prindle, his siblings, Judy Shelley and Philip Fortenberry, and his mother,

Mary Nell Fortenberry Dicus. This photo shows David preparing for an elk hunt with a grandson.



Tree Stand Safety Month — Mike Schoonveld

It seems like everything has a special day, week or month to celebrate or commemorate it. There's a national pickle day, safe boating week — June is backyard barbecue month. There's so many, no one can keep track of them. The truly important issues seem to get blended in with some of the less serious ones — no disrespect to pickles or backyard grillers intended.

For whitetail deer hunters, September is Tree Stand Safety Awareness Month, so proclaims the Tree Stand Safety Awareness Foundation (TSSA). There aren't any banquets, conventions or galas planned to promote TSSA. Just the hope to increase the importance of understanding the dangers inherent in tree stands and the ways to minimize the hazards they present.

Hunting in general is a safe sport. More people are injured going bowling each year in the US than going hunting. Far more deaths occur to skiers, horseback riders, bicyclers and a long list of other recreational activities than occur to hunters.

Still, statistics show when looking at all the causes of serious injuries or deaths that do happen to people when hunting—far above gun accidents or knife injuries—number one is falls from tree stands. There are hundreds of laws affecting hunters. The one law that should never be overlooked by a tree stand hunter is the law of gravity.

September is the month most hunters head back to their deer woods to hang or erect stands in preparation for the upcoming hunting season. That's why TSSA picked September to promote its mission to significantly reduce tree stand accidents and put a special emphasis, promotion and education to highlight the best practices tree stand users should know and follow. The TSSA goal is to reduce the number of tree stand incidents 50% by 2023. TSSA's mission is to ensure every hunter comes home safe to their family and friends.

TSSA is excited to share they are seeing positive changes in the estimated numbers of falls that are occurring on a national level. Based on the latest data available (2017), there has been a 28% decrease in the number of estimated falls requiring an emergency department visit, while over the same period of time, there has been a 7.1% increase in the number of licensed hunters nationwide. This significant drop in the estimated number of falls reflects the industry wide efforts of the Treestand Manufacturers Association, National Bowhunters Education Foundation, White Tails Unlimited, International Hunter Education Association, state DNR's, along with TSSA's, supporting partners (Realtree, Hunter Safety System, Summit Tree Stands, Hunter-ed.com, American Hunting Lease Association, Sole Scraper) and others focusing on tree stand safety.



Successes are great, but there's plenty of room for continued improvement to ensure that everyone that uses a tree stand does it in a safe manner. Remember, it's Tree Stand Safety Awareness month so when you head out to scout and position your stands this month (or any month) get the season started by putting safety first.

TSSA has designed an educational campaign called the "ABC's of Tree Stand Safety" to serve as the building blocks to the awareness campaign:

A — Always inspect your equipment. Check and double check every bolt, strap, latch, turnbuckle and other parts and hardware to make sure they are present, working and in good condition.

B — Buckle on your full-body harness. It's like wearing a seat belt when driving. It's just as important if you are only driving a few blocks as when heading on a long trip.

C — Connect to the tree before your feet leave the ground. The most cumbersome part is wearing and using a harness system that protects the user when climbing into or down from a stand. But far more falls come from hunters going up or down the tree than when they are actually sitting or standing on their perch.

By performing these 3 simple steps, tree stand users can virtually eliminate their risk of falling to the ground as the majority of falls occur outside the stand. TSSA encourages all hunters to take tree stand safety seriously, every time you hunt from, hang, or remove a tree stand.

Hunters and members of the industry alike can help spread the message of TSSA Foundation. Visit the TSSA website

Published on September 7, 2018, this article is available online on Newton County Enterprise the website at http://www.newsbug.info/newton_county_enterprise/lifestyle/tree-stand-safety-month/article_367d2c1d-c0b5-5c39-9213-97a30391db3e.html.

Editors Note:

Those of you that follow The Oklahoma Selfbow Society – Ojam Group on Facebook saw the post from Rick Myers where he talks about his fall from a tree-stand. We appreciate his willingness to help others learn from his mistake. He was lucky as his accident could have had a very different ending. Thanks Rick for encouraging members to check their equipment and to wear fall protection.

Tree ladder stand accidents are on the rise. Causes range from poorly maintained equipment to simply not wearing fall protection. Fall protection has come a long way in the past few years. Today it is relatively inexpensive and comfortable. As hunters we know that there are lots of things outside our control. Proper installation of trees and ladder stands, proper maintenance, and using fall protection are things we can control.

Preserving The Heritage of Primitive Archery



Website: Okselfbow.com
 Facebook: [Oklahoma Selfbow Society](https://www.facebook.com/OklahomaSelfbowSociety) —

Should you have questions or would like to submit an article for "The Drawknife" please contact:

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