

THE DRAWKNIFE

The Oklahoma Selfbow Society Newsletter
Volume 12 Issue 3 — Summer 2020

The Girls of Summer

Inside This Issue:
Board Member Articles
Campfire Cooking
Articles Addressing Things Not
Taught at OJAM
Corporate Members



Inside This Issue	Page #
Vice President Report	3
Membership Coordinator	3
Media Coordinator	4
Treasurer	4
Northwest Representative	5
Campfire Cooking	6
Got Obsidian?	6
For Draw Lengths Under 18 Inches	7
Adhesives	8
Spoonbill Skins For Bow Backing—Part 1	9
Serving A Bow String	10
The Point of Making Arrows	11
Corporate Members	12

President Report — Jason Grace

Good leadership takes Engagement

First I would like to apologize for this newsletter coming out so late. It's no one else's fault but mine. With all that goes on in my little part of the world, where I get to do life, I let you, my OSS family, take a back seat for awhile. You all mean a lot to me. Probably more than blood family and for that I'm sorry.

Rodney Wilson says "You either get better or you get worse you cannot stay the same". He would tell his young wrestlers this when he coached. After hearing him say this it applies to lots of things in life. If you want to be better bowyer what do have to do? You have to study the craft, and build bows. You must stay engaged.

If you want to be a better Christian you have to read the Bible, go to church, pray and love your enemy as your neighbor. Not just when you want to or when it's convenient. You must stay engaged.

For me, this Covid pandemic has been a good teacher. I now realize that I needed to be engaged more in what matters the most to me.

This is not an excuse for why I haven't written this article till now, but a tool that I hope for someone else that might read this. Please know that you can always call me if you need anything.

On July 13th 2020 a friend of mine lost his son. His son committed suicide at the age of 14. His dad, my friend, had no answers why this happened, and as any father would do he started to question and grade himself on how good of a father he was. Be assured my friend is a great father.

I'm not going to go into deep detail about my friend's son's death, but talk about my reaction to the situation and how it probably saved my son.

So when I get word of the tragic passing of my friend's boy I start reflecting on my own adequacy as a father. When you get news like this you just want to hold your own children tight. After this incident and conversation with my friend about the relation to the Covid 19 caused down time and lack of interaction with positive activities such as, school, church, sports, and other activities this young man participated in and it's effect on his young mental state. COVID had made him, my friend and myself at the time less engaged to our children's daily lives perhaps. As we all know, idle hands are the devils work. So this tragic event heightened my dad senses and I started noticing how reclusive Aspen had been acting. At the time he was always staying in his room, not wanting to go outside, and disengaged from anything social. I finally caught on to why when I caught him watching very bad stuff on the house cell phone.

So I have become more engaged in my sons everyday activities and started making him do things with me. Because of Covid we got lazy or laxed as parents. Which was easy to do with nothing open and no commitments beside our jobs. For five months Aspen had idle hands and lots of down time to surf the internet, and not being a good speller came across XXX rated cartoons and became addicted. Stay engaged with your children and keep you kids engaged in activities other than technology based devices. Teach them bow building or anything.

So with all the things I do I had to prioritize my engagement and bring my son back to a normal acting 10 year old. He's doing great as of now. Check this story out <https://www.haydenscorner.org>. This isn't my friends story, but is very similar.

I'll end with how I'm changed and hope to get better at serving. I will stay completely engaged to all my commitments and passions. I serve as your OSS President till this February. Nothing in my lifetime has been more testing of mine or anyone else's leadership skills than keeping everything together during this Covid 19 pandemic. I've been called to lead my whole life for many different organizations and will continue Lord willing. Serving the OSS has been a great pleasure but no one should put thier family second except to serving God.

Keep my friend, Aspen, and myself in your prayers!

Jason



PS: I had the pleasure to teach the young 14 year old how to shoot a shotgun a few years ago. He was a great young man.



Vice President Report — Conrad Kleinholz

We HAD the Member's Campout! We even had a good turnout. I know and appreciate why some of us chose not to attend. We missed you and look forward to seeing you at OJAM 17. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped prepare the Rutter farm for the event, and those who helped with registration and operating the tournament, and especially the diehards who stayed to help retrieve and store the targets on Sunday afternoon.

Although the pot luck dinner didn't happen, we did get some shared treats. Shannon Sheffert brought some smoked armadillo, Billy and Elton Moore had flathead bellies and Rodney Wilson brought some Idaho spring bear. Rachel and Doug brought the Nocking Point trailer, and Shannon Sheffert had some really nice furs. There were quite a few shooters who participated in the Oklahoma Selfbow Championship. While watching the shoot off, I noticed a really nice white-wood bow. The maker and shooter was Kenny Cartwright, from Missouri. After the awards ceremony, he showed me a few of his bows. I'm now officially a rookie again. Lots of unique bows, including a billet bow that incorporated lots of propeller in the riser to make the tips align. It seems there is no end to the number

Membership Coordinator—Rick Myers

Thank You!

It is really, really hot outside, and really, really dry! But, that didn't stop us from having fun at the member's campout. My words in this edition of the Drawknife will pretty much come in a "thank you" format. At this time, our great country is stretched really thin. Everyone in the media stream thinks their life matters more than anyone else's. There is no tolerance for anything. The media tells us how to believe, and how to react when someone doesn't agree with our views. I think it is crucial that we all find out what threads hold us together, not what can separate us. So, with that in mind, let's talk about our organization, the Oklahoma Selfbow Society. It is simply the greatest group of volunteers with whom I have ever been involved. We are made up of different races, different religions, different political views, maybe even different sexual orientations, but we all come together because we have a common thread, the future of primitive archery. We tolerate our differences because we have respect for each other. We stand together. So, with this in mind, let's think about what we have accomplished together in 2020, and how we grew stronger instead of weaker. Everyone put in the extra mile, and I want to reflect on that.

I want to thank everyone for coming together to have the member's campout, even though we are going through very trying times. This wasn't your "normal" member's campout due to all of the curves that CoVid-19 threw at us. Normally this weekend is a

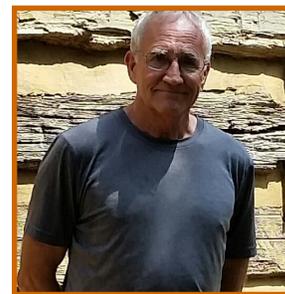


of talented people in OSS.

I also want to thank Jackie Hart and her family. Before we decided to cancel OJAM, we had purchased 500 osage seedlings to distribute to the members at the event. Since that time, the Harts have maintained them at their home, and brought them to the campout. We gave away a few, but there are hundreds left. So, they packed them all up, took them home, and have a plan to put them into dormancy so they will be ready for OJAM next year.

Since ODWC has also cancelled the Wildlife Expo, our next event will be the fall campout in October. We will camp at the Ponca Bowmen's range, and some of us will spend the weekend afield at Kaw Wildlife Management Area. If you haven't been there, you should try it! I look forward to seeing you there.

Conrad



time where the members can come to relax and just do whatever they want to do. It is a time where the "hats" get to work on their stuff and not spend all of their time teaching others. This time it required a little more from everyone, but you all came through.

I want to thank everyone who showed up on the workday in the 1,000 degree heat to get everything ready. There was a lot of mowing, trimming, and picking up that had to happen to make the Rutter Farm ready for our weekend. And thanks to Doug Rutter for continuing to allow us to use his property, it truly is a remarkable piece of land that is centrally located to most.

I want to thank everyone who planted the 400 Osage Orange trees prior to the originally scheduled OJAM. I want to give extra thanks to Jackie Fultz-Hart, she took all of those trees home by herself when OJAM didn't happen. She put them in her own containers, cared for them, kept them healthy, and then brought them back to the campout to be given away. If you haven't picked up any of those trees, there are still plenty available. Please, please, please plant a few. Thank you Paul Wollerman for transplanting some of them to Illinois. If osage orange is someday listed as a noxious and invasive tree in Illinois, remember Paul was responsible for that.

I want to thank Parker Inglee (and Jackie again) for working the registration trailer through the weekend. Since we had to move the State Selfbow Championship to this weekend (instead of OJAM), it required a lot more coordination in the trailer.

I want to thank others like Tommy Leach, Rodney Wilson, Chris Coffman, Monty Hawkins, Johnny McAdoo, Billy and Elton Moore, and everyone else

(Continued on page 4)

who jumped in for clearing the range, setting up targets, taking down targets, setting up the tent, organizing the “thunder chert” competition, getting porta-potties, the trash trailer, etc. When you have something as small and laid back as the members campout, it is amazing what has to happen behind the scenes to put it all together.

Thank you Leo Staples for making sure everything was printed, for delivering the registration trailer, ordering everything we need to survive, and all of that other little stuff you do that nobody ever really notices. Thank you for your continuous efforts in publishing the “Drawknife” so that we can all stay informed and connected with this common thread.

Thank you to every single member that paid their dues, and donated their time to better our organization. You are the real reason that we all come together and collectively carry our passion to the next generation. We count on your dues to keep us financially solvent. We count on your input to keep us on track. Thank you for getting involved and for staying involved.

I want to congratulate Zack Smith for winning the custom bow built by our master bowyers, and James Glenn for winning the dogwood arrows crafted by Conrad Kleinholz. Thank you Conrad for crafting those arrows and agreeing to step into the president’s shoes

Media Coordinator — Leo Staples

The cover photo was provided by our Northwest Representative Mark Mann. He took the photo while traveling to Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana this summer. Thanks Mark! Those of us who spend time in the woods know that the girls of summer attract the boys of fall.

For the last couple of years each edition of the Drawknife has had a theme. The articles in this edition focus on things that we simply do not have time to teach at OJAM. The theme for the Fall Drawknife is Hunting. Potential articles include food plots, blinds, tree stands, scouting, planning for a hunt, and how to care for the meat. I’m sure it will also have a hunting story or two. That is where you come in. You do not have to be a writer to submit an article. My wife, Julie is a great proofreader. Together we will make sure that you are proud of the final work. We also need ideas for the themes of future editions.

Treasurer — Parker Inglee

Hello, all! I hope this letter finds each of you well. Having still not unpacked completely from our June event, I am still uplifted by those that came out, but also appreciative in a different way to those who stayed home! With such a relatively small crowd, I can clearly see how much more difficult it would have been to maintain any semblance of compliance to CDC guidelines. The downpour that greeted us all day Friday only served to huddle us absent-minded folk into close proximity under the power tool pavilion, trees, and tarps, until some brave, soggy souls ventured to

next year. And thank you for fletching the bizillion arrows for the kids. You just keep giving and giving to this club. Thank you master bowyers for agreeing to do this project, and for encouraging our members to pay their dues.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone that serves on our board of directors, and especially our president Jason Grace. Your leadership has made us a better organization since you started leading us 4 or 5 years ago. Over this time, I have seen too often where it would have been easy for you to say “screw it, I’m done”, but you didn’t. Instead you said “I love this club and will do anything it takes to defend its members and to preserve its existence”. You are a true leader, putting everyone else’s needs in front of yours.

If I missed you or your contributions, I’m sorry and want to thank you for everything you did. Please look around for the people in your life and tell them that you appreciate them. Tell them you love them. Tell them you are there to help them, and then help them. Since we are in this world together, let’s try to pull in the same direction and not against each other.

Until the leaves fall,

Rick

Going forward production of the newsletter will start five (5) days after the deadline. Deadlines for submitting articles are as follows:

- Winter—December 31
- Spring—March 31
- Summer—June 30
- Fall—September 30

Any articles submitted after the grace period will be included in the next edition.

Good luck and please wear your safety harness if you hunt from a tree stand.

Leo



erect a bow camp pavilion.

While I haven’t been involved with working the shoot in previous events, so I don’t have much of a bearing on relative success, I do understand that the turn out for the shoot was unavoidably small compared to what it would have been at a typical OJAM. Regardless, the Oklahoma Selfbow Championship had the biggest impact on the income associated with the campout and we will need every bit of that to recover from the challenges of this pandemic in a timely manner.

(Continued on page 5)

Member dues have been another boon to the organization's efforts to regain financial stability. Since my Facebook post regarding dues payment, we have seen an uptick in dues payment. This correlates directly two things: the Master Bowyer Bow Raffle and the Members Campout. Of those that paid membership dues at the event, there were a handful of newcomers and membership upgrades; namely Braeden Heffley (forgive me, I'm spelling from memory), a young woman from my bow camp last year that went from a Youth Membership to a Family membership because she brought her parents and sister along and shot the course a couple of times with her dad! It is always

Northwest Representative—Mark Mann

Greetings from the sweltry plains of Western Oklahoma!

I hope the summer months have provided an opportunity to enjoy a reprieve from your typical work schedules. Perhaps the void left by the cancellations of OJAM and the June rendezvous have inspired some of you to put blade to wood in starting a new bow, or maybe finishing up an existing project.

One of the seemingly insurmountable problems with providing hands-on bow-building classes over a very limited time frame annually is the tendency for life to throw a wrench in the works. Competing vacation schedules, work, kids, and of course illness, all seem to be vying for those precious few days each spring when we spread ourselves amongst the aspiring bowyers of the region. Recognizing the limitations of a once annual gathering, there have been ideas evolving over the years about taking the camp to the students. That is, in addition to OJAM in the spring, regional or district gatherings might be offered at venues nearer the home of the participants.

This past July, Bear DeHart, Chad Kissinger and I had the opportunity to make that concept a reality as we entertained a shop-full of talented and aspiring bowyers over a Friday and Saturday. Additionally, OSS bowyer Chris Andes was able to make it on the second day bringing his much needed band saw and expertise while Jerry Stover made available the necessary Osage. Then, after a couple of evening's preparation, it seemed very much like business as usual, and it was great seeing the gleam in the eyes of those eager to craft a bow for the first time.

To be sure, OJAM will always be the premier event of the OSS, but there are many who will never attend a spring camp. The smaller and abbreviated format may provide an opportunity simply not available for those who cannot get away in the spring. Moreover, with the



heartening to see familial bonding moments as fruit of this craft and sport.

If my shooting at the campout is any indication, I have a lot of shooting practice to do between now and the fall. I hope you are all staying safe and hydrated in the heat, as if we wanted anything else encouraging us to stay inside!

Keep your feathers dry!

Parker



smaller group, instruction can be personalized, and the participants can come and go as desired. The more casual gathering also seems to allow more time to become well-acquainted with each of the group.

One-on-one and small group instruction is common to several of our members, but many of us set aside only the few days in March to share what we've learned over many years. Whether one-on-one, or instructing a handful, consider partnering up with one or more of the many OSS bowyers and see how much enjoyment there is in a week-end set aside for instruction and fellowship.

For those who hunt, it's time to begin surveying your prospective hunting venues, preparing your feeders and game cameras, and of course, practicing with your favorite bow for the upcoming game seasons. For those who use elevated hunting blinds, take a little extra time this year to ensure your hunting platforms are safe and secure. The heat, wind, vegetation and (rare) moisture can undermine the stability of rope, wood and other materials making a hunting blind a potential hazard. Statistically, hunting blind mishaps are the bowhunter's greatest potential source of injury.

I wish for all of you a safe fall as we look forward to a time when we may all again gather to share the fervor and satisfaction shared in the pursuit of bow building.

The current viral pandemic will ultimately be under control, but for all that confronts and challenges us, remember to Bow up and bear down!

Mark

Find us online at <https://www.okselfbow.com/> or on Facebook **Oklahoma Selfbow Society - OJAM**.



Campfire Cooking — K. P. Lehman

SOURDOUGH

Sourdough, it brings to life thoughts of flint and steel, the gold rush, longbows, wood burning stoves, grizzly bears, old San Francisco, cast iron Dutch ovens, flint points, Conestoga wagons, but most of all that fantastic aroma and taste. Historians think it has been in constant use for baking for 4000 to 6000 years. It was the only leavening agent used until the end of the 19th century when commercially processed yeast was developed, but sourdough survived because of its unique flavor. If you haven't tried sourdough biscuits, bread or pancakes, you've missed out on a real delicacy.

In order to bake sourdough products you need a sourdough starter, which is a living colony of yeast that thrive on flour and water which ferments like a new batch of fine wine. I've read that the growth of the yeast is most prolific at about 85 degrees and it stops about 60 degrees. There are many recipes for sourdough starter, and many people believe that the older the colony is, the better.

In order to make your own sourdough starter, you need to start with a container. Just like doing your own home tanning, don't use a metal container or spoon, it will adversely affect your starter. Select an earthenware container rather than wood or plastic because it will keep the starter better. Glass is OK. Your container should hold at least 8 cups. Unless the starter will be used 2 or 3 times a week, it will be kept in the refrigerator so consider that in making your selection. The container will need a loose fitting lid so gas created by the fermenting process can escape.

True sourdough bread is made without yeast. Stir 2 cups of all purpose flour (not self rising) into 2 cups of warm water, place the lid loosely on the container and put it in a warm place; on top of the refrigerator or on top of the hot water tank are good choices. Stir 3 or 4 times a day and every 24 hours feed the starter by discarding ½ the mixture and stirring in one cup of flour mixed into one cup of warm water and re-cover. Within 3 or 4 days, sometimes as much as a week, the mixture will begin to bubble and ferment and you will notice a distinctive but pleasant sour aroma. Success! Your starter is ready, you can use it as per your recipe.



You can keep your starter going in the refrigerator by adding ½ cup of flour dissolved in ½ cup of warm water each week. Remove some if needed. Stir every couple of days. Add one cup of the same mixture for each cup removed for baking.

If you want to do it the easy way, (but then, by our very nature, we don't do everything the easy way) begin by dissolving one package of active dry yeast in 2 cups of warm water. Add 2 tablespoons of sugar and 2 cups of all purpose flour. Place the lid loosely on the container and put it in a warm spot as above. Stir 2 or 3 times a day for about 3 days or when it begins to bubble. Replace used starter with an equal amount of the flour/water mixture. If you don't use your starter for a week, stir in one teaspoon of sugar. Stir every couple of days.

You can also buy sourdough starter from kingarthurflour.com or sourdo.com.

Put a cup of your working starter in a zip lock bag and store it in the freezer in case something happens to your refrigerated starter. It can be reactivated by thawing, adding ½ cup flour ½ cup warm water mixture to it and sitting it in a warm place for a day or two. If a water-like substance forms on the top of the starter, just stir it back in. Use the starter at the rate of 1 cup for each single package of dry yeast in your recipe. If the starter is cold, allow it to reach room temperature before use.

BASIC SOURDOUGH BREAD

1 cup	sourdough starter
1 cup	water
1-1/2 tbsp	sugar
1 tsp	salt
1 tbsp	soft shortening
3-1/2 cups	all purpose flour

The secret of good sourdough bread or rolls is to mix a batter beforehand. Thoroughly mix the cup of sourdough starter, the cup of water and 2 cups of the flour from the recipe. Reserve remaining flour. Cover and place in a warm place overnight. By morning the sourdough starter will season the additional flour and water. Stir in the remaining flour and the other ingredients. Bake at 425 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes and enjoy!

KP

Got Obsidian? by Mark Mann

Ask any knapper or armchair archaeologist about the virtues of obsidian and the ensuing discussion will likely include something about the ability of this naturally occurring glass to produce implements of incredible sharpness. At about 5.5 on the Mohs scale of mineral hardness, obsidian is certainly not the most unyielding of the many natural stones used in the making of prehistoric edged implements and projectile points. However, the edge achievable with obsidian sounds almost mythical as it is possible to achieve, under ex-

acting conditions, an edge as narrow as 3 nanometers (a nanometer is equal to 1/one billionth of a meter). To provide some visual reference, the infamous COVID-19 virus particle (virion) measures about 120 nanometers is diameter. That many edged weapons and implements were fashioned from obsidian therefore should not be surprising.

Recently, while traveling over the mountainous areas of Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana, I was told of an

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

area where obsidian could be found in large amounts. Incredulously, I took the bait with the hopes of finding a few big stone fragments. It took very little time to find scattered adjacent to the narrow two-lane road were many small flakes of the shiny black stone.



Closer inspection revealed large stones of obsidian stacked along the walkway near a historical marker. A single stone from along the walkway would accommodate the needs of a community of flint knappers for decades. The weight of each boulder used as a border stone probably exceeded a quarter ton.

Before leaving this amazing assemblage of large obsidian stones, the glint of the mountain side west of the road seemed to catch our eye. My son and I discussed the likelihood of obsidian being found in and around the rocky cliffs facing us. Needing to have our curiosity satisfied, we began the trek around the massive boulders that had organized at the base of the 200' cliffs over the last one hundred thousand years. As we applied a little more scrutiny to massive stones that confronted our pathway, it was clear that not only was there obsidian in the cliffs, the cliffs were composed entirely of obsidian. Every stone we touched, walked upon or around, presented us with the same black sheen, some of which showing areas of fracture where smaller pieces were obviously broken off and harvested. Some of the boulders showed striations of

pink intervening stone producing a layered-cake appearance. Some boulders were clearly more pure in appearance than others, but each was a treasure trove of knapping material.

At this point of my narrative it would be fair of the reader to inquire as to how much stone I returned with, and just where can this "obsidian Heaven" be found? While I'm not always inclined to give up the location of my honey holes, I think this is simply too great a resource to keep hidden away.



This obsidian Bonanza is located in the northwest quadrant of a large tract of land affectionately known as Yellowstone National Park. This concentration of natural glass is known as "Obsidian Cliff", and it extends for about ½ mile. The area was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1996. While the two or three physicians I know of practicing inside of the prison walls communicate a great deal of satisfaction with their practice, I have no desire for that type of career move just now, so the entirety of the obsidian was left at the cliff for all to enjoy.

If visiting the state of Wyoming is in your crosshairs in the foreseeable future, carve out enough time to visit this wonderful national treasure. However, because looting a National Historic Landmark is not a skill set that looks good on a resume, carry away nothing from the site but good memories.

Mark

For Draw Lengths Under 18 Inches by Parker Inglee

With young ones in the house, time in the shop can be limited. A day will come when time with dad while he is home from work is not the most valuable commodity and I will have much more freedom to pursue bow building and whatever other crafts I enjoy occupying myself with, but when that day comes, the present day will be the bygone "good old days". With this in mind, I often like to bring the kids in the shop with me. Frankly, this often makes the time entirely unproductive as I drop the drawknife, scraper, hide glue, clamping apparatus, etc. and rush across the garage to rectify whatever non-child-proofed mishap is bound to happen. Be it handfuls of sawdust thrown through the box fan or a previously discarded



epoxy mixing stick used for wall art.

Though largely counter productive to my personal crafting endeavors, there are abundant ways to get them involved that have quickly become some of the most proud/cherished moments from my time spent involved with primitive archery. My oldest boy, Caleb, is about to turn 5 and graduated from suction cup points to target points at 3. He has outgrown his skunk skin quiver and loves his racoon skin quiver and rattan bow. Benaiah, my toddler, will be 2 this fall and will soon inherit the skunk quiver. He has been learning how to shoot an Osage bow, but much prefers using his bow to bludgeon his target, or really anything within reach. I'm sure he'll one day learn the value of stabbing things from farther away. For those who like specifications, it is somewhere in the ballpark of 18" NTN

(Continued on page 8)

and 1.5#@11". It was fashioned from a sizeable splinter that I hacked off while roughing out this year's trade bow.

For whetting the appetites of the little tikes, I've found that taking the time to introduce some age appropriate activities does wonders to get them more involved. So, for those with toddlers and preschool aged kids that hope to encourage some involvement or even excitement, I'll be the first to tell you that many times, they simply won't be interested. However, I wanted to share a few things that have gotten my boys' hands dirty and made some good memories.

The fastest way to slow your progress is to plop a child in your lap while you're scraping or using your drawknife on a stave, but that is exactly what they want to do sometimes. Most of the time, I can guide them to a ring that I am going to chase after they go to bed anyway so, with protective guidance in place for any sharp tools, let them have a go at "chasing" that ring for you. They'll love making shavings. The shavings are also a great sensory activity for toddlers. I've entertained a 1 year old for 15 minutes (more than 15 times his typical attention span) by handing him a broom and chasing a ring to give him more to sweep.

For those who harvest their own wood or buy staves with bark on, if you can trust your preschooler with a drawknife (under supervision, of course), the bark comes off easy enough for them to drawknife through and see a tangible difference with each stroke of the blade. I also fletch and self-nock my arrows with sinew and hide glue. The morning after I've fletched a batch of arrows, my older son has liked to go out with me and "carefully" pull off the thread that I use to secure the quill to the shaft as the hide glue is cured.

Naturally, loosing an arrow will be warranted at some point. I would be remiss not to mention the need for additional and repetitious safety teachings that go along with shooting with children. I.e. - Family and pets being behind us, focusing on the target, posture/foot placement to



roughly determine trajectory before an arrow is in hand, and (just like the finger stays out of the trigger guard) the arrow stays off of the string until it is time to fire, just to name a few. We can make this more fun than just sticking the target, too. When Caleb wanted to fight dragons, I was able to convince him that arrows were just as effective as a knight's sword, so we drew a big dragon that we pinned to the shooting block and made quite porous before it was proudly hung on the refrigerator for months to come.

I hope these thoughts, experiences, and ideas help



any of the parents and other involved adults to engage in some safe, fun activities with the young ones close to them.

Parker

"Nothing Clears A Troubled Mind Like Shooting A Bow"

Fred Bear

Adhesives by Tommy Leach

I was asked to put together an article on adhesives used in bow building. The items I will discuss are the ones I have had success with over the past years.

Titebond II – I use this in a couple of applications. First is when harvesting a tree, I mix Titebond II approximately 1:1 with water and paint it on the ends of the log to slow checking. After the log is split into staves, I reseal the ends about 3-4" on each end of the stave as well as one inch from the back along the side of the stave. This will help



force the moisture through the center of the belly. If I remove the bark, I always remove the sapwood as well. When I do this, I also paint a coat on the back to prevent checking. I also use Titebond II thinned 1:2 glue to water to size the back of the bow when applying snake skins. After the sizing dries, I apply another coat on the bow's back and to the flesh side of the rehydrated snakeskin.

Hide Glue – This product is all I use when sinew backing a bow. I mix the granules with water and put on a hot plate on a low to medium temperature. I maintain the glue temperature at ~110°F. It should be the consistency of thin syrup. Add some granules if it's too thin or water if it's too thick.

(Continued on page 9)

Smooth-on Epoxy (EA-40) – Since URAC185 has been discontinued I have switched over to Smooth-on Epoxy for bamboo backed bows. I apply to both the slat and bamboo and let it cure overnight after clamping. You can speed the curing process by putting in a hot box for ~3 hours. I always leave the extra glue with the bow to verify it has cured. I also use this glue on splices and take down handles. I am just finishing a new Baleen bellied bow where I used smooth-on as the adhesive. Lastly, I will use this product on tip overlays when using antler or similar hard, dense materials.

Super-T CA – I like the green bottle that is a gel. This is the primary glue I use to put on tip overlays. Also, I use the accelerant and your tips will be ready to work in a matter of minutes.

Loctite 495 or 777 – These products are a thin super glue. I use them to fill in drying checks and attaching a leather shelf to my bows. After shaping the shelf, a good coat of this glue will make it waterproof and it will sand like wood. Another use is when tying feathers on your arrows I coat the sinew or thread to keep it from coming loose. Last year I built a bow with Pygmy rattlesnakes on it. It took three snakes to cover the back since they are so short. Where the splice was, I wrapped with serving thread and used thin super glue to secure the wrapping.

Epoxy – For a finish you can use this mixed to Acetone. Take a kit of resin and hardener (long cure not the five minute) and mix with about 200 ml (~6.75 oz)

of acetone in a mason jar. Use all the glue. Shake and stir until the epoxy has dissolved. You apply with a lint free rag to your bow. This make a nice hard, water-proof finish. Jay Massey used this finish on some of his bows.

Duco Cement – This is the glue I use when fletching feathers on wood shafts. Run a bead down the quill of your feather and place in your fletching jig. After it dries, I put a drop on each end of the quill.

I've described the different products I currently use. One of the most important things for any adhesive to work well is your surface preparation. I always rough up each side that is being glued. I have a tooting plane, but a coarse tooth hacksaw blade works just as well. Scrape and rough up these surfaces then degrease. Wash the surfaces with Acetone or isopropyl alcohol and brush it with a brass or steel brush. This will remove the oils and loose particles. By roughing up the surfaces you have increased the surface area of your joint. Also make sure the pieces you are gluing have good contact free of voids. When clamping don't over tighten your clamps and create a dry joint by squeezing out all the glue.

Most all the products above are available from one of our Corporate sponsors. If you have questions send me a note at stillwaterselfbows@suddenlink.net.

Tommy

Spoonbill Skins For Bow Backing—Part 1 by Billy Moore

I've been asked several times how I go about getting my spoonbill skins for bow backings, and how I prep them. They are as tough, if not tougher, than rawhide and, not as thick .

Larger spoonbill are better for backing. Fifty pound and bigger have enough skin for at least 3 bows, three strips of skin down each side. The pair of skins on the back will be the darker set and have more of the rough bumps on the surface.

One of the main things to keep in mind is the less you handle the fish, the less blemishes you will have. There will almost always be lines on the skin from the fishing line as they roll. Skinning them as soon as possible helps keep the color in good shape. I head for home as quick as I can after keeping the one I want. Some ice water from an ice chest and a small tarp are handy to have along if you are a ways from home. If you decide to clean the spoonbill at the spot you caught it at just remember to keep all the parts together and tagged with your information (It's the law in Oklahoma).

When skinning the fish I hang them to make it easier. I start by splitting the skin down the middle of the back from the head to the tail. I go around each side of the fin on the back staying as close as I



can.

I then cut around the fish behind the head staying close to the head. I stop just before the belly (the belly skins are short and usually full of oils that are hard to get out when drying). I make a cut from the head to the tail down each side staying close to the fins on the belly and down each side of the one on the tail.

I skin the fish like you would a pig. Don't worry about staying close to the skin, the red meat and fat will have to be trimmed from the meat anyway. Do not use skinning pliers or anything else to grip the skin. They will leave unsightly marks on the skin that will be permanent. Be careful when you get close to the skin with the knife, it's easy to cut small holes in the skin. There will be a layer of red meat and fat that will be scraped off later. To Be Continued in part 2.

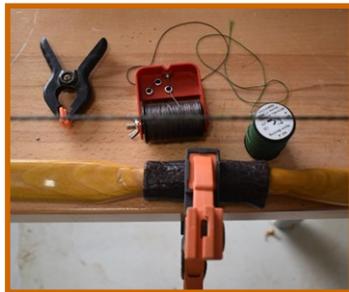


Billy

Serving A Bow String by Leo Staples

Serving a bow string is another one of the bowyer skills that we simply do not have the time to teach at OJAM. While serving a bow string is not a hard skill to master, like most other traditional archery skills it does take some practice. Bowyers serve a string for several reasons. First, it protects the string from oils and dirt on your fingers that would act as sandpaper when the arrow nock contacts the string. Second, it builds up the area of the string making for a better fit with the arrow nock. Third, it allows for the placement of a string nock in a way that does not compromise the integrity of the bow string. Finally, the serving string color can add to the overall look of the bow.

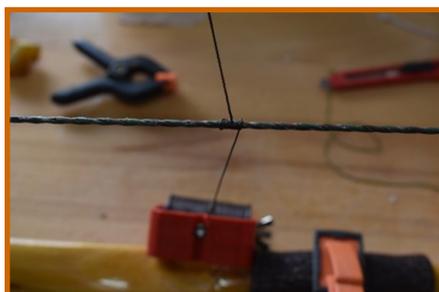
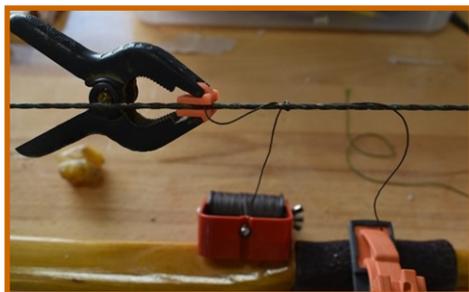
While this can be done freehand, a serving jig makes the process much easier and provides more consistent results. Equipment used in this article includes a Serve-Tite string server, Brownell No. 4 nylon spring clamp, and a sharp knife. Corporate members Nocking Point Archery (<https://thenockingpoint.com/>) and Pine Hollow Longbows (<https://pinehollowlongbows.com>) both offer string jigs and serving string.



Typical serving length is between 7" and 10". The handle wrap on this bow is 4". For this bow the serving will start 1" below the handle wrap and continue to 2" above the arrow rest. Before starting the serving, wax the section of the bow string where the serving will be located.

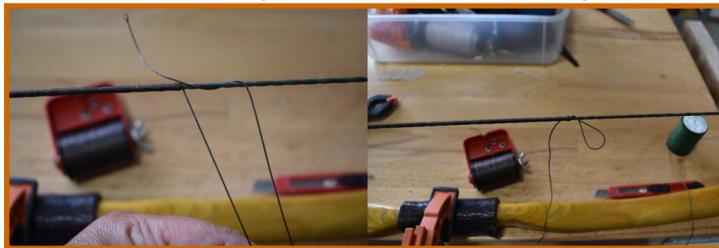
To start the serving pull out 8" of serving thread from the server.

Make a loop running the tag line down the bow string. Wrap the bow string 6 to 8 times. Pull the tag end back against the serving wraps and make several more wraps. This will capture the tag end. Remove the clamp and pull the tag end until the loop is pulled under the serving wraps.



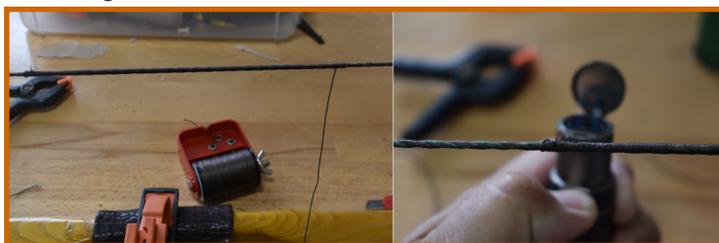
Tighten the serving string until the serving tool sets on the bow string. Use the wing nut on the serving tool to adjust the tension. It should have enough tension to keep the tool on the bow string, but not so much that it causes the bow

string to twist. Using the serving tool takes some practice. Continue serving the string until it at least 2" above the arrow rest. Pull out 8" to 10" of string, make a loop, and make at least six wraps around the string with the tag end. The serving string must be wrapped as shown in photo. Hold the tag end while continue to serve the bow string. This locks down the tag end.



Pull the tag end until the loop is under the serving.

Cut the tag end close to the string and carefully burn both tags off.



Now determine where to locate the nock. In this case, the bowyer shoots two under. So, the nock is



located under the arrow. To make the nock, take about 10" of serving string and run it across wax. Next tie a knot next to the arrow nock. Tie four more knots in the same direction alternating from over and under the bow string. Now reverse direction and tie four more knots. Pull the last knot tight, cut the ends, and burn them off. Note that some bowyers run the nock string over a glue stick as the glue will melt when you burn off the ends. If you decide to do this be careful as you can easily burn the string.

If everything works out your served string should look something like this. Please feel free to drop me a note at (media@okselfbow.com) if you have any questions.

Leo



The Point of Making Arrows by Mark Mann

The blue aluminum arrow bisecting the handle of my first selfbow seemed to produce a very unnatural image, but during the construction of that first bow I'd failed to contemplate the other half of the archery arrangement, the minor detail of the projectile. Somehow I'd accumulated a handful of aluminum arrows—probably leftovers from my brief foray into compound bows some twenty years prior. At any rate, the two objects presented a stark contrast as one was born of a dense indigenous wood species and constructed largely by primitive hand tools, while the other the product of precision machining and technologically-advanced lightweight alloys with steel threaded inserts and plastic fletching. Perhaps more importantly, the bow seemed to reflect an achievement in skill and a movement towards self-reliance, while the metal projectile reminded me that I remained tethered to my local sporting goods retailer.

My first full set of wooden arrows came the following February during my first OSS banquet and auction, where, for a reasonable price, I acquired a dozen wooden arrows. These “woodies” represented the entirety of my arrow stock over the following year. While the arrows were obviously constructed by competent hands, the hands were not my own, and the sense of dependency remained.

Let me suggest here that arrow construction seems to carry an undeserved intimidation factor for many, and I was no exception. After all (and especially in the compound world), there are formulas and established standards to consider. AMO standards (now known as the Archery Trade Association), IBO recommendations, spine and spine deflection parameters, arrow weight considerations, arrow shaft weight distribution, fletching materials, length, and pattern are just a handful of the variables that get kicked around, the consideration of which easily deterring the novice or would-be arrowsmith. To further complicate things, there is no clear consensus about the type of wood best suited for shaft construction.

Perhaps—and not unlike the evolution of the bow—we've complicated arrow-making far beyond what is necessary. This occurred to me one day as I glanced over an ancient Apache arrow suspended within a glass frame in my library. The arrow, believed to be over 150 years-old, appears to be made of a rose wood shaft. Its original point and fletching are attached with thin sinew cord. The nock is formed by a natural fork in the limb used for the shaft. The fletching is a single feather lashed to the shaft at the quill providing two vanes. The arrow has no-doubt been changed by time and the elements, but I suspect it was never a thing of absolute beauty such as can be purchased from many of the souvenir retailers along old Route 66. This particular arrow was, however, built to sustain a people by procuring food or inflicting harm or death upon neighboring tribesmen during regional conquest. It, and thousands similar to it, was made without the benefit of a spine tester or scales. However, I suspect that when the arrow found its way into the warrior's quiver, there was little doubt about its perfor-

mance. So what can be learned from that primitive arrow? Don't get bogged down by the vernacular! Constructing an arrow suitable for target or game is surprisingly simple. The first few dozen may seem cumbersome, but in the end, will be well worth the investment of time.

For straight forward instructions on arrow-making, look no further than Jay Massey's chapter on “Self Arrows” in Volume 1 of the Traditional Bowyer's Bible. This chapter not only served as the impetus that moved me towards building my own arrows, but also provided easy to follow, step-by-step instructions. I've found a great deal of enjoyment in producing arrows in the same manner outlined in Massey's instructions with Sitka Spruce for the shaft material (which I plane down to the proper size and shape), wild turkey wing feathers for fletching, and a projectile point often fabricated from an old stainless steel spoon or scrap metal. These components are assembled with hide glue and elk sinew. The shafts are typically dyed then coated with tung oil.

Most regions of our state are replete with the necessary raw materials needed for arrow production. River cane can be found along many of our waterways, and dogwood is found in virtually every county of Oklahoma. Serve notice to just a handful of your hunting buddies that you're in need of turkey feathers, and the plastic bags will begin to magically accumulate supplying more primary wing feathers than can be used in a lifetime. It's not uncommon for me to find bloody sacks of turkey wings laying outside my office door or tossed in the bed of my pickup. Sinew and hide glue can be harvested from wild game, or bought for a very reasonable price from several of the vendors who support the OSS.

With time and experience, I'm now producing arrows far superior to those first few dozen. And while many of the arrows produced that first year now appear almost comical, most flew with good effect and made meat.

Learning to produce arrows is the logical “next step” for the bowyer. Building arrows allows one the ability to compliment a certain bow as well as accommodate various hunting environments and conditions. Moreover, to fully understand the performance of the arrow, one cannot help but become a better bowyer. Consider producing your arrows for the upcoming fall season—there is still plenty of time and our club has many accomplished and seasoned fletchers who are only too happy to help.

Mark



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