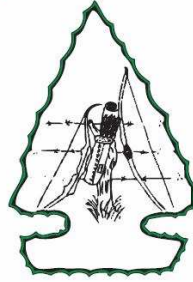


Nebraska Traditional Archers



*We promise to keep it simple*

Volume 2  
Issue 4

October  
2011

# The Bent Stick Bulletin



# 2011 Calendar of Events

## Sep 15, Thursday, through Dec 31, Saturday, 2011

Nebraska Archery Turkey Season Open Statewide

## Sep 15, Thursday, through Dec 31, Saturday, 2011

Nebraska Archery Deer Season Open Statewide

## Sep 15, Thursday, 2011 through Jan 18, Wednesday, 2012

Nebraska Archery Deer Season Choice Areas Open

## Oct 1, Saturday, through Oct 10, Monday, 2011

Nebraska October Antlerless Whitetail Deer Season Open

## Dec 15, Deadline for Jan Newsletter

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**On the Cover** – NTA Member, eleven year old Samuel Anzalone, of Arlington, Nebraska was the first bowman to complete a bow at the 2011 NTA Bow Building Jamboree held at the Izaak Walton Park in Fremont, Nebraska. Samuel completed his bow right after lunch on the first day after less than four hours of working on the blank bamboo backed stave. After hitting his first two shots with his newly completed bow at the 20 and 30 yard targets, Samuel is shown drawing his new bow for his third shot at the 50 yard target. Judging from his near perfect shooting form and beautifully tillered first bow, he has a very promising future as a traditional bowman & bowyer. Samuel wished to thank all of the NTA members who generously helped him with building his bow, and especially Dave Manwarren for lending him the light weight 28" arrows to shoot. Samuel also had very special thanks for the members of the Compton Traditional Bowhunters for giving him the new T-Shirt.

# 2012 Tentative Dates

## Jan 14, 2012, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting  
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

## Jan 20 – 22, 2012

River City Hunting Fishing RV Boat Expo, NTA Exhibit  
Mid America Center, Council Bluffs, IA

## Jan 27 – 29, 2012

Big Buck Classic, NTA Exhibit Booth  
Quest Center, Omaha, NE

## Jan 27 – 29, 2012

Kalamazoo Traditional Archery Expo  
Kalamazoo, MI

## Feb 4, 2012, Saturday, 9:00am

NTA Dart Shoot and Swap Meet  
D B Archery, Platte Center, NE

## Feb 25, 2012, Saturday, 5:00pm

NTA Annual Meeting, Elections and Banquet  
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE, Large Lodge

## Mar 3 – 4, 2012

Nebraska Bowhunters Awards Banquet, NTA Exhibit  
Ramada Inn, Kearney, NE

## Mar 3 – 4, 2012

Midwest Traditional and Primitive Archery Expo  
Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, Waterloo, IA

## Mar 10, 2012, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting  
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

## Apr 14, 2012, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting  
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

## Apr 15, 2012, Sunday

NTA Annual String Shoot  
Hormel Park, Fremont, NE

## May 12, 2012, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting  
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

## June 9, 2012, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting  
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

## June 14-17, 2012

Compton Traditional Bowhunters Rendezvous  
Berrien Springs, Michigan

## July 14-15, 2012, Saturday, 8am – 6pm, Sunday 8am – 3pm

BOJAM – Bow Building Jamboree  
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

## Aug 11, 2012, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting  
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

## Sept 1-2, 2012

NTA Annual Rendezvous  
Hormel Park, Fremont, NE

## Sept 8, 2012, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting  
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

## Nebraska Traditional Archers

### Mission Statement

- *Nebraska Traditional Archers mission is to promote and protect the sport of traditional archery.*
- *Represent the Traditional Archery community at the state and national levels.*
- *Provide traditional archers the opportunity to gather, shoot, maintain and expand their skills and knowledge of traditional archery and its rich history.*
- *Advocate and require the strict adherence to fair chase principles.*

**The Bent Stick Bulletin** is published four times a year for members of the Nebraska Traditional Archers. Articles are the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the NTA. Members are invited to send stories and photographs for publication to the Editor listed at bottom right.

#### Submission deadlines:

Feb 15 for Mar Issue	Jul 15 for Aug Issue
May 15 for Jun Issue	Dec 15 for Jan Issue

**Membership** in the Nebraska Traditional Archers is \$20 for annual individual or family membership. Life membership is \$150. Business membership is \$40 per year, which includes printing a business card or logo in each quarterly issue. All memberships and changes should be sent to the Treasurer / Membership Chairman listed in the column at right.

## Treasurer's Report – by Rick Saar

This year we had a record income for the recent history of the NTA Rendezvous and a record high Balance after the Rendezvous that is more than 70% higher than last year's Balance...

New Balance on Sept 15, 2011 .... \$12,592.75

Last Year's Balance on Sept 15 .... \$7,393.37

## NTA Officers

### President

Rob Brooks (402) 677-8677  
PO Box 522, Valley, NE 68064  
brooks.rob@gpcom.net

### Vice President – Concessions Chairman

Ken Oberschulte (402) 694-9318  
805 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Aurora, NE 68818  
vp@nebraskatraditionalarchers.org

### Treasurer – Membership Chairman

Rick Saar (712) 487-3013  
P.O. Box 213, Treynor, IA 51575  
ricksaar@frontiernet.net

### Secretary – Past President

Vince Smith (402) 727-9141, (402) 936-0046  
320 W Military Avenue, Fremont, NE 68025  
vsmith2425@neb.rr.com

### Director – Rangemaster

Eric Wellman (402) 840-3596  
3417 B Street, Lincoln, NE 68510  
ewellman@hotmail.com

### Director – Webmaster

Randy Nielsen (402) 598-2306  
907 Bordeaux Avenue, Bellevue, NE 68123  
secretary@nebraskatraditionalarchers.org

### Director – Izaak Walton Representative

Jerry Bennett (402) 727-5501  
1550 N Summers, Fremont, NE 68025  
jerrywbennett@hotmail.com

### Director

Brian Shea (402) 812-9807  
13474 Frederick Street, Omaha, NE 68144  
bowguy50@yahoo.com

### Director

Dave Manwarren (402) 363-9404  
Box 264, Exeter, NE 68351  
davebonnie@windstream.net

### Director

Jeremy Misfeldt (402) 830-6203  
1743 N. Platte Street, Fremont, NE 68025  
thebigone88@msn.com

### Director

Frank Hicken (402) 720-4646  
940 Oak St., North Bend, NE 68649  
fchicken@gpcom.net

### Director

George Kaplan (402) 670-0126  
8124 S. 154th St, Omaha, NE 68138  
cowboygeorge@cox.net.

### Editor – Historian

Wade Phillips (402) 493-6004  
1429 N 127<sup>th</sup> Cir, Omaha, NE 68154  
wadephillips@cox.net


In July we had a record number of members attend the 2011 NTA Bow Building Jamboree at the Izaak Walton Park in Fremont. The 57 attendees worked on dozens of bows, many of which were being shot the first afternoon of the event. We also had a record gross income from this event that was almost twice as much as our previous best year. I'd like to thank everyone who attended and especially all the members who took time from their personal bow building to help less experienced members. I won't mention the names of all the guys who helped others because most of them are so modest they would rather not have their names mentioned at all. Giving back to the sport and helping your fellow bowman by sharing information and teaching others is one of the many things that has always made the sport of traditional archery so special.

We have discussed having a Chairmen for each of our annual events. If you would like to become the Chairman of a specific event, be sure to let us know what you would like to do.

At the August Monthly Meeting, Jerry Bennett was elected to the new position Director – Izaak Walton Representative. Jerry is on the Board of the Fremont Chapter of Ike's and the driving force behind their new archery range. I'm certain our members who made the contributions mentioned in Jerry's article on page 18 are appreciative of the kind words on behalf of the Ike's. Again, these un-named members do these things for the satisfaction of helping. Jerry's creativity to get groups of sportsmen organized for their mutual benefit is only exceeded by his enthusiasm to roll up his sleeves to help complete any project at hand that needs to get finished (except of course his 15 year old tight ringed black locust stave).

With the exception of Saturday morning at the Rendezvous, we were blessed with far better weather than we ever could have expected. We had a record income from the drawings, raffles and auctions. I just can't say enough good words about all of the generous donations that we received, all of the members who attended the shoot as well as all who participated in the potluck dinner and auctions.

[lonesomewindlongbows.com](http://lonesomewindlongbows.com)

Take Down		One Piece
		Youth Bows
Vince Smith		
(402) 727-9141		vsmith2425@neb.rr.com

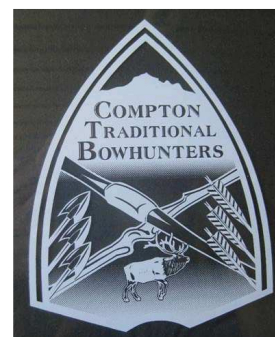


Our Rendezvous Guest Speaker was our own Dick Mauch from Bassett. Dick was outstanding. The film of his 1965 and 1968 African trips was memorable and far better than any modern footage that I ever remember seeing. We can't thank Dick enough for everything he has done for traditional archery and the NTA.

In the 1-page Treasurer's Report article on page 13, Rick Saar did an excellent job of summarizing the status of our club and much of the progress that we have made. I'm convinced that Rick said everything far better than I could ever hope to say it.

In the last issue, I mentioned that we had a dozen members who contributed articles or photos to that issue and made an appeal to everyone to contribute something for the next issue. I'm pleased to report that we had even more contributors to this issue. I'd like to ask everyone who has contributed in the past, to keep those articles and photos coming. I'd also like to ask those who have not contributed yet to consider coming up with an old or new photo or a rough draft of an article to submit to our editor. Let's keep this tradition alive to keep our Newsletter growing.

I hope everyone gets out hunting this fall, gets out often, has a great time and the best of luck.



<http://comptontraditional.com/>

The Compton Traditional Bowhunters is the national organization for Traditionalists. Many NTA members are also Compton members. Compton has supported the NTA in many ways. If you are not a Compton member you should consider joining this fine organization.

# 2011 Bow Building Jamboree

by Wade Phillips

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual NTA Bow Building Jamboree was held July 23 & 24 at the Izaak Walton Park in Fremont, Nebraska. The Jamboree was open from 8:00am to 6:00pm Saturday and 8:00am to 3:00pm Sunday.

A record number of attendees were on hand for this event. The sign in sheet included these names.

Brandon Abbott  
Melonie Abbott  
Troy Anzalone  
Samuel Anzalone  
Josh Barnes  
Jerry Bennett  
Maxine Bennett  
Jeff Brietkreutz  
Rob Brooks  
Tucker Brooks  
Steve Bunck  
Rich Caldwell  
Matt Clarke  
David Clarke  
Michael "Buford" Davis  
Joel Dering  
Kathleen Dering  
Hanna Dering  
Hanna's Friend Alesha  
Curtis Friedrich  
Jacob Friedrich  
Marv Gibson  
Frank Hicken  
Zack Hicken  
Brian Hoefener  
Al Johannes  
Jim Johannes  
Chyanne Krause  
Brooklyn Krause  
Easton Krause

George Kaplan  
Chris Madsen  
Dave Manwarren  
Steve Martin  
Randy Nielsen  
Ken Oberschulte  
Jay Olson  
Dylan Olson  
Mitch Osborn  
Robin Phillips  
Wade Phillips  
Mike Rhoades  
Rod Robinson  
Rob Roettele  
Nick Roy  
Jack Ruff  
Kevin Rush  
Vic Scheer  
Brian Shea  
Vince Smith  
Dede Smith  
Douglas Sorem  
Laurie Sorem  
Dave Thomas  
Dawn Thomas  
Eric Wellman  
Steve Wiley  
Stan Wolf  
Levi Rath



*Early Saturday morning dozens of staves were lined up along the east-west fence. Mitch Osborn and Matt Clarke check the small bandsaw before everyone arrived and the power tools were turned on and the sawdust started flying.*

During the setup preparations on Friday afternoon, NTA Vice President, Ken Oberschulte from Aurora brought a large air conditioner that was installed in one of the windows in the Izaak Walton Small Lodge. The Small Lodge cooled off nicely and throughout the weekend served as an oasis for the record number of attendees to escape from the 90 degree plus heat. The Small Lodge was used for Registration, Lunch and Seminars.

Ken's foresighted and generous act of providing this air conditioner for all to enjoy, deserves a big tip of the old camo hat and thanks from everyone who attended and cooled off in the Small Lodge!!!

During the weekend several Mini-Seminars were conducted by NTA members, which included...

Basic Self Bow Building – Vince Smith  
Rawhide Backing – Nick Roy  
Sinew Backing – Marv Gibson  
Snakeskin Backing – Vince Smith  
Dogwood Arrows – Marv Gibson  
Advanced Arrow Building – Dave Manwarren  
Flemish Stings – Steve Bunck  
Removing Twist from a Stave – Rob Brooks  
Z-Slicing Billets – Vince Smith  
Flint Knapping – Vince Smith

The NTA and NTA members provided several power tools and hand tools for use by members to work on bows. Two 14" band saws, three 4"x24" vertical isolating belt sanders, three 4"x36" horizontal belt sanders, three 12" disc sanders as well as numerous bow horses and Stave Presses were on hand and put to use by bowbuilders.

The NTA would like to thank the following members for bringing their Personal Power Tools, Bow Horses and Stave Presses for members to use throughout the weekend.

Dave Thomas  
Vince Smith  
Rob Brooks  
Ken Oberschulte  
Wade Phillips  
Matt Clarke  
Nick Roy  
Frank Hicken  
Randy Nielsen

Several members brought completed bows to brag on and broken or unshootable bows to be fixed. Several bows were repaired throughout the weekend and brought back to a shootable life.

Lunch was served both days by our resident bowman-chef Ken Oberschulte and his very capable crew of young assistants, Hanna, Alesha and Brooklyn,

Despite the hot weather, several members camped out over the weekend including Brian Shea, Randy Nielsen, Dave Manwarren, Robin Phillips, Doug & Laurie Sorem and Dave & Dawn Thomas.

## 2011 Bow Building Jamboree *continued*

Several awards were granted to attendees at the 2011 Bow Building Jamboree. Winners in each category were...

First Shootable Bow Completed – Sam Anzalone (cover)  
Most Crooked Bow Completed – Mike Rhoades  
Most Unusual Bow Horse – Frank Hicken  
Most Unusual Bow – Rob Roettele's "Crutch Bow"  
Best Repair – Rob Brooks on Matt Clarke's Osage Bow  
Snakiest Osage Stave – Wade Phillips  
Best Vintage Tool Collection – Frank Hicken  
Best Walking Stick – Laurie Sorem  
Traveling Award – Dawn & Dave Thomas  
Oldest Uncompleted Bow – Jerry Bennett's Locust Stave  
Fruitiest Bow – Brain Shea, laminated apple & pear riser



Nick Roy and Rob Roettele rawhide back a bow made from a wooden crutch that won the "Most Unusual Bow" award.



Frank Hicken won the "Most Unusual Bow Horse" award. He named his unique creation "The Bohemian Bow Horse". Note that it has no legs. The horizontal bar simply attaches to a pickup receiver. The Stave Press and tractor seat are both fully adjustable. Frank claims that his unique design is completely tested and that it is so flawlessly engineered that he can effortlessly work on an osage stave while his son Zack is driving down a rough gravel road at 50 miles per hour. We are still awaiting a photo to prove that claim.



Ken Oberschulte and Laurie Sorem working on walking sticks. Laurie won the "Best Walking Stick" award.



Mike Rhoades started this osage self bow Sunday morning and strung it up a few hours later winning the award for the "Most Crooked Bow Completed". Mike is one of few who can make a shootable bow out of nearly any piece of wood.

## 2011 Bow Building Jamboree *continued*



Rob Brooks won the "Best Repair" award by straightening out Matt Clarke's osage bow, which was twisted so badly that it unstrung itself every time that Matt began to draw it. Using a heat gun, clamps and the top of a picnic table, Rod straightened out Matt's bow so it now holds a string and shoots great without unstringing itself.



Wade Phillips won the "Snakiest Osage Stave" award with this 71" long stave that has at least eight drastic twists from side to side. He still hasn't figured out where to draw the exact centerline on this unusual snaky stave.



Frank Hicken brought an assortment of old hand tools that won the "Best Vintage Tool Collection" award.



Jerry Bennett won the "Oldest Uncompleted Bow" award with his infamous Tight Ringed Black Locust stave that he has been trying to work down to a single growth ring for the past 15 years. Jerry was recently elected to the Izaak Walton Board as the Board Member in charge of the Archery Range. Jerry was also recently elected to the NTA Board as Director - Izaak Walton Representative.



Brain Shea won the "Fruitiest Bow" award with this unusual multi-laminated riser that is made from pieces of apple and pear wood that are glued to an osage orange slab.

## 2011 Bow Building Jamboree *continued*



Saturday morning the bow builders are just getting started. Back left, Rob Brooks and Nick Roy are filling the coolers with drinks. Steve Bunck is setting up some of his sharpening tools. Jerry Bennett and his Grandson Josh Barnes are bent over working on a stave. Buford Davis is taking a break on a bow horse. Rob Roettele is setting up a stave in a bow horse. Mike Rhoades is working on one of dozens of bows that he laid out for members during the weekend.



Mitch Osborn and Mike Rhoades discuss bows. Steve Martin and Rich Caldwell cut out a bow as Jeff Brietkreutz watches. Behind Jeff are Randy Nielsen and Rob Brooks at a sander.



Rob Roettele is working on a stave in the foreground as Dede Smith, Brian Hoefener and Ken Oberschulte discuss the lunch menu while Brandon Abbot walks by.



## 2011 Bow Building Jamboree *continued*



*Foreground, Steve Bunck helping David Clarke with a bow. In the background, Buford Davis and Brian Shea discuss bows as Dawn Thomas and Melonie Abbott set up a stave in a bow horse for work with a draw knife.*



*Dave Thomas helped many attendees complete bows over the weekend. Here Dave looks on as Steve Martin takes his first shot with the newly completed self bow on the Izaak Walton archery range located a few steps from where the bow building activity took place. In the foreground is one of two cedar slab benches that were donated by Frank Hicken and installed by three of the many NTA members who are also members of the Fremont Chapter of Izaak Walton.*



*Nick Roy watching the bow limbs as Jim Johannes shoots the first arrow out of his newly completed bow.*



*Marv Gibson and Launie Sorem stripping dogwood for use as arrow shafts as Doug Sorem and Zack Hicken take a well deserved break from bow building.*

## 2011 Bow Building Jamboree *continued*



*Alesha and Hanna were busy all weekend. When they were not working on their osage bows, they were helping Ken prepare lunch for the hungry bow builders.*



*Two teenager bowyers, David Clarke and Dylan Olson are both experienced bowyers who have attended previous Bow Building Jamborees. In the background Curt Friedrich is bent over a bow horse checking on the progress of a bow in a Stave Press.*



*Far left, Robin Phillips is working on a bow with a belt sander as Frank Hicken's "Bohemian Bow Horse" draws a crowd. Left to right, Brian Shea, Dave Manwarren, Frank Hicken who is mostly hidden by Marv Gibson, Zack Hicken, Rob Brooks who is seated on the tractor seat of the "Bohemian Bow Horse", and Mike Rhoades with drink in his hand.*

## 2011 Bow Building Jamboree *continued*



Accomplished bowyers Dede Smith, Dawn Thomas and Melonie Abbot are very familiar with working osage staves down to a single growth ring.



Dawn & Dave Thomas won the coveted "NTA Traveling Award" for traveling the furthest to attend the Jamboree.



Joel Dering and Eric Wellman shaping bow limbs on sanders.



Young Jacob Friedrich completed his bow on Sunday.



Vince Smith prepares a snake skin for use for backing a bow, while Jacob Friedrich helps.



Eric Wellman laying out a bow as Rob Roettele and Kevin Rush work on bow strings.

Saxton Pope was undoubtedly the most gifted and colorful archery writer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was a true romantic, so hopelessly in love with the bow and arrow that he failed to recognize any danger, even when the most dangerous game was close at hand. His 1923 *Hunting with the Bow & Arrow* was an instant classic and has been reprinted countless times during the past 88 years. This wonderful book about shooting, making archery tackle and hunting North American game is still regarded as one of the top ten archery classics of all time. It is mandatory reading for all traditional bowmen.

Pope's much lesser known book, *The Adventurous Bowmen*, is a picturesque account of his eight month long 1925 African archery safari with Art Young and Steward Edward White. On this trip, it was their intent to prove the value of the bow and arrow as a legitimate sport hunting weapon for all African game.

In the chapter titled, *The Last Lion*, Pope relates a hair-raising account of the events surrounding their last lion. At this point, Pope & Young are by themselves, armed only with bows & arrows and are without the aid of a backup gun. We pick up the story as they are hidden in a blind overlooking a bait as darkness falls.

*The moon was about full and rose over the hill. Dusk settled on the land and the shadow of the mountain lay gloomy before us, when down wind, on the trail of our drag, we heard the grunt of a lion, no sound from his feet. He came in fast and had not smelled us. As he neared the bait he gave a great sigh of satisfaction, and made a clucking noise in his throat.*

*We listened to all this as we lay well back in the corner of the boma, hardly daring to breathe. Then he fell upon the carcass and lapping, licking tearing and gulping sounds came to our ears.*

*Noiselessly, and with infinite caution, Art Young rose to the window in the blind and studied the crouching form in the dim moonlight beneath the tree. He motioned to me; I peered out and saw what I thought to be his dark mane and outstretched body lying broadside to us. We braced our bows; nocked our arrows, and settled ourselves to shoot. At a whispered count, we let fly.*

*There was a grunting roar and in one bound the lion stood before the aperture in our blind, his mane standing erect, glaring at us with green eyes like two X-ray tubes. He was so near I could have touched him with my bow. I saw the shadowed outline of a feathered shaft deep in his side... I thought he was about to leap through our scant shelter and strike us dead. He was a tremendous beast...*

These few short paragraphs are only a faint snapshot of the 257 pages in *The Adventurous Bowmen*. Hopefully these lines peak your interest and encourage you to read the entire chapter, the entire book, or perhaps even all of Pope's wonderful books.

In the last few pages, the animals taken on this trip are recorded. Pope then bequeaths bowmen all they will need to carry on. A few short months after writing these last paragraphs, Dr. Saxton Pope died of pneumonia.

*An analysis of our lion statistics is as follows: Five lions were killed by the bow and arrows, absolutely untouched by bullets... Four lions were mortally wounded by our arrows and ... for humane reasons ... dispatched with the gun... Two lions were mortally wounded with arrows, charged, and were shot with the rifle... Three lions were slightly wounded and charged ... They were killed with rifles... Seven lions charged us while being approached ... These were dispatched with bullets.*

*In all we had twenty-one encounters... We have conquered the lion, not once by chance, but again and again. Other lesser beasts we met, you may recall: the eland, the wildebeest, the topi, the kongoni, the waterbuck, the reed buck, the gazelles, the hyenas, badgers, foxes, jackals and other smaller fry; these all have capitulated to the bow.*

*Now what say you, have we not done enough to answer the challenge? May we not now return to the delectable mountains of our native land, where the pine and the oak cast shadows on the carpet of the woods, where sweet water flows, where the deer draw down the dale; the hare scuttles 'neath the bush, and where the meadow lark pipes his mellow note? Such a land suits the bowman, and nature planned this sylvan background for his especial implements of the chase. There with horn and hound and a stout yew stave, no man would seek other fields to conquer.*

*If you can hear this call, down the avenues of time; if you can smell the dank forest incense and your hand itches to draw a cloth yard shaft across a sturdy bow, then you are one of the immortals. In you we have the heart of a true archer.*

*To you, I hereby bequeath all the yew trees of this good green earth, that bow staves may be ever yours, I bequeath all stiff wood for arrow shafts and keen steel heads to fit.*

*Flax and feathers are yours by right of heritage and I leave you, so long as you draw a bow string, all this world of forest and open fields for your delight, and all the wild life therein. And I leave you the sun by day and the moon and stars by night, and the gentle breeze that blows the fragrance of flower and tree and dust to your nostrils.*

*The long delicious trails and mountain paths are yours. The ecstasy of cool running streams I give you freely when athirst, and last of all I leave to you the thrill of life and the joy of youth that throbs a moment in a well bent bow, then leaps forth in the flight of an arrow.*

Saxton Pope – (signed)

As I write this, I'm finishing up the final tally on our Rendezvous. Financially we had the most profitable Rendezvous in recent history. That's great news but the best part is the participation from members willing to show up, set up and step up all weekend to keep things moving smoothly. Since I first joined up, our club has made great strides and we just keep getting better.

Being part of the Nebraska Traditional Archers the past two years has been exciting. In case you haven't noticed, we've grown. Since June 2010, membership increased from right around 70 members to over 120 just before this past Rendezvous. I'm still working through the renewal and new member applications collected at registration and fully expect a membership increase when I get to the bottom of the pile.

We are fortunate that we have a great corps of board members, officers and volunteers. These folks are willing to change things up and try doing things differently and better. Our biggest improvement is that instead of dumping all the responsibility on one guy at the top, we've grown into an organization that runs from the bottom up. All the guy at the top has to do is direct traffic and keep track of all the action. I know that has to be a lot more fun for him.

We're lucky to have board members and volunteers ready to jump in and do what it takes to make the club succeed. They don't wait for someone to tell them what needs to be done and how to do it. They just do it. Folks get a chance to think for themselves. Individuals grow and with that, the club grows, too.

Excellent communication leads to success. We tackled that on three fronts that are all linked together.

The first is our newsletter. "The Bent Stick Bulletin" has been transformed into a first class publication. I use our newsletter all the time to tell others about the club. What a great tool to grow the club and promote traditional archery. I encourage you to pass on your paper copy or forward the email version to a friend.

You can build on our newsletter's success by trying your hand at writing an article. All you have to do is put something down on paper and our editor and proofreaders will gladly help you flesh out your story.

The second thing we accomplished is to use email effectively. We built a great database of current members as well as potential members. We use our database to promote our events and keep our membership in the loop. We email newsletters to most of our members, saving the club substantial postage and printing costs. If we don't have your email address, we encourage you to send it in and let us use it.

Third is our updated website, which gives members as well as the public, access to our old newsletters, calendar, and email flyers for upcoming events. What a

great way to advertise our club to the entire world.

Since taking on the job of Treasurer 18 months ago, I've been working hard on the accounting side. Not everything the club does has to make a profit. Sometimes you do things because it's fun but it sure doesn't hurt to know what you have in it. To be credible, club leadership must be accountable for all the time, talent and treasure contributed by our members.

We looked at changing up how we handle merchandise such as hats, shirts and other stuff we sell. We have too much inventory that doesn't turn over, ties up our cash and is real pain to keep on hand.

We tried something new this year. We offered NTA logo long sleeve T-shirts and sweatshirts on a special order basis. The response exceeded all expectations. Dollar for dollar we sold twice as much of the special order clothing than the regular merchandise kept on hand.

We extended the ordering deadline until September 21 and I'll report the final results of this venture when I put together year end financials. I believe this is shaping up to be something to try again. We are open to your ideas as to what to offer next time. Speak up and let us know what you want and if the demand is there, we'll do it.

Response to our Dream Raffle was fantastic. Every year we always tried to have one big raffle. Unfortunately, most of the time we lost money on those raffles and they were one of those things done for fun and little, if any, profit. That wasn't the case this year.

We put together a traditional package that every one wanted to win. The other plus is that most of the items were handcrafted and donated by NTA members. The rest were donated by vendors or provided on a cost of materials basis. That really helped the bottom line.

We sent out a 10 ticket pack to each member along with a letter telling what the NTA is up to and what we are about. I truly believe that made the difference. Folks who couldn't attend the Rendezvous bought tickets and mailed them to me in advance. Many who came brought their tickets filled out and ready to drop in the bucket. This year we sold more tickets in advance than we sold for other raffles held in years past.

In closing, I want to thank all the folks who attended and participated in our events this past year. Many of you live far away or have family and/or work responsibilities, making it hard to volunteer much time.

We understand. What makes our day is that you may have made it to the Annual Banquet, or the Dart Shoot, or the String Shoot, or the Bow Building Jamboree or the Rendezvous and became part of the action. You shoot the courses, build bows, enjoy the fellowship, buy raffle tickets and stuff at the auction, and just plain have a good time. That's why we do it.

**Question:** *How should the spine of tapered arrows be measured? This is in relationship to shooting naturally tapered dogwood or bamboo shafts, which will have, lower spine towards the nock end and stiffer spine towards the pile end.*

*Also, I have thought of building an arrow spine tester that will measure spine over a smaller distance than the standard 26". That would make it easier to detect spine variations in a natural material. However, I still wouldn't know how to calculate the overall spine since I'm not sure what part of the arrow is most critical for spine. – Thanks, Marv Gibson via email*

**Answer:** My first thoughts on this Question was that I couldn't see that there would be any difference in spine measurement between tapered and parallel shafts, so to answer this question I enlisted the help of some experts on the subject. I first forwarded the question to Dick Mauch, who helped set the standards we use for spine measurement and this was Dick's response.

*I would answer it that it would still be a 2# weight on the center of the shaft measuring the deflection off center line or level. If the spine is correct, the arrow will flex or bend around the bow (paradox?) and fly the same as if the arrow were not tapered.*

Being that I do reliability centered predictive maintenance for a living I asked our level III vibration lead if he had any insight into spine comparing parallel to taper and this is the answer he gave me.

*Logic would lead us to expect that it should flex slightly further back than a parallel shaft of the same reasonably homogeneous wood and basic dimensions.*

*Any shaft will have its own frequency of vibration and the direction the shaft takes, all else being equal is defined by a line drawn through the two nodes of vibration.*

*If you visualize the flexed shaft with its mirror image overlaid, registering both nodes upon each other, a line drawn through the center of this overlay defines the line of flight of the shaft as it goes through paradox and recovers, assuming a clean recovery. We find the nodes by pinching one end between thumb and finger and letting the shaft hang free. If we then tap the shaft sharply it should vibrate. As we work down the length of the shaft, it is possible to find two "dead" spots.*

*These are the nodes of vibration.*

*Compare the position of these nodes on your bobtailed shaft and see if it differs significantly to a parallel shaft of the same wood and basic dimensions.*

That's about as clear as mud to a layperson, but he was basically telling me that the spine would be measured in the same manner as you would a parallel shaft, because you are merely measuring deflection, and the frequency of vibration explains why a tapered shaft gives you better arrow flight than a parallel shaft does. I hope this answer makes sense.

**Question:** *Many Cities in Nebraska have laws prohibiting the shooting of bows within their city limits even where it is safe to do so because of the perception that it is dangerous to do (i.e. Bellevue classifies an arrow as a dangerous projectile even though no one has been injured by one, yet many people are injured by softballs, baseballs and golf balls which could easily be classified as dangerous projectiles. Bellevue even had one fatality when a young boy was hit hard in the chest by a baseball.) I'm unaware of anyone being injured by an arrow on a range and only aware of one person being shot by an arrow while hunting. (The person who shot the arrow was drunk and since we don't hold the car responsible for what the drunk driver does I don't think it should count) How do we fight this perception and change the law to enjoy our recreation on our own ranges within city limits? - Terry Rybar via email*

**Answer:** This problem is one that many of us have to deal with. I myself have had the Fremont Police at my home informing me that if they had to return because of a complaint of shooting a bow in the back yard it would cost me a \$1,000 fine. The only way this problem can be fought is politically. One must either go to city council meetings and speak to the council members, or speak to the council representative of your district and convince them to raise the issue. You can also try to raise a ballot initiative within your city to allow the citizens of the community to vote on the issue. The battle will be an uphill one where the perception of a "dangerous weapon" will have to be overcome. One will need to use all the positive information they can find about archery ranges that are located inside city limits that have had no safety issues. The International Bowhunter Education Foundation would be a good source of information to help in this fight. The bottom line is if you are willing to do your homework and put up with politicians, you may be able to change things in your community. Hope this helps.



Longtime NTA supporter Mike Horton at The Nocking Point.



*The Nocking Point "Trailer" at the 2011 NTA Rendezvous.*

Mike Horton was born in 1953 in Topeka, Kansas where he grew up. In 1968, while still in high school, Mike began his career as a newspaper pressman with the Topeka Capital Journal.

In 1970, Mike became interested in archery and bought a Bear recurve, some arrows and a copy of Fred Bear's *The Archer's Bible*, which he read cover to cover many times. Mike shot those first arrows until the feathers came off, then bought a fletching jig and has been making arrows ever since. That year he began bowhunting and has taken numerous whitetails, mule deer and small game. Mike shot competitively for a number of years and has been a member of several local, state and national organizations. Mike still hunts but can't get out as much as he would like to because of the archery business.

In 1973, Mike and Brenda were married and recently celebrated their 38<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They have two children, Lee age 30 and Janel age 28. Both Mike and Brenda clearly stated that they are not in a hurry to grow old and become grandparents.

In 1995, Mike began selling arrows and traditional archery supplies out of the back of his pickup.

In 1996, Mike heard about the formation of the NTA and traveled to our first Rendezvous, where from the box of his pickup, he sold every single item of inventory that he had brought along. Today Mike is one of very few traditionalists who have attended every Rendezvous since the NTA was established.

In 1997, Mike formally started his traditional archery business, The Nocking Point. In 2003, Mike quit his job at the Topeka Capital Journal to work full time at The Nocking Point. That year, Mike and Brenda moved from Topeka and bought Brenda's grandparent's farm, which has been in the family for decades.

The Nocking Point occupies a large out building on the farm. It has a display/shop area and houses the trailer. They serve phone and Internet orders across North America as well as local over the counter customers. During the spring and summer, they take the trailer to 11 different traditional shoots in five Midwestern States, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri and Michigan.

Mike and Brenda buy, sell and trade used traditional bows, make new arrows, refurbish customer arrows, make bowstrings to order and sell a full range of traditional accessories as well as tools and raw materials for making arrows and primitive bows. They have targets, books, DVDs and nearly everything imaginable in stock that any traditional bowman might want except bow staves. Mike has a vast knowledge of traditional archery tackle and is always more than helpful. If they don't have an item in stock, they will get it for you or help you find it. Their online catalog can be viewed on their website.

[www.thenockingpoint.com](http://www.thenockingpoint.com)  
Mike & Brenda Horton (913) 774-7172  
18174 158th St.  
Winchester, KS 66097

The Nocking Point is 1½ miles NE of Winchester, Kansas, which is about 30 miles NE of Topeka. If you plan to stop by, Mike suggests to call a day or two before hand to make certain you don't miss him while he is attending a shoot or in town mailing packages at the Post Office. Mike has a great sense of humor that is evident on a sign on the back door of his trailer, which reads, "We cheat the other guy and pass the savings on to you".

The NTA would like to thank Mike & Brenda for supporting the NTA with their generous donations, for all their help given to our members, for running a great traditional archery business and bringing their trailer to sell items at every NTA Rendezvous.

Cold. Man it was COLD. Late December, Christmas Day in fact. My wife and children were out of town visiting relatives during the holidays, and I had to stay at home for work. This was my final day off of the year and my last opportunity to fill that remaining deer tag. The weather was bitterly cold with the wind gusting up to 25 miles an hour. Two inches of fresh snow was blowing like a blinding fog. Should I attempt this? Would it be worth the effort?

In previous years, I wouldn't have even contemplated what I was about to embark on. Most of the time, I would have resigned myself to the fact that this last tag would go unfilled. But things were different now, and I have a renewed sense of the "why".

To understand what was happening to me, I have to back up a several years to my introduction to deer hunting. A friend took me with him on the last day of the Nebraska rifle deer season. As a few does slipped under the tree we were settled into, my breath became labored and I shook, but not because I was cold. The excitement was so overwhelming that it couldn't be measured. Hey, I wasn't even hunting, I was just watching!

Shortly after that introduction to deer hunting, at the age of fourteen, I purchased my first bow, and started bowhunting with a strange contraption with cables and wheels. It was the mechanism that I had seen every bowhunter carry into the woods. I was on my way.

That first year the deer herd was safe from my sharp sticks, but I was hooked on bowhunting. During high school I was able to harvest a few deer, and after college I started hunting even more intensely. By then I purchased a newer bow, still with training wheels. Each year passed with me being able to take one or two deer per year until I got married and then became a father. Time began to slip away. I couldn't find enough time to juggle everything, and still bowhunt successfully. Ground I was once able to hunt was now being sold to the highest bidder for lease. I couldn't blame the land owners who had let me hunt for years. They were only supplementing their own incomes. But when big money rolls into the deer woods, it is hard for a young family man to keep up. I went quietly, looking elsewhere to fulfill the undying urge to bowhunt.

The funny thing about those training wheel bows, they became obsolete in a matter of years, if not months. The modern industry showed me what I needed, and I wanted desperately to keep up. But a family with a single income, and necessities that seemed to pile up, it was out of the question. Bowhunting was becoming less important to me. It just didn't seem the same as it did when I started. Even the first time I saw a deer from a treestand, seemed unrecognizable. The undying love to bowhunt was fading, until, at last, I hung up the wheel bow for the last time. Other things took its place, benchrest shooting, rifle hunting, calling coyotes. Bowhunting seemed like a distant memory, like remembering your first day of school.

One August morning, my wife persuaded me to go garage sales as her chauffeur. When she beckoned me to a house to show me something we now "needed", I went reluctantly. After agreeing to purchase the item, she pointed to a recurve bow for \$1.50 and said, "Why don't you buy that?" I had never had any experience with a recurve or any traditional bow. I only knew one person who owned one. I wasn't even sure if he had ever shot it, let alone hunted with it. \$1.50 seemed reasonable to me and I thought for that price, I could afford spend some time learning to shoot it. After returning home, I grabbed two old aluminum arrows and shot them into a foam target. Within a few shots, I was able to hit in the general vicinity of where I was concentrating. Something stirred within me. But it wasn't at all like what I experienced when shooting wheel bows. Something was very different. This was natural. It felt right, the bow, the string, the sight window, the anchor, the release. It all seemed right.

For the rest of that month, I practiced daily. I wanted to be sure I could shoot accurately enough to harvest a deer ethically. I needed to be ready. I owed it to the animal. It was fun to practice; I couldn't seem to put that recurve down.

I was able to harvest a deer that late October with my used recurve. I knew then that I would never hunt with or shoot a compound again. It felt unfair. This was hunting in my opinion. I had proven to myself what I would soon find out that other traditional bowmen already knew and embraced. I didn't need gadgets to successfully harvest an animal.

As time passed, I was able to meet other traditional bowmen in my area. Through Traditional Bowhunter Magazine, and those I now gleaned information from, I steadily formed a point of view that seemed to naturally fit. But I felt that there was more to this than what I was acclimating myself to. I wanted more of the tradition. More of what it meant to be a traditional bowhunter. I wanted to hunt an animal on its terms. Eye to eye. Try to harvest them in their domain, where they lived on the ground rather than ambush them from above. Now, I will probably still hunt out of a tree stand when I decide to, but I needed to prove to myself that I could stalk a deer on its terms. Place myself where so many others in this special group had already been. It may seem simple to those who stalking comes naturally to, but for me this became a goal.

My first attempt at a real stalk, with a real bow eventually ended in closing the distance of first sighting at 150 yards to 30 yards before a meandering doe busted me out in the open. But I was so excited about my failure, that it wasn't a failure at all to me. I knew I could finish in the future. This indeed was something that I longed to do.

Back to that cold Christmas Day. The urge still burned inside me, but it was the only thing that seemed warm as I walked into the winds gusting to 25 miles per hour and the snow blowing directly into my eyes. I had a plan. Move south around the edge of the bedding area, glassing to find



any deer bedded or on a midday feed. The area I now hunt is open with some high grass and low drains with no trees large enough to hold a stand. Perfect. The deer leave the surrounding fields, return to the bedding area, while feeding and rebedding during the day. They don't just pass through this area, they live in it. I knew it would be tough. Just getting to the south end would be challenging.

Just outside of the grass was a finger of sand hill that didn't offer much cover to get to this place. But I was going to try. With just my head cresting the top of the hill, I glassed the area ahead of me. Deer were everywhere. One buck, with one antler and six does and fawns ahead of him just 150 yards south moving away to the northwest. I had to let them clear or bed amongst the scrub cedars. To the south, four more bucks made their way into the bedding area. Man, this was more than I could believe! I waited for those deer to move through and bed down again. I moved over the top, and down into the first cedars. Glassing, I could see the does and fawns moving south. Should I go for a doe, or try to stalk one of the bucks? No bucks in sight. Doe it is. I was already far enough in, that to move south to intercept her, I would have to back out and belly-crawl through knee high grass to some affordable cover. Before beginning, I glassed one more time to confirm my travel plans. Another doe appeared out of a drainage. Because of the contour of the land, these deer could appear then vanish in one or two steps in the thick grass. Below the doe in the grass, I caught movement. My eyes settled on the right antler of a bedded buck. A big bedded buck. It all seemed so unreal. Would I actually have a chance to stalk this deer?

I confirmed the route that I would take to get in position downwind of the bedded buck. My only fear was how many other deer were bedded in that low spot? I moved through the grass on two knees and successfully found every sticker and cactus under the canopy of windblown grass. Each movement seemed loud and unhidden. I was afraid to look up, not wanting to see whitetails disappearing into the grass. I made my way to the first cedar and took out the binoculars but couldn't see any deer. My stomach ached, but not from hunger, rather from the feeling that I had already blown the stalk. I continued on the planned path, not knowing where any of the deer were. I was hoping and praying they were still there. This had to work. I had to do this the right way.

I made it to the last open area with a few scant trees, just short of the cedars near where I had last seen the deer. I was 60 yards away. I slid on, over downed limbs until I tucked in behind a short cedar tree.

As I glassed the area, I couldn't believe my eyes. He was still there. I could see the top of his antlers. He was facing towards me but I wasn't sure if he had seen me or not. He had five on a side with probably an 18-inch inside spread. He was 35 yards away. Too far for a shot for me. In my opinion, too much can go wrong with traditional equipment to chance a shot at a longer range. Others may

be able to seal the deal, but I had promised myself that I would not try a shot at that distance.

There was nothing between us but grass. Knee-high bowhunter-exposing grass. Nothing I could do, but hope for something to happen. After about five minutes, the buck stood up and eventually looked in my direction. I remained motionless, my knees, ankles and feet were numb from lack of circulation. A Collegiate baseball injury had left me with a torn ACL, and pain sets in quickly when my joints are put in compromising position. But I stuck it out; I wasn't going to move, no matter what.

The buck got up and started away from me, moving up the drainage to the right, staying about 35 yards away. I was mentally trying to move this deer around the backside of the only cedar in his path in hopes of gaining a few precious steps for a shot opportunity. But the deer moved in front of the cedar and dropped into a new bed.

I couldn't believe that I was within 35 yards of a mature whitetail buck but couldn't get closer for a good shot. With binoculars and my naked eyes, I studied every feature on that deer. He was close enough to see his facial muscles, blinking eyes and steam from his nose. Other deer, including two nice bucks climbed out of the drainage and moved north. I hoped they would continue to move away.

I thought, "If I had a compound, this would be over". I couldn't believe that I had that thought. My mind left the situation at hand clamoring to find the source of that mental statement. There in the blistering cold and blowing snow with an icy beard and aching knees, I found what I was looking for. My source of longing wasn't the need to harvest a deer on the ground. It was the need to do it right. Harvesting a whitetail on his terms, in their environment wasn't the need. I was hunting a whitetail, on his terms, in his environment. I wasn't hunting to kill, or to harvest, I was hunting. It was the way of doing it. True fair chase, whatever you want to label it, for me it was the right way.

I knew the chances of harvesting this buck were slim, but as I thought through this I would do it all again even knowing at the end was an unsuccessful outcome. The stickers, the cactus, the cold, the wind and snow. It was all now part of it. Not a hindrance nor a misgiving, but an experience. I don't choose to hunt with traditional equipment because I want to harvest a big buck; I hunt with traditional equipment because in my heart and mind I have accepted it as the right way. If I needed more wall furniture, I would probably seek another way to hunt. I have heard people say that hunting with traditional equipment is a low harvest percentage. I guess it is what you consider the harvest.

The buck got up and then shortly bedded again. I was privileged to watch him in his environment on his terms. It seemed right. It seemed fair. Eventually he rose and moved away as his attention focused on two dueling bucks in the scrub trees. I backed out of the area, even more solidified in the "why".

## Rangemaster's Report

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by Eric Wellman

We had a terrific Rendezvous this year with a great turn out, even with the rainy weather Saturday morning. I hope everyone who was able to shoot had a good time and enjoyed the course. I heard a lot of favorable comments about the course. I want to thank everyone who helped all day Friday with set up and Sunday afternoon with tear down, it went about as smoothly as it possibly could have. We had a great crew both days. Let's keep it up for all of our events.

We did have an incident during tear down when some of our club members caught a couple of kids trying to steal a few of our targets. One target was broken but fortunately, none of the targets were taken.

After the Rendezvous I was able to get a detailed inventory of our targets and their condition. Right now we have 65 targets. This past year, we were able to repair a few old targets and purchase a few new ones. I hope everyone enjoyed the new targets. We purchased a Rinehart Grizzly, Mule Deer and Dall Sheep along with some really fun small targets, fox, rabbit and woodchuck, from Kustom King Archery. I brought my rat target to set up on the course and I'm sure you all had fun shooting at him.

We have plans in place to purchase more targets next year. These new targets will replace a few that are getting worn out. If you have any requests for targets you'd like to see on the course be sure to let me know.

If anyone has any ideas or input about the course or target set up, please feel free to let me know. We will only get better if people help out and bring new ideas to the table.

## Webmaster's Report

<http://www.nebraskatraditionalarchers.org>

by Randy Nielsen

Our website has been updated with photos from the 2011 Rendezvous. Thanks to everyone who sent in their photos. If you have any additional photos from the Rendezvous, a past event or a hunting trip, that you would like to appear on our website, feel free to email them to me or mail a DVD to my mailing address shown on page 3. We are working on updating our web Calendar with the 2012 event dates. We are also working on updating our website. Let me know of any ideas that you may have for any updates.

We have had a significant increase in our website traffic this year. As more people begin use the Internet for more things, this traffic is certain to increase even more. Be sure to let me know if you have any updates or ideas about ways to improve our website.

## Izaak Walton Report

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by Jerry Bennett

On behalf of the Fremont Chapter of Izaak Walton League I would like to thank all of the NTA members who have joined the Fremont Chapter over the past year as a means to financially assist and help perpetuate the cause of both of our fine organizations. The Ike's truly appreciates your membership support.

Over the past two years, many NTA members have contributed time in helping with the construction of the Ike's Archery Range which was completed in June. This project simply would not have been possible without the assistance of NTA members.

Several NTA members have also contributed time to help put on various events that were held at the Archery Range and Small Lodge during this past year. These events were open to NTA members and Ike's members as well as the public and have helped perpetuate exposure to the outdoor sports that we all hold dear to our hearts.

1. Bowhunter Education Class, a two day event held in July.
2. Grand Opening of the Archery Range, a one day event held in June.
3. Outdoor Skills Workshop, a one day event held in August with a free lunch provided by the NTA.
4. Bow Building Workshop a two day event held in July.

Several NTA members have also generously contributed materials to projects for the Archery Range as well as for the renovation of the nearby Small Lodge. These generous contributions have saved Ike's hundreds of dollars in out of pocket expenses.

1. The two huge cedar slab benches that are behind the Archery Range shooting line.
2. The gas Jen-Air and exhaust that are in the Kitchen of the Small Lodge.
3. The metal chain link gate that is on the stair way on the Archery Range shooting tower.

I'm looking forward to continue to work closely with both organizations for our mutual benefit. In addition to the Archery Range at the Ike's Park on W Military, there are fishing lakes, one was recently re-stocked, camping sites with electrical hookups, lodge and cabin rentals, an annual Big Game Feed, monthly dinners, Friday fish feeds during Lent and on Hwy 36 & County Rd 100 is a Trap Range. Half of Ike's dues go to the national org for conservation and protecting our hunting rights. Anyone interested in joining can contact me at (402) 727-5501.

For most of the Rendezvous Staff members and volunteers, the actual work to put on the shoot began early Saturday morning the week before the Rendezvous.

We met at Hormel Park armed with tree trimmers, pruners, hatchets, hand saws and chain saws. Rick Saar brought along a small self propelled brush hog that made mowing and clearing the small stuff on the ground a real breeze.

We spent most of the morning clearing paths, trimming branches and shooting lanes as well as moving downed trees and picking up limbs so the park service could mow the open areas.

We even cleaned up the messy campsite of some poor misguided homeless soul who had been illegally camping in the park for several days. Apparently, he was under the impression that if he stayed there long enough that he could claim squatter's rights to the site. When he heard that his unlawful campsite was soon to be a practice range for guys armed with bows and arrows looking for a target to shoot at, he quickly began scurrying around gathering up all of his tattered and torn gear and asked about the whereabouts of any other parks in the area.

We finished with the clean up by noon and the group disband for refreshments and lunch with the promise to reassemble the following Friday to set up everything the day before the Rendezvous.

The Friday before the Rendezvous, an army of NTA members descended on Hormel Park to tackle setting everything up for the shoot. For the first time ever, we almost had too much help, (I'm just joking of course but the turn out of members to help was just fantastic).

The big thanks to everyone who helped with the cleanup on Saturday the week before and with setup on Friday before the Rendezvous.

On September 3 & 4, the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual NTA Rendezvous was held at the Hormel Park in Fremont, Nebraska. On Saturday, 153 shooters were registered. On Sunday an additional 23 shooters registered bringing the total to 176 registered shooters for the two day event.

Shooters enjoyed unlimited shooting on the 3-D Ranges as well as several novelty shoots.

Saturday afternoon the kid's had their own special shoot and every kid won at least one prize.

Complements of the Compton Traditional Bowhunters, every kid received a colorful new T-shirt with the Compton Traditional Bowhunters logo on the front.

NTA member Michael "Buford" Davis donated over one gross of kid's arrows. At the Registration Booth, every kid who wanted or needed arrows left for the range with a matched set of arrows. Thanks Buford from all the kids for your more than generous gift to our young shooters.

Two youths were selected for the 4-day NTA Mentored Youth Hunt that will be held this October in Nebraska.

The vendor area was packed with vendors from around the country. Bowmen could find nearly every currently manufactured traditional item they might want as well as hundreds of vintage items including a few rare archery collectibles.

With the exception of a short rainy spell early Saturday morning, the weather was as near perfect as anyone could ever imagine for this event.

Throughout the weekend, members of the NTA Rendezvous Staff were easily recognizable by their glowing florescent yellow ball caps. The two staff members without yellow caps were the only two guys who may be old enough draw Social Security who have somehow managed to keep a full head of hair. Needless to say, I am jealous of both of them.

NTA member Rickey Krueger was set up in the Registration area to officially measure deer and all species of animals for Compton Traditional Bowhunters, Boone & Crockett, Pope & Young, North American Shedhunters and Long Hunters. Some really nice antlers were brought in for measuring.

On both Saturday and Sunday, a tasty lunch of bratwurst, hot dogs, baked beans, chips and drinks was served by our resident Bowmen-Chef, Ken Oberschulte and his very capable crew of assistants, Chyanne Kruse, Ryan, Hana Dering and Jim Edmunson.

Just across the road from Registration and the Vendors at the YMCA Camp there was free camping and showers for registered shooters. During the weekend the area was simply packed full with all the campers and vehicles.

## ***Annual Dues Notice***

*Annual Membership Dues are due in September. If you didn't have a chance to pay your Annual Dues at the Rendezvous, it would save the NTA postage and help our Membership Chairman if you would mail in your Membership Dues so he does not have to send a notice.*

*\$20 - Individual or Family Membership*

**Mail check or money order to:**

**NTA Treasurer – Membership Chairman**  
Rick Saar  
P.O. Box 213  
Treyvor, IA 51575

## 2011 Rendezvous *continued*



*We had a record number of shooters for recent history.*

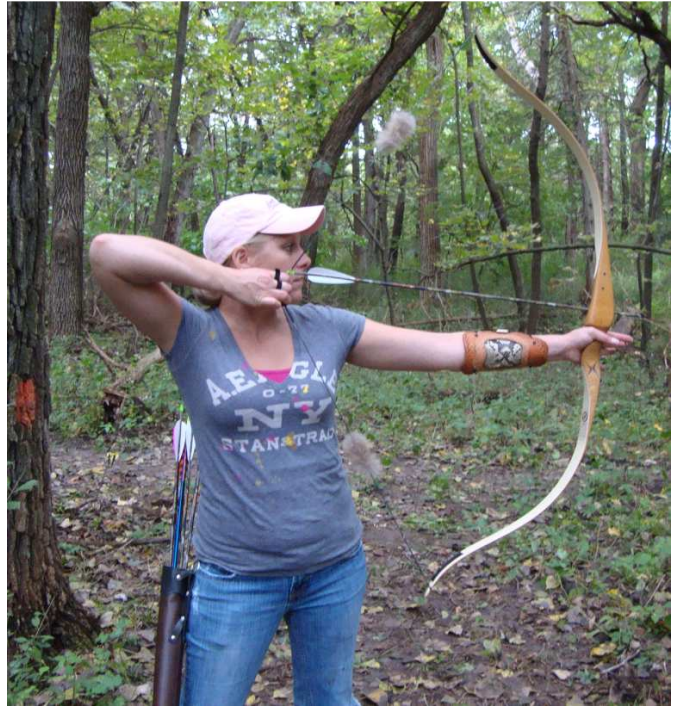


*At the Kid's shoot, boys nocking arrows at Frank's signal.*

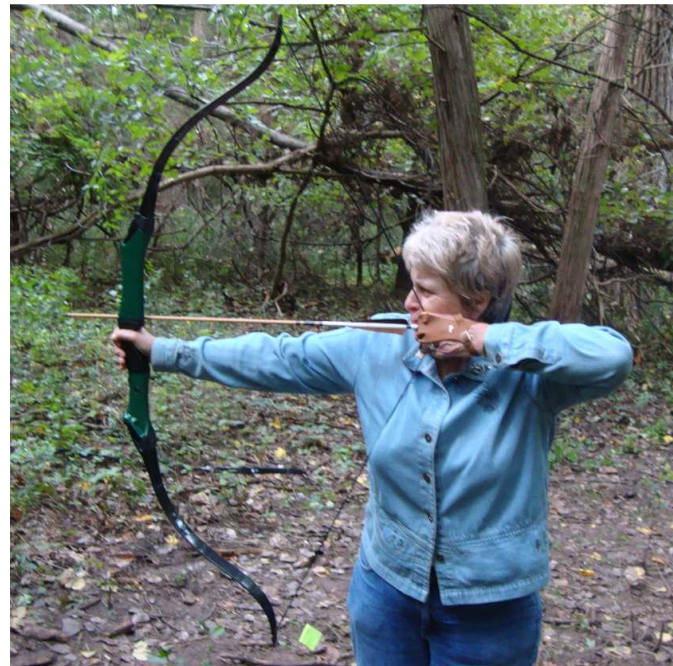


*Shooters of all ages could be found on the 3-D ranges.*

Recently, it was reported that women are the fastest growing group within Traditional Archery. With dozens of women shooters at the Rendezvous, that is believable.



*Chyanne Krause shooting a vintage recurve on the 3-D range.*



*Carol Mauch on the 3-D range shooting a 40-year old LH metal handle Bear Take-Down. Carol is certainly not new to the sport of archery nor bowhunting. As a matter of fact, since 1984 she has held the Pope & Young Club's World Record Quebec Labrador Caribou that she took from a northern Quebec camp while hunting by herself.*

## 2011 Rendezvous *continued*

The Saturday Night Potluck Dinner was held just across the road from the ranges & vendors at the YMCA Camp at the dining hall. The NTA officers served the meal in manner reminiscent of military mess hall fashion. Everyone had a chance to go back for seconds and thirds in a nearly successful effort to clean up every dish.

At the end of the serving line, each member received a ticket for a door price. After exiting the serving line with their food, members found the matching number to their ticket on one of the items on the door prize table.

The Pot Luck Dinner was followed by the announcement of Winners of the Novelty shoots and Youth Hunts.

**Iron Man Shoot** – Dave Manwarren was the winner of the Iron Man Shoot for the second year in a row. To date, Dave is undefeated and untied in this event. Dave vowed to return next year to compete for an unprecedented third consecutive title. Dave won his own dozen arrows as the Iron Man Shoot prize and generously re-donated them to the General Auction.



*Two time Iron Man Champion, Dave Manwarren with Addah Booth who drew his card in the Card Raffle for a Lonesome Wind Longbow donated by Vince Smith.*

**Meat Shoot** – Brian Shea was the official whistle holder for the Meat Shoot and reported that there were several winners. Because of the fast pace of the event and all of the excitement, Brian could only remember a few winner's names. Congratulations to Frank Hicken, Zack Hicken, Dave Manwarren, Brekken Moses and all of the other un-named winners in this fun Novelty event.

**Distance Shoot** – Carl Sharp won the Distance Shoot which was an 80 yard shot at a small spot on a javelina.

**Lost Arrow Shoot** – Mathew Ginn from Iowa was the winner of the Lost Arrow Shoot. At Registration, shooters purchased and registered miscellaneous arrows to shoot at a specific target on the other side of the pond. Just before the potluck, the arrows were retrieved and the closest arrow to the spot on the target was the winner.



*Mathew Ginn, seated at left, won the Lost Arrow Shoot. At right is Tom Norris of Bear Foot Traditions as they await the beginning of the Auctions. Mathew and Tom were two of the many Iowa traditionalist at the Rendezvous.*

**Bow Skirmish** – Dave Thomas and Brandon Abbott were the two man team who won the Bow Skirmish. Dave and Brandon are shown in the photograph below.

**Youth Hunt** – The Youth Hunt winners were announced. Jacob Friedrick won the Youth Hunt Essay. Dalton Madsen won the Youth Hunt Shooting Qualifier.



*Youth Hunt Essay winner, Jacob Friedrick, holding his new Safety Harness given to him by the NTA. Jacob is shown with Youth Hunt mentors Dave Thomas, Vince Smith and Brandon Abbott. Dave and Brandon were also the winning two man Bow Skirmish Team.*

## 2011 Rendezvous *continued*

**Kid's Shoot** – Frank Hicken and Zack Hicken conducted the Kid's Shoot. Twelve kids in age from 4 to 12 participated and each won two Gold Dollars.

Although the Kid's Shoot is not an officially scored NTA event, unofficial reports have leaked in from several kids that they out shot Frank during this event.

The Member and Raffle drawings were held next.

**Life Member Bow Drawing** – The Winner of the Life Member Bow Drawing was Larry Matranga. Larry joined the NTA as a life member just a few hours before the drawing and dropped his winning ticket in the bucket.



*Life Member Drawing winner, Larry Matranga with Addah Booth who drew his name for a new Lonesome Wind T/D Longbow donated by Vince Smith.*

**Annual Member Custom Knife Drawing** –



*Annual Member Knife Drawing winner, Ralph Burch with Addah who drew his name for a beautiful Custom Knife made and donated by Ron Foley of Texas.*

**Card Raffle** – The winner of the Card Raffle was Dave Manwarren. Dave is shown on the previous page with Addah Booth who is holding the winning half card.



*Dream Raffle – Above, the smiling Dream Raffle winner, Chris Madsen with Addah Booth who drew his name. Chris won a Lonesome Wind Longbow by Vince Smith, a NTA Custom Leather Side Quiver by Rich Saar, a NTA Great Northern Bow Quiver, a Tom Petty Arm Guard, a NTA Chieftain Custom Knife by Dave Thomas and a Dozen Douglas Fir Arrows by Rick Saar.*

**Self Bow Raffle** – The Winner of the Self Bow Raffle was Wade Phillips who sent in this note of thanks...

*I felt like the luckiest guy in the world to win the Self Bow Raffle on Saturday night at the Rendezvous. I'd like to thank Mike Rhoades for donating the beautiful Osage Self Bow that he handmade and took two P&Y whitetails with many years ago. I'd also like to thank Vince Smith for making and donating the beautiful Arctic Fox pelt back quiver as well as the dozen gorgeous handmade arrows. A very special thanks to Brandon Abbott for the four identical broadheads that he handmade and donated. As a long time collector of traditional glue on broadheads, it is very seldom that I am ever able to add a different broadhead to the collection, especially one that is made in Nebraska. After the auctions, I gave one of Brandon's heads to Ken Oberschulte who is also a collector. In turn, Ken gave me one of the two Mike Rhoades Broadheads that he won that evening in the Auction, which made the evening even more special. Quite frankly, it is very humbling to be on the receiving end of so many wonderful items and so much generously from so many NTA members. Thanks again guys!*

## 2011 Rendezvous *continued*

**Glenn St. Charles Memorial Pie Auction** – There were three homemade pies auctioned off in the NTA's first annual Glenn St. Charles Memorial Pie Auction, a cherry pie donated by Vince & Dede Smith, an apple pie made and donated by Wade Phillips and a Mince Meat Pie made and donated by Dick & Carol Mauch.

The highest sale price of the three pies received an 8x10 color photograph of Glenn that was taken by Carol Mauch in 1989, in Valentine, Nebraska as Glenn looked over a table filled with dozens of slices of pies.



Dick inscribed the framed photograph, "First piece was great. Think I'll have two more. Don't tell Margaret." The photograph is shown with the Mauch's Mince Meat Pie that sold for the highest auction price of the three pies.

Before the Pie Auction began, Dick Mauch briefly described the humorous events surrounding the 1989 photograph... *Glenn, Margaret St. Charles, Carol, and I finished our lunch with a piece of pie and then took our seats at the Valentine Buffalo & Longhorn Auction. Glenn said he could use another cup of coffee and asked if anyone else was interested. Since we all wanted another cup, Carol volunteered to help Glenn carry the four cups of coffee back while Margaret and I held the seats. They were gone for quite a while and I suspected Glenn had meandered by the pie table on his way to get the coffee. When they finally returned, I leaned over to Carol and quietly asked her "Did Glenn have another piece of pie?" Carol held up "Two" fingers indicating that Glenn had eaten two more pieces.*

Everyone who ate a piece of Dick & Carol Mauch's homemade Mince Meat Pie reported that it was the best pie they had ever eaten, so it is not surprising that their Mince Meat Pie received the highest bid.

We have Dick to thank for originating the idea of a Pie Auction as a means to remember Glenn St. Charles and as a way to raise funds for the NTA. Dick said that it is fitting to have exactly three pies in the auction because each pie represents one of the three pieces of pie that Glenn ate at Valentine, Nebraska.

**Auctions** – There were three different auctions conducted at the 2011 Rendezvous, Kid's Auction, Glenn St. Charles Memorial Pie Auction and the General Auction. These three auctions raised a record total for the Club Treasury.

**Kid's Auction** – As always, the Kid's Auction was entertaining and a lot of fun for the young bidders. The only attendees who had more fun than the kids were all of the adult spectators.



The young bidders in the Kid's Auction are getting lined up in front of the biggest kid of all, the auctioneer.

**Kid's Auction Items** – The items listed below were listed on the Auction Bill for the Kid's Auction.

- Duck 3D Target
- Girls Hunting Side Pack
- Boys Hunting Side Pack
- Arm Guards
- 6 Kids Arrows & Quiver
- 6 Kids Arrows & Quiver
- 6 Youth Arrows
- Pink Back Quiver
- Framed Doll Print
- Necklace & Earring Set
- Arrowhead Necklace
- Glove Mitts
- 12 Kids Arrows 35-40#
- Nirk Recurve 35#@28"
- Buck Roar Call

## 2011 Rendezvous *continued*

**General Auction Items** – The items listed below were on the Auction Bill Saturday evening for the 2011 General Auction. If you missed this auction, you missed an opportunity to pick up some great items...

Undertaker Ground Blind  
25 Vintage Broadheads  
Antelope Decoy  
2 Different Custom Leather Tube Quivers  
Red Head Cooler  
Coyote Hide  
Bear Grizzly, Quiver, Arrows  
Arm Guards  
Wildwood Wisdom Book & NGPC Cook Book  
Turkey Call & Grunt Tube  
Wooden Quiver  
2 Mike Rhoades Bhds & Arrow  
Arrowhead Necklace  
Whitetail Wood Burning  
Bear Spring Arm Quiver  
Basket Back Quiver  
NTA Clock  
Ted Nugent Personal Arrow Signed  
Arm Guard w/ Knife  
Cedar Handle Knife  
12 Cedar Arrows, 5 Bhds  
2 Wreaths  
10, 2314 AlumnXX75 & 11, 2213 Alumn XX75  
6 Carbon Express 60-75 & 6 Carbon Express 45-60  
Cresting Lathe & Tools  
Hunt More 360 Chair  
Book of Buckskinning II  
Little Delta Photo 8x10  
King of Mountain Pack  
Wool Haversack, Wool Bow Sock Pkg  
Carved Wooden Basket  
GFA Quiver, GFA Instinctive Video & Book  
GFA Beaded Sheath Knife  
Compton Member Pkg  
Whitetail European Mount  
Arrow Shaped Bow Rack  
Stone Knife and Stand  
12 Easton Carbon Shafts  
Hand Warmer Kit  
4 Cornhusker Archery Vintage Bear Recurve Handles  
18 Bear Cedar Arrows  
1968 Signed Mauch Lion Bait 8x10 Framed Print  
1965 Signed Mauch Cape Buffalo 8x10 Framed Print  
1965 Signed Bear Group Buffalo 8x10 Framed Print  
1965 Signed Mauch Sable 8x10 Framed Print  
Tanto Camp Knife  
Two ½ Doz Sitka Spruce Arrows, one Signed  
Cedar String Board  
12 Sitka Spruce 60-65#  
1938 Fred Bear Group Camp 20x30 Print  
1943 Nels Grumley & Buck 20x30 Print  
1920 Pope & Young w/ Grizzly 20x30 Print  
1926 Art Young Black Mane Lion 20x30 Print  
Cedar Bench  
Bear Tie Tac & Stick Ons  
Forged Knife

**Thank You Donors** – The NTA would like to thank the individuals, organizations and businesses listed below for their generous contributions to the Rendezvous Auctions, Raffles, and Drawings. Many of these charitable donors contributed multiple items. The NTA sincerely appreciates everyone's support. We apologize beforehand if anyone was inadvertently omitted from this list.

If you are in the need of any products or services that are provided by any of the individuals, organizations or businesses listed below, be certain to contact these 2011 Rendezvous Sponsors with your needs.

Brandon Abbott	Wade Phillips
Rod Aden	Tom Pliess
Rich Caldwell	Rob Roettele
Michael "Buford" Davis	Mike Rhoades
George Helms	Rick Saar
Kevin Hernes	Deb Saar
Frank Hicken	Ron Salisbury
Brian Hoefener	Craig Schoenberg
Kevin Markt	Vince Smith
Carol Mauch	Dede Smith
Dick Mauch	Judy Smith
Dave Manwarren	Jim Shanks
Kelly Mueller	Jim Stutsman
Randy Nielsen	Gary Wilkerson

Compton Traditional Bowhunters  
Hunter Image (Teresa & G. Fred Asbell)  
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Hunt More 360 (Scott Hoffman)  
Cherokee Slim (Ed Burgess)  
Ted Nugent (Kevin Markt)  
Kustom King (Tim Cosgrove)  
Da Wool Lady (Mike & Mary Deppe)  
Fremont Volunteer Fire Dept.



*At the Kid's Shoot, the targets were clay pigeons.*



## 2011 Rendezvous *continued*

After the Auctions, the winning bidders settled up their accounts with Dede and Rick inside the Dining Hall.

As we began to set up the screen and movie projector, we were entertained by Dick Mauch's perfect recital from memory of the very fitting prose titled *"The Reincarnation of Vince Smith"*. If you missed this, you really missed some great laughs.

**Special Guest Speaker** – The Special Guest Speaker after the Saturday night Raffles and Auctions was NTA Honorary Life Member Dick Mauch from Bassett, Nebraska. Dick is the last surviving original stockholder of the Bear Archery Company.



*NTA Honorary Life Member, Dick Mauch is the consummate mentor. Shown here passing along words of wisdom and tales of old to young Dylan Olson.*

Dick showed a large 16mm reel of film of his African hunts in 1965 and 1968. The only thing better than the wonderful film was Dick's entertaining and educational narration of the footage. Dick was on hand throughout the afternoon and evening to talk with bowmen.

The weather cooled off Saturday evening and nearly everyone found a jacket or long sleeve shirt before the evening was over. Saturday was a late night for several members, especially those who were camping.

Many members were up early Sunday morning and could be found out shooting the courses or standing around the concessions area asking Ken what time he was going to start serving breakfast.

*Photographs for this 2011 Rendezvous Article were provided by Ken Oberschulte, Jerry Bennett and Randy Nielsen. Thanks so much guys for such an important part of this article.*



*Some kids had better shooting form than many of us adults.*

Church services were held at the YMCA camp at 9:00am. The weather was an absolutely perfect fall day on Sunday. A light jacket in the morning and a comfortable shirt in the afternoon. Nobody worked up a sweat all day, including the tear down crew.

At 2:00pm, the tear down crew met at the target trailer. Everyone pitched in just like the set up day, and everything was torn down in record time.



*Walt Codney and Todd Nelisen were two of the last members to leave the Rendezvous.*

As another Rendezvous came to a close and everyone began to pack up and say their farewells, it was always with the promise, "See you next year."

**Note:** During Rendezvous weekend, Carol Mauch mentioned this poem was her favorite, so we asked her to submit it for publication. When one realizes that Carol does all the dusting in the Mauch's home filled with dozens of trophies from around the world, it is understandable why these verses are her favorite.

## Trophies

by Edgar Guest

*There's a moose head in the hall,  
And a dead fish on the wall,  
And a stuffed owl on the mantelpiece,  
And birds in a shining case.  
There's an antlered deer upstairs,  
And mounted fox which shares  
With a partridge prone at its wily feet  
A nice mahogany base.*

*There's a maid each morn who must  
Go round the rooms to dust'  
And day by day on her weary face  
There is ever a dismal scowl,  
And this is the song she sings:  
"Dead deers are dreadful things!  
And I hate fish on a shining board  
And the wings of a mounted owl!*

*"Oh, if ever a man I wed,  
May he care for books instead  
Of moose and mountain goats and deer  
And ducks in a glassy dome;  
May his hobby be postage stamps  
Instead of Northern camps,  
For I've had my fill of dusting things  
Which a hunting man brings home."*



On September 23, NTA Life Member Ken Broman of Aurora took this 7x7 whitetail at 15 yards with a Longbow that he handcrafted himself.

by Brandon Abbott

From October 6 through 9, 2011, the NTA will sponsor a Mentored Youth Deer Hunt for two youths who will each be accompanied by a parent or guardian who can also hunt if desired.

The 4-Day hunt will take place on a 1,200 acre private farm near Royal, Nebraska, in the Northeastern portion of the State. Hunting will be from several ladder stands that are positioned along active deer trails. With numerous deer in the area, this promises to be a memorable hunt.

At the Rendezvous, two youths were recently selected for this hunt in two different manners.

### Youth Essay Selection –

Jacob Friedrich is the young bowmen who submitted the essay chosen as the winner of the Youth Essay Selection for the NTA Mentored Youth Hunt. Jacob is 10 years old and is in the 5th grade at Miliken Park in Fremont. Jacob submitted the following heartfelt text.

#### **Bow Hunting**

*To the members of the Nebraska Traditional Archers:*

*I would like the opportunity to go bow hunting with Mr. Smith and the group because he has trained me to shoot a bow for over two years and I would like to learn more from him.*

*At the Bow Building Jamboree, Mr. Smith and Mr. Bunck helped me make a bow and helped me grow as a person.*

*My Father does not bow hunt and knows nothing about bows. He is learning with me. My Dad rifle hunts but I would like to make bow hunting become our hunting time together. That is why I need to learn from someone who hunts with a bow like Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith has helped me learn patience and learn that not every arrow has to be a bull's eye. I would love to have the chance to take my Dad with me on a deer bow hunt.*

*Jacob Friedrich  
Fremont, NE 68025*

### Youth Shooting Qualifier Selection –

Dalton Madsen won the Youth Shooting Qualifier held on Saturday afternoon at the Rendezvous and became the Shooting Qualifier Selection for the Youth Hunt. He is 13 years old and is in the 8th grade at Fremont Bergan. Our Youth Hunt winners each received a Tree Stand Safety Harness as a gift from the NTA members. Good Luck on the hunt boys!

# The Camp Cook

## Grayling Peanut Butter Pie – by Dick Mauch

As result of having this brought to mind during our recent visit to Wade's fine Hospitable care Rendezvous weekend, and because we made short work of his excellent Apple Pie from the Glenn St. Charles Pie auction, I decided that I needed to again try this fine recipe and make sure it was as I recall the pies of old in Wert's Grayling, Michigan restaurant where many Bear employees enjoyed this culinary delight. I even made modifications, e.g., additions that can be as much as your individual taste might enjoy.

3 eggs	3 Tbsp (heaping) Cornstarch
¾ cup Sugar	¼ cup Cold Water (or Milk)
Pinch of Salt	¼ tsp Vanilla Extract
2 cups Milk	3 or 4 heaping Tbsp Peanut Butter

1 - 9" baked pie shell. (purchased Graham Cracker ready pie is OK)  
Whipped topping or Ice Cream

Break eggs in cooking pan. Beat well. Add sugar and salt. Add 2 cups Milk and beat well. Mix cornstarch in ¼ cup cold water or milk, stir well, set aside. At this point, an alternative addition I added ¾ cup fresh raisins to the milk/eggs/sugar mixture before heating. Bring the egg mixture to a boil, stirring frequently. Stir cornstarch again and add to heated ingredients, stirring well until thickened. Remove from heat, add vanilla and peanut butter. Mix until well blended. Partially cool, put in pie shell and cool. I grated some chocolate Almond bark on my pie, or top with Cool Whip or ice cream, serves 6 or 8.

If you are in a hurry, this is very easy pie to create using a purchased aluminum pan, graham cracker pie shell, available at all grocery stores. You can also create the graham cracker pie shell from base ingredients in your kitchen. I keep a couple prepared graham cracker pie shells on hand at my cabin or pantry here at home. Another shell, equally wonderful are the ones made with Oreo chocolate cookie crumbs. I'll use one of those for my next Peanut Butter Pie.

**Editor's Comment** – As promised, Dick sent this recipe a couple of days after the Rendezvous. Later that week we left for a hunt out west and took this recipe along. In camp, we made this pie with Dick's optional raisins and Oreo Chocolate Cookie crumb crust. The pie was quick and easy to make and was simply delightful. We added a Standing Bear Logo made from Oreo Cookies in camp that we crushed up. We stored the pie in a cooler on ice so every piece was real treat on those warm days. We each ate our third piece on the first anniversary of Glenn St. Charles' death, which was September 19, 2010.

## Dick's Herb Mix – by Dick Mauch

This formula (recipe) is similar to Mayacamas Herb Mix, which is no longer available from that company in Sonoma, California. Years ago, I used to purchase a half gross of bottles from this company each year for inclusion with wild rice Christmas gifts.

4 Tbsp Sesame Seed, crush with mortar & pedestal to meal consistency	
1 Tbsp Cilantro, crushed	8 Tbsp Basil, crushed
3 Tbsp Rosemary, crushed	2 Tbsp Sage, crushed
3 Tbsp Thyme, crushed	1 Tbsp Garlic powder
1 tsp Oregano powder	1 tsp salt
1 Tbsp dried Parsley, crushed	

A little food processor, like Cusinart, which has grind or chop, or a blender will work to crush some of these ingredients, Rosemary, Basil, Sage, Parsley. Sesame Seeds are best done in mortar & pedestal fashion.

After crushing ingredients, mix thoroughly, bottle, label and store.

Use on any meats, liberally in meat loafs, stuffings or dressing, and on the grill, game meat, venison, beef, pork, lamb or chicken, ducks, geese and turkey. For roasting turkey or wild goose, rub outer skin with coarse Kosher salt, grind on pepper, and rub mix on outside as well as inside the cavity. I use this seasoning almost exclusively for dressing or stuffing, wild rice, meat loafs, etc. Carol has been raising some herbs in the summer and drying them. Her home grown dried Basil, Parsley, and Thyme are especially nice with any recipe.

Another tip for roasting meats. Use an oven roasting bag and include a couple Tbsp to a fourth cup of liquid smoke. This gives an old Canada Goose, Turkey, or Beef Chuck a nice open pit type flavor. If your family is small (as in case of a meal for 2 to 4 people) do as we do, and split the Goose or Turkey lengthwise, freeze and cook in halves. If a whole bird is needed, simply skewer two halves back together.

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As this is being written, we have just completed the 2011 NTA Bow Building Jamboree, BOJAM. Because the majority of the participants in this event were first timers it seems like a good time for a column about some different types of bows, backings and many of the terms that we often use.

**Unbacked Self Bows** – An unbacked self bow is bow made of a single piece of wood with nothing else assisting it for strength. With this bow you are using what nature dealt you and making a bow out of it, regardless of knots, doglegs, or limb sway. It matters not whether the bow is being made from Osage, Yew, Mulberry, Hickory, or Ash. It is a wood bow in its simplest form. You have to learn to read wood grain and lay your bow out following that grain to get a bow that will last.

We are fortunate in this Club to have two men who many of us first learned to build self bows from, Mike Rhoades and Walt Codney. Mike and Walt are masters at following the grain of the wood and dealing with whatever quirk nature put in that stave.

Building an Unbacked Self Bow is where most people begin their bow building career, probably because it seems the easiest. It can be a simple and straight forward process if you start with a straight piece of wood that has the bark stripped or is draw-knifed down to a single growth ring. A perfectly straight piece of Osage six feet long without knot holes is rare. They probably exist, but there are far more that are twisted, bent, knotted- up, gnarly chunks of yellow wood. The chances of getting a straight six foot piece of Osage greatly improve if two straighter shorter pieces are spliced together.

These straighter shorter pieces are called billets and are spliced together in the handle section using a “Z” splice, or a finger splice, which is also called a fish tail splice.

It is much easier to find straight billets that are 40 inches long than it is to find a straight stave that is six feet long. The practice of splicing billets together was very common in the golden age of archery from the 1920s to the 1950s. Many of the old Yew and Osage bows were made from spliced billets. The other advantage of splicing billets is that reflex can be incorporated in the limbs when the two pieces are spliced together. Reflex is when the limb tips are in front of the centerline of the bow when unstrung. Reflex helps add speed to the limbs.

Straight six foot long staves are much easier find in the white woods such as Ash, Hickory, and Maple. These trees have longer annual growth cycles and are more likely to grow in thick timber, which protects them from wind twisting as well as forces them to grow taller and straighter. With the white woods, violating the growth rings is not as critical like it is with Osage.

**Natural Backings on Self Bows** – The main reasons for backing a bow are usually to add strength to the bow or to make the build process simpler. There are many different natural backings that may be applied to the back of a bow for a variety of reasons.

Snakeskin is one of the most popular backings and is generally added to a bow strictly for beauty. It might be applied directly to the back of a Self Bow or might be used to cover up another less attractive backing such as rawhide.

If tight growth rings are violated on the back of an Osage Self Bow, generally rawhide, clarified calfskin or sinew are added as a backing to provide protection from the growth rings lifting on the back.

Sinew backing is an ancient process where the sinew, or tendons, of an animal are dried and pounded into long fibers then glued onto the back of a bow using hide glue. Sinew backing is frequently used on staves with a lot of twists and turns, knot holes, or very thin growth rings that have been violated. When the glue dries the sinew fibers shrink, which serves to pull the tips of the bow into a reflexed position thus the sinew backing adds stiffness to the limbs and increases the draw weight of the bow.

Sinew is also frequently used to wrap around damaged areas to help repair bow limbs and handles.

A few other natural materials that you might find used as backing on a Self Bow are hemp, linen, silk or a very thin (.020” thick) lamination of hickory. While thin hickory adds a little strength to a Self Bow, it mainly serves to protect the back of the bow from lifting.

Any of the above backings could be applied to Self Bows which follow the grain of the wood.

**Natural Backed Bow Blanks** – Natural backings can also be applied to flat, board like, wood surface to simplify the bow building process. Instead of having to split a stave from a tree and either strip the bark off, or draw knife down to a single growth ring, you can simply saw the wood into Slat, and the bow can be laid out with a ruler, straight as can be.

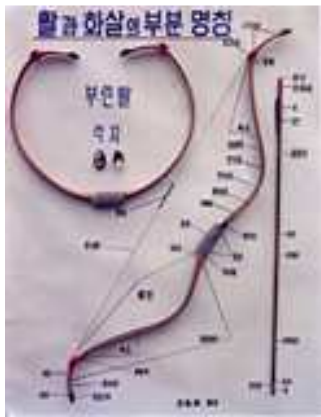
The backing is applied and then the backed blank is worked into a bow. These backed blanks are the easiest way to get into building your own bows and learn how the whole process is done. Backings are either a hickory Slat backing, bamboo backing, or some form of rawhide, calfskin, or linen. Hickory is readily available at lumber stores and is very inexpensive.

Baleen is another natural material that can be glued to a Slat to create a Bow Blank. Baleen is a blade shaped plate made of hair that is found in the mouths of bowhead whales and serves to strain the plankton from the ocean water on which the whales feed.

**Natural Composite Horn Bows** – A Korean horn bow is an extremely complicated bow made of all natural materials. It is one of the most amazing performing and most difficult bows to build. These bows are often referred to as horn bows because of the natural horn material that is used in their construction. If you have ever seen a horn bow they resemble a short recurve when strung, but when unstrung the tips, or siyahs, nearly touch each other to form a circle.

The horn bow is made of several types of materials. The belly is made from water buffalo horn, the core is bamboo, the siyahs are of acacia or mulberry, the handle is oak; it is backed with sinew, that is covered with birch bark, and everything is held together with fish air bladder glue.

The natural composite bow has a history that goes back thousands of years and encompasses many cultures including, Greek, Egyptian, Hun, Mongol, Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Native American.



*Modern Composite Horn Bow, upper left not strung, as compared to center showing same bow strung.*



*Modern Composite Horn Bow at full draw.*

**Wanted**

**Items for this Newsletter**

**Send Articles & Photos to the Editor**

**Fiberglass Laminated Bows** – In the opinion of many, this bow is where beauty and performance are at their peak. The construction of this bow is a simple lamination or layering process. The foundation for this process is the fiberglass laminations that are used as the outside layers, or the bread of the sandwich. This fiberglass is unidirectional, meaning all of the fibers run length-wise with the limbs of the bow rather than in a woven pattern. Some bows are being made with carbon fiber instead of fiberglass for the outside laminations. The belief is that the carbon makes a stronger and lighter limb.

The vast majority of fiberglass laminated bows being built today have a core made of wood or bamboo laminations. However, some bowyers are using other materials in the core such as woven pattern fiberglass, carbon fiber or a foam cored limb.

The wood or bamboo laminations used in the core of the limb are either tapered or parallel. A tapered lamination will usually taper .001 to .002 of an inch per inch meaning that if you have a lamination 30 inches long with a .002 taper and a butt thickness of .120 the thin end will be .060. We will go into the reason behind the use of tapered laminations in a future “Bow Horse”.

The material used in the core laminations is either a solid hardwood or bamboo, or what is called “Action wood” or “Action boo”. The Action laminations are simply strips of wood or bamboo laminated together with resin and tons of pressure.

Veneers or spliced exotic swoops can be added to the limb pack as an exterior “show” wood under clear glass that adds to the beauty.

The riser or handle of a laminated bow can be made of an endless number of domestic or exotic hardwoods. The creativity to combine woods for beauty is endless. Another advantage of the fiberglass laminated bow is the flexibility to build a three piece take-down that enables the bowmen to change limb lengths and draw weights.

Fiberglass laminated bows are the most popular traditional bows being built today because of their durability and predictability. A bowyer can take a proven bow form and use a known recipe to produce long lasting bows in the weight range wanted by the customer.

In upcoming columns we will discuss details about how to apply some of these different types of backings as well as the details of the construction of some of these bows.

# Outdoor Skills Seminar

by Brian Shea

On Saturday, August 13, from 1:00pm to 6:00pm, the NTA hosted an Outdoor Skills Seminar at the Izaak Walton Park on the West end of Fremont, Nebraska. This event was open to NTA members as well as the public. There was no charge associated with attending this event.

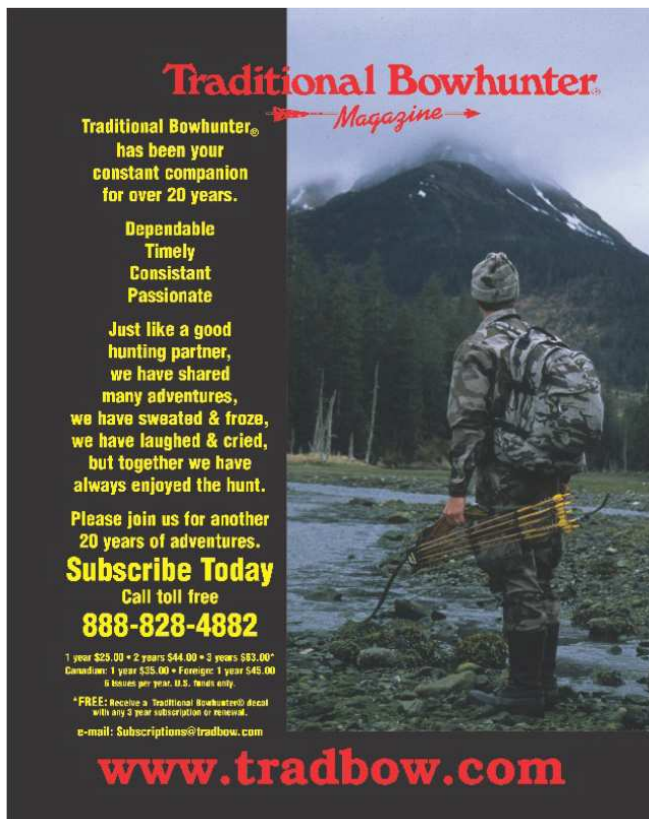
The NTA regular monthly meeting was held that morning from 9:00am to 11:45am.

Ken Oberschulte prepared an early lunch for volunteer seminar instructors and attending club members as well as those who attended from the public.

Seminar Topics included  
Treestand Safety & Placement  
Ground Hunting Skills  
Fire Starting  
Survival Skills & Pack Set Up  
Blood Trailing

Seminar Instructors were Eric Wellman, Steve Bunck, Frank Hicken, Vince Smith, Zack Hicken and Rob Brooks.

Everyone agreed that it was an informative day and everyone who I spoke with stated that they had a great time and learned something at this event.



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# 2011 MOJAM

by Ken Oberschulte

On July 14 and 15, I journeyed to Marshall, Missouri with Wade Phillips to represent the NTA at the 2011 Missouri Self Bow Building Jamboree. This event is best known to traditional bowmen as MOJAM.

With the Missouri River well above flood stage and sections of Interstate 29 closed on the normally shortest route to Kansas City, we elected to take Hwy 75 South to Interstate 70 then travel East to Marshall. As it turned out, this longer than normal route selection was a wise one and undoubtedly the best decision that we made all weekend.

As always, we found the people in the hills of Missouri to be warm and friendly and the mid July weather to be torturously hot and unbearably humid. We saw a few familiar faces, Mike & Brenda Horton of The Nocking Point and Tom Norris of Bear Foot Traditions.

The hosting club has a sizable acreage in the timbered hills of the local park with a nice clubhouse and primitive camping. There were several vendors set up near the clubhouse site as well as several attendees selling traditional items out of the back of their pickups. There was a lot of bow wood and raw materials available for sale for the self bow making enthusiast.

It was surprising to see that there was just one bandsaw and one small belt sander as the only two power tools on the premises. It was even more surprising to see that these power tools were used very infrequently. Most of the bowmaking work that was done was with hand tools, draw knives, rasps, files and scrapers rather than with power tools.

At MOJAM, we didn't see a single Bow Vice or even a Bow Horse as NTA members know them. Simply made, low to the ground, Bow Benches with a small vice, and a 4x4 block of wood at one end, were the devices used for working on bow staves.



*A low to the ground Bow Bench with a small vice.*

During the second day in this sweltering heat, the comment was made that at every annual NTA Bow Building Jamboree we usually have a dozen or more power tools, and that our members make far more saw dust in an hour, than the MOJAM attendees probably make during an entire 3 day weekend.

# Free Classified Ads

**For Sale:** Rattlesnake Skins dried and ready for use for bow backing. Large size, \$30 per pair. Call Rob Brooks (402) 677-8677, crookedstick@bigstring.com

**Wanted:** Bear Takedowns- Limbs, Risers, or complete Bows, or parts Left or Right hand. Ken Oberschulte (402) 694-9318

**Wanted:** 1871 to 1971 Bows, Arrows, Broadheads, Quivers, Fletchers, Misc Tools, Accessories, Archery Books, Catalogs and other vintage archery memorabilia. Will buy individual items or entire collections. Wade Phillips (402) 493-6004

**Feather Grinding:** Turkey or goose, trade 1 for 1 or 25 cents a feather. Also selling natural turkey fletching, left or right, \$1 each for primaries and 75 cents each for secondary, 25 cents more for dyed. Lonesome Wind Longbows, Vince Smith (402) 936-0046

**Nebraska Big Buck Classic**

**Jan 27-29, 2012**

**Quest Center, Omaha, Nebraska**

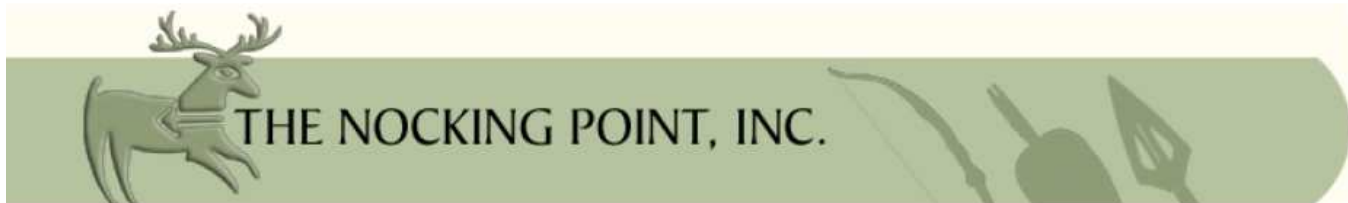
**For Sale:** 14'x14' white canvas Don Stintz Officers tent, comes with all poles, ropes, stakes, plus tarps, carpet, wood stove, lantern hangers, a 16'x14' awning, and totes for all the canvas, ropes and stakes. \$1,000 firm (new price for everything is over \$3,000) Call (402) 727-9141 or (402) 936-0046, ask for Vince.

**NTA Crossbow Policy Statement**

The NTA does not consider the conventional crossbow nor the compound crossbow to be legitimate hunting bows and will not permit their use, or possession at any NTA event or gathering.

The NTA considers the use of any type of crossbow during any bowhunting season to be the most serious threat that the future of bowhunting has ever faced.

The NTA strongly encourages all sportsmen to boycott the products of companies engaged in the manufacture, distribution, sales or promotion of crossbows, and to express their dissatisfaction directly to these companies at every available opportunity.



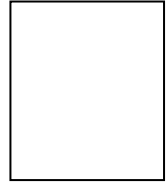
www.thenockingpoint.com – Mike & Brenda Horton (913) 774-7172, 18174 158th St., Winchester, KS 66097

## Nebraska Game & Parks Commissioners

Contact information for Nebraska Game & Parks Commissioners is provided for NTA members who are interested in contacting Commissioners who legalized the use of crossbows in during archery seasons in Nebraska. We would like to thank Commissioners Pinkerton, Marshall and Berggren for their votes against the use of crossbows.

District	Name	Address	Phone
1	<b>Dr. Mark Pinkerton</b>	114 W 3rd St, PO Box 1127, Wilber 68465	(402) 228-1755
2	<b>Ron Stave</b>	25827 Blondo St, Waterloo 68069	(402) 359-2718
3	<b>Mick Jensen</b>	PO Box 500, Blair 68608	(402) 426-9511
4	<b>Norris Marshall</b>	186 W Rd, Kearney 68845	(308) 233-4587
5	<b>Jerrod Burke</b>	220 Crook Ave, Curtis 69025	(308) 367-4399
6	<b>Lynn Berggren</b>	514 Westridge Dr, Broken Bow 68822	(308) 872-6684
7	<b>Mark Spurgin</b>	790 Rd East R South, Paxton, 69155	(308) 239-4539
8	<b>Dr. Kent Forney</b>	5001 Trotter Rd, Lincoln 68512	(402) 421-6456
At Large	<b>Rex Fisher</b>	1314 Douglas, 13th Floor, Omaha 68102	(402) 422-3742

Nebraska Traditional Archers  
PO Box 213  
Trey nor, IA 51575



TO:



The purpose of the Nebraska Traditional Archers (NTA) is to promote traditional archery. The NTA represents the Traditional Archery community at the state and national levels. The NTA provides traditional archers the opportunity to gather, shoot, maintain and expand their skills and knowledge of traditional archery and its rich history. The organization advocates and requires the strict adherence to fair chase principles.

The NTA publishes a quarterly newsletter, holds an annual banquet, organizes an annual spring shoot, an annual Labor Day Weekend Rendezvous and sponsors several other events throughout the year including an annual 2-day self bow building seminar that is free to NTA members.

**Membership Application – Encourage Others to Join – <http://www.nebraskatraditionalarchers.org>**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send a check or money order to:

**Rick Saar, Treasurer**  
**PO Box 213**  
**Trey nor, IA 51575**  
**Ricksaar@frontiernet.net**

- \$20 Annual Membership** (9/1 to 11/30 or after 6/1)  
(12/1 to 2/28 = \$15; 3/1 to 5/31=\$10)
- \$150 Lifetime Membership**