

Nebraska Traditional Archers

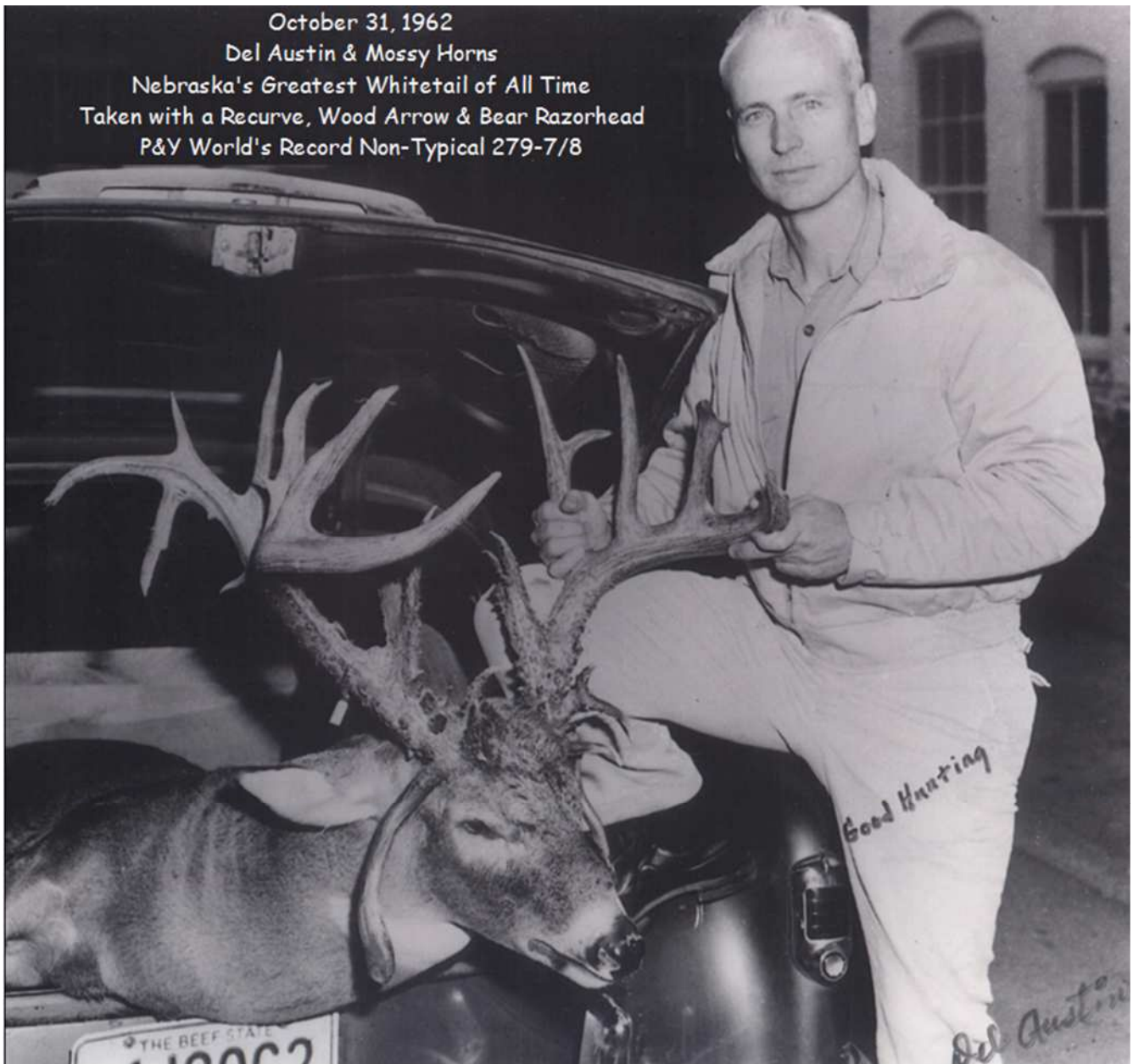


*We promise to keep it simple*

Volume 3  
Issue 1

January  
2012

# The Nebraska Traditional Archer



# 2012 Calendar of Events

---

## **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 11, 2012**

Annual Game Feed  
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

## **Feb 15, Deadline for Mar Newsletter**

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

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

## **Feb 24 – 26, 2012**

Compton Traditional "Pre-Spring Arrow Fling"  
Tannehill Historical State Park, McCalla, Alabama  
Terry Harris (205) 822-3563 archertw@bellsouth.net

## **Mar 3 – 4, 2012**

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

## **Mar 9 – 11, 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

## **Mar 16 – 18, 2012 (Tentative Date)**

Oklahoma Self Bow Jamboree, OJAM  
Stillwater, OK – www.ojam.org

## **Mar 25, 2012 through May 31, 2012 (Tentative Date)**

Nebraska Archery Spring Turkey Season Open Statewide

## **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

## **May 15, Deadline for Jun Newsletter**

## **May 27 – 28, 2012**

Iowa Traditional Bowhunter's Society Rendezvous  
Ames, Iowa

## **Jun 9, 2012, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon**

NTA Monthly Meeting  
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

## **Jun 10, Sunday 8:00am - 4:00pm (Tentative Date)**

Grant Hoefener Memorial 3-D Shoot  
Schram Park Archery Range

## **Jun 15 – 17, 2012**

Compton Traditional Bowhunters Rendezvous  
Berrien Springs, Michigan

## **Jul 14 – 15, 2012, Saturday, 8am – 6pm, Sunday 8am – 3pm**

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

## **Jul 15, Deadline for Aug Newsletter**

## **Jul 14 – 15, 2012 (Tentative Date)**

Missouri Selfbow Jamboree, MOJAM  
Marshall, MO

## **Jul 26 – 29, 2012**

Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous  
Denton Hill, PA

## **Aug 3 – 5, 2012**

NBA Jamboree, NTA Exhibit & Mini Bow Building Workshop  
Nebraska National Forest, Halsey, NE

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

NTA Monthly Meeting  
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

## **Aug 20, 2012 (Tentative Date)**

Nebraska Archery Antelope Season Opens

## **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

## **Sept 15, through Dec 31, 2012 (Tentative Dates)**

Nebraska Archery Turkey Season Open Statewide

## **Sept 15, through Dec 31, 2012 (Tentative Dates)**

Nebraska Archery Deer Season Open Statewide

## **Sept 15, 2012 through Jan 18, 2013 (Tentative Dates)**

Nebraska Archery Deer Season Choice Areas Open

## **Oct 6, through Oct 14, 2012 (Tentative Dates)**

Nebraska October Antlerless Whitetail Deer Season Open

## **Dec 15, Deadline for Jan Newsletter**

*On the Cover – 50 Years Ago - An autographed 1962 photograph of Del Austin with Mossy Horns, Nebraska's Greatest Whitetail of All Time and still the Pope and Young World's Record in their latest Record Book, A Traditional Journey, published 2007. This tremendous buck was taken with an Oneida recurve and a handmade wood arrow tipped with a hand sharpened Bear Razorhead. Refer to article on page 5 for more details.*

## 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 Nebraska Traditional Archer** is published quarterly 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, renewals and changes should be sent to the Treasurer / Membership Chairman listed in the column at right.

### Treasurer's Report – by Rick Saar

New Balance on Dec 15, 2011 .... \$11,425.11

Last Year's Balance on Dec 15 .... \$ 6,167.84

## NTA Officers

#### President

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

#### Past President

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

#### 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

Steve Bunck (402) 727-6781  
1424 North Nye  
Fremont, NE 68025  
steve.bunck@valmont.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

# Welcome New Members

Over the past several months, many new members have joined the NTA.

## New Members

Troy & Samuel Anzalone	Josh Barnes
Joel Dering	Richard Fickle
Curtis & Jacob Friedrich	Mac Forbis
Russell Glynn	Terry Hultquist
Henry Janning	Jim Johannes
Chris Madsen	Steve Martin
Kevin May	Steve Nimerichter
Tom Norris	Mitch Osborn
Shawn Riley	Rod Robinson
Jack Ruff	Kevin Rush
Vic Scheer	Curtis Schneider
Douglas & Launie Sorem	Mike Sukup
Stan Wolf	Tray Zimmerman

## New Life Members

Ken Broman	Austin Huertz
Matthew Ginn	Larry Matranga
Kevin Hernes	William Pauley

## Upgrade to Life Membership

Jeff Breitreutz  
George Kaplan  
Jeremy Misfeldt

## Election Notice

The club is preparing for 2012 elections. A ballot vote will be held Saturday February 25 during the Annual Meeting and Banquet at the Large Lodge at the Fremont Izaak Walton Park for the offices listed below.

President  
Vice-President  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Directors  
Editor

If you would like to run for one of these offices, simply contact one of the Officers listed on page 3 to have your name added to the ballot as a self-nomination.

If you would like to nominate a member for an office, simply submit the nominee's name and office to one of the NTA Officers on page 3. The nominee's name will appear on the ballot along with your name as having nominated that member for that office.

At the meeting, nominations from the floor will also be accepted and added to the ballot.

As of this writing, all of the members presently listed on page 3, under NTA Officers, have agreed to seek office for another one year term.

# President's Column

I'd like to thank everyone who participated and helped with all of our events during the past year. That's a whole lot of people to thank, and I know I'd never come close to remembering every name so I won't start what would be a very a long list. I'll just say we have a lot of really great members who make this club what it is today. We undoubtedly had our best year ever in recent history. As you can see in the column to the left, our club is growing. I'd like to personally welcome all of our new traditional friends. If you would like to be more involved, please submit your name for any office for next month's elections.

As you can see elsewhere in this issue, we have a lot going on this year. In addition to these events, there have been discussions about several other things for members to do this year. A few of those are a Spring Bow Build, bringing back the Pheasant Hunt, a February 3-D Snowman Shoot on the afternoon of the day of the Ike's Annual Game Feed, and serving lunch after each monthly meeting then having an afternoon shoot or seminar. I would like to hear your thoughts about anything different that you would like to see for any of our events this year. Bring your ideas to the Annual Meeting, or if you can't be there, send me an email.

If you can help out with Yankee Gift Exchange items for the Annual Meeting, please contact Rick Saar, see page 17.

At the December Meeting, the name of the newsletter was changed from *Bent Stick Bulletin* to *The Nebraska Traditional Archer* to provide better name recognition for the NTA. Printing dates were changed to Jan, Mar, Jun and Aug so we can report on, and announce events in a more timely manner.

A new Classic-Century class was added to the String Shoot. Either the bow must be 40 or more years old, or the age of the bow plus the age of the shooter total 100 or more years. It should be a lot of fun seeing more old bows being used.

## In This Issue...

2012 Calendar of Events .....	2
On the Cover .....	2
NTA Mission Statement .....	3
Treasurer's Report .....	3
NTA Officers .....	3
Welcome New Members .....	4
President's Column.....	4
Del Austin & Mossy Horns, Nebraska's Greatest WT .....	5
A Trip of a Lifetime .....	6
Compton Dream Raffle 2012 .....	8
Questions & Answers - Wood Arrows .....	9
Handmade Wood Arrows .....	11
Plum Creek Cabin .....	12
Archery History – Happy 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Glenn St. Charles... ..	13
2012 Events .....	14
NTA Monthly Meetings .....	16
The Bow Horse .....	18
The Camp Cook .....	19
2012 Dart Shoot & Swap Meet .....	20
Izaak Walton Report .....	21
Compton Update .....	22
Free Classified Ads .....	23
Nebraska Game & Park Commissioners .....	23
Membership Application .....	24

# Del Austin & Mossy Horns, Nebraska's Greatest Whitetail

---

by Wade Phillips

Del Austin was born in 1923 and grew up on a farm near Kirwin, Kansas. After graduating from high school in 1940, he went to work for Beechcraft, an aircraft manufacturer in Wichita. Shortly after Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the aviation branch of the Navy. In 1944, Del was married and has four children, eight grandchildren, and thirteen great grandchildren. After World War II, he was discharged from the Navy and began his 42 year career with the retail chain stores J.M. McDonald in Wichita. In 1956, Del moved to Hastings, Nebraska as the operations manager of their newly opened warehouse and general office, where they serviced 108 retail stores in the Midwest and California.

Del got started in archery when Charley Marlow, a co-worker and advertising manager, asked Del if he wanted to help start a local archery club. Nebraska's archery deer season was established in 1955, and to Del hunting deer with a bow and arrow sounded like a lot more fun than taking up golf. Del and Charley hunted with Al Dawson, who worked for Morell Meats, and Gene Halloran, a farmer. They hunted on a farm located along the Platte River bottoms that was owned by Dan Thomas. These four bowmen hunted relentlessly for a tremendous non-typical whitetail buck that Al had first seen in 1958. Al named the buck Mossy Horns because the buck's many non-typical points looked like moss hanging from his antlers. In 1958, Al missed a shot at the buck. In 1959, the buck was spotted twice, but no shots were taken.

In 1960, the four bowmen saw Mossy Horns three times. The only shot taken was when the buck stood directly under a tree where Al was concealed. The buck escaped unharmed as the arrow hit a tine protruding from his enormous antlers. In 1961, Mossy Horns was not seen until late in the season and no shot was taken.

During the spring of 1962, Dan found a matched pair of shed antlers from Mossy Horns. Well before the start of bow and arrow season, new paths were cut through heavy cover to direct deer traffic near where the buck had left his unmistakable tracks along the dry river bed. Several stands were placed at intersections of the new paths. During the early season, the buck was spotted three times, but there were no opportunities for a shot. In late October, the buck walked in heavy cover within 15 yards of Al, but didn't get into an opening until he was 45 yards away. Al's shot went over the buck's back. With rifle season opening in a few days, and knowing that three rifle hunters would be after the buck, the bowmen spent every possible minute in pursuit of Mossy Horns.

The afternoon of October 31, Al and Gene were on stand early. Del and Charley left work late, dressed in transit as they rushed out for a one-hour evening hunt. Del set up a small homemade portable platform stand about six feet off the ground in a tree surrounded by heavy brush, sprinkled Pete Rickard's Buck Lure around the stand and waited until shooting time was nearly over. As his

thoughts drifted to lighting up a cigarette and leaving his perch, he heard crashing from upwind. In the dim light, the huge buck stopped in an opening about 40 yards away, which was too far for a good shot. After checking the wind, the buck ran up and stopped quartering slightly toward Del at about 15 yards.

When the buck became nervous and seemed ready to bolt. Del drew his 45# Oneida recurve and put the hand sharpened Bear Razorhead right behind the buck's shoulder. At the shot, about 10" of his handmade wooden arrow was still visible as the deer crashed off into the heavy cover. Del waited in the stand until dark. When the other bowmen joined him, they found blood and the feathered end of the broken shaft. After a few hours of trailing and dead flashlight batteries, they decided to return the next morning. Although Del didn't sleep a wink that night, he wasn't a bit tired the next morning and found Mossy Horns in the heavy buck brush less than 50 yards from where their search had ended in the darkness.

Del sent the antlers to Pope & Young Club Founder, Glenn St. Charles and they were officially panel measured. With the score of 279-7/8, Mossy Horns became the New World Record Non-Typical, topping the previous World Record by nearly 100 points. Because it was such an exceptional trophy, Mossy Horns received the Pope & Young Club's first ever Ishi Award, granted by the Club only for truly outstanding animals.

In 1963, Del took a P&Y Colorado Mule Deer. In the fall of 1964, he took a large buck antelope in Nebraska and for a brief period, he held the Nebraska Records for both Antelope and Non-Typical Whitetail. Del went on to take 42 whitetail bucks and three does with the bow and arrow, many of which are nice trophies.

In 2010, Del became disabled and must now use a walker. Local friends, a dentist and a funeral director, still take him out each fall to hunt deer from a ground blind. At 88 years old, Del jokingly says when they leave to go hunting, he is never sure if he will be spending the evening in his deer blind or on a slab in the mortuary. Del has always been very modest and to this day simply claims that he was lucky to take Mossy Horns. In this age of highly commercialized hunting, disgusting infomercial hunting shows, shameless self-promotion and unsportsmanlike redneck chest beating, it is truly refreshing to talk with Del who is a genuinely humble man.

Today, Mossy Horns is still the #1 Non-Typical Whitetail in the Pope and Young Club's 2007 Record Book, "A Traditional Journey" and Compton's 2008 "Traditional Bowhunting Archives". During the past 50 years, there haven't been any serious challengers for its #1 Traditional Ranking. Mossy Horns tops the #2 entry in the P&Y book by 30-1/8 and the #3 entry by 50-0/8. In the Compton Archives Mossy Horns tops the #2 entry by 57-2/8 and the #3 entry by 60-6/8.

Through the annals of time, Del will forever be linked to Mossy Horns and to what many sportsmen consider to be the most interesting whitetail hunting story of all time.





*Ten year old Jacob Friedrich of Fremont in a tree stand on the NTA Mentored Youth Hunt near Royal Nebraska.*

Winning this trip was a dream come true. No Mom, No Sister, just us guys and Ms. Dawn. There were many adventures at this camp such as: hunting, setting snares, talking by the camp fire and setting up tree stands. These things are always fun when you're doing it with Mr. Dave, Mr. Brandon, Ms. Dawn and of course, Mr. Vince.

On my first day, when Mr. Vince and I had just gotten in the tree stand, I saw my buck for the first time. He came up behind me before I even had an arrow on my bow. As I reached for the arrow with my bow in my lap, the deer spotted me. He ran off behind us into the thick brush.

The second day Mr. Vince and I went out and did not see anything.

On the third day I went hunting with Mr. Dave and we had to move to a cedar tree because the tree with our stand was moving too much. We didn't see anything but a noisy old combine.

The fourth day I went out in the morning with Mr. Brandon and didn't see a single deer. The only thing we saw was a very beautiful ring-necked pheasant. Regretfully then it was time to go back to the house in the city, rather than an awesome cloth tent in the middle of nowhere, otherwise known as paradise.

Besides getting to do all of this great hunting, I was able to learn how to:

- A) Start fires with flint, a striker and tinder.
- B) Set up cloth tents.
- C) Set snares using wire and twigs.
- D) Gut a deer.
- E) Cook GREAT camp food.
- F) Throw knives and hatchets (don't tell my Mom).
- G) Make self-defense moves, of course with Mr. Dave.
- H) Reduce cord space by making cord bracelets with Mr. Brandon.
- I) Sadly, take down cloth tents and pick up camp.



## A Trip of a Lifetime *continued*

My favorite part was the hunting. Going out every day to get a deer was a blast! Even though you didn't see anything, you could still watch the nature circle around you. I shot twice at deer but missed. I shot at a fork horn buck and a doe. Mr. Brandon shot two does and was red hot in a tree stand. Mr. Vince shot a button buck with some pretty thick meat. It was a great adventure that I think every kid should experience. I'm just lucky to be one of those few kids who get to experience this with such great people and hunters as these.

Once again I would like to thank Mr. Vince Smith, Mr. Brandon Abbott, Mr. Dave Thomas, Ms. Dawn, and of course the Nebraska Traditional Archers.

Thank you for this experience of a lifetime!

*Jacob Friedrich (signed)*



*Jacob Friedrich at front, back row, Vince Smith, Brandon Abbott, Dawn Thomas, Dave Thomas, at camp on the NTA Mentored Youth Hunt.*

**Editor's Note:** At the September 2011 NTA Rendezvous, Jacob won one of the two separate 4-Day NTA Mentored Youth Hunts that were held on a 1,200 acre farm near Royal, Nebraska. Jacob is 10 years old and is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Miliken Park in Fremont, Nebraska. Jacob started shooting two years before he attended the July 2011 NTA Bow Building Jamboree and made his first traditional bow from a bamboo backed Ipe (pronounced "Epay"), blank that he acquired from Ken Oberschulte.



*Jacob working on the bow that he later used on the Mentored Youth hunt.*



*Jacob at work on his bamboo backed Ipe bow, with maple handle, as Steve Bunc and Jacob's father, Curtis, look on.*



*Jacob practicing in camp on the Mentored Youth Hunt to keep his shooting eye sharp.*





# Compton Traditional Bowhunters Dream Raffle 2012



One lucky person will win the entire "Fred Bear Dream Package" so get your tickets today!



- Original 1959 Bear Kodiak
- Replica 1959 Kodiak bow by VINTAGE WORKS, Scott Reed. Includes three replica Bear arrows.
- Box of 1959 Bear X-100 arrows with original Razorheads with inserts.
- One dozen replica cedar arrows with original Bear Razorheads by J&M Traditions, Jim Rebeck.
- Original 1959 Bear Western quiver with knife and file.
- Original 1959 Bear knife/file set.
- Original box of 1959 Bear Razorheads.
- Original 1959 Bear 4 arrow bow quiver.
- Original 1959 Bear shooting glove.
- Original 1959 Bear armguard (not pictured).
- Original 1959 Bear bowstring in original plastic sleeve.
- Replica of original 1959 Bear catalog.

**Tickets are only \$5.00 each or \$25.00 for six.**

To request tickets, or for returning ticket stubs and payment, please contact:

**Joe Lasch - N8356 County Road G, Lake Mills, Wisconsin 53511 (920) 397-0959**

Drawing will be held Saturday evening June 16, 2012 at the Compton Traditional Bowhunters Rendezvous in Berrien Springs, MI.



**Question:** How do I get started making wood arrows?  
- A question asked by several members over the years.

**Answer:** Let me begin by saying that this answer isn't about bashing aluminum or carbon arrows, so hopefully, there won't be any hate mail sent about how much better aluminum or carbon arrows are than wood. Although many bowmen don't realize it, quality wood is still an excellent choice for all types of shooting.

I began bow hunting in the early 90's with that terrible mechanical contraption, the compound bow: at least I shot with fingers and no sight. When I started, almost everyone was shooting aluminum arrows so I followed suit. My third year of bow hunting, also my last with a compound, I discovered carbon arrows; remember the tiny diameter ones with the thick wall and outserts? I thought these were great shafts. When I decided to make the switch to a traditional bow, an old 58" Bear Grizzly with a slightly twisted limb, the local traditional guys told me that I needed to shoot wood arrows. This created somewhat of a dilemma for me as I had always bought my arrows at the local sporting goods store and they did not have any wood arrows. Remember the days before the Internet? I had never heard of The Nocking Point, 3Rivers or Kustom King and I didn't even know they existed. One of the local guys took me to a traditional archery shop in a nearby town to set me up with what I needed to build wood arrows, a dozen cedar shafts, three dozen shield cut feathers, nocks, and points. I was all set! My buddy then let me use his taper tool, sealer, and fletching jig to make my first dozen wood arrows. I hated them! They weren't straight, no one had told me you had to straighten them, they weren't dipped or crested, so they were plain and ugly, and they broke too easily. However, that year I did get a doe with that old Grizzly and those ugly arrows.

That winter I saved my money and bought a Martin Dream catcher recurve, a 60 lb beauty! After a little research, I found out a lot of guys were shooting aluminum arrows out of traditional equipment. Some were even shooting carbon. So I tuned that Martin to shoot carbons and was thrilled with my results. I took my two best whitetails to date with that set-up.

After a few years with the recurve, I decided that a longbow looked like something I wanted to try, and ordered one to be built by a local bowyer. When the new longbow arrived, I took it to a local 3-D shoot to show my buddies. My mentor, and great friend Rod Aden, told me that now that I had entered the longbow ranks, I had to put down my carbons and aluminums, step up to the plate and shoot wood to come full circle. Having the utmost respect and admiration for Mr. Aden, and valuing everything that he had taught me, I decided right then and there to figure out these wood shafts.

Wood arrows are fickle creatures, you can devote many hours into building a dozen beautiful arrows and the first

time you shoot them you may break one. Some people don't like the fact that you don't always get 12 great shafts when you buy a dozen. You have to realize that wood is a natural material. Just because the dozen 50-55 spine Cedars you bought shoot perfect out of your set-up, it is possible the next dozen might not. It is possible to shoot the spine out of wood arrows if you shoot the same arrow a lot. Advantages of aluminum, and now even more so with carbons, are easy to understand. They are manufactured shafts with tight tolerances so every 35-55 or 500 spine arrow is just like every other one. Building them is simple, wrap them if you want, if you want to crest them they spin true in your crester, install your inserts, and nocks, and glue on your fletching. You don't have to mess with tapering or sanding. There is no sealing of the shafts. They all weigh the same. You can easily install weight if you want to make an EFOC arrow. The small diameter carbons penetrate great and they are either straight or broken. So why would anyone shoot wood?

Wood is alive. Wood is something you have to understand and appreciate. Wood has a character and a history. When done properly you BUILD a wood arrow, you don't assemble it. You never hear anyone say they "installed" anything on a wood arrow. If you are a craftsman or if you are spiritual about your bow hunting, you become one with a wood arrow you built. Wood will speak to you. When you roll a raw shaft out of a dozen and it rolls true with no straightening needed, you know that's a hunting shaft. All the great pioneers of archery shot wood. When you build your wood arrows you can make them yours, stain them whatever color you want, maybe even foot them.

Being a Fletcher for a while afforded me the opportunity to build and shoot arrows from several different woods including, Cedar, Pine, Hex Pine, Larch, Chundoo, Poplar, Maple, Cherry, Birch, Laminated Birch, Hickory, and Ash. Some woods lend themselves better to the beginning Fletcher, easier to work with and straighter from the get go. The soft woods can easily be tapered with a hand pencil sharpener style taper tool. The hard woods and the laminated woods are much better handled with some type of power sander taper tool. Straightening the shafts first is very important but not as daunting a task as many may think. I hand straighten wood shafts using heat for hard woods and laminated shafts. I've had success with the hook straighteners, the rollers, and compressors, but there is nothing like the romance of sighting down shafts and cranking on them by hand. Ash and Hickory will really test your straightening skills. The latest wood arrows I built for myself are Hex Pines. They are impressive. Right out of the box, they are by far the straightest shafts I've ever worked with. They also seem to be fairly tough, not Ash tough, but not bad. You have a huge selection of stains, cap dips, and finishes for your wood arrows, and you can truly personalize your arrows so that everybody will know that's your arrow. Once a wood arrow is tapered, sanded, stained, cap dipped,

## Wood Arrows *continued*

crested, and sealed, the process is the same as carbon or aluminum; nocks, fletching and points. The highest compliment I ever got on set of arrows was one from a young man at a 3-D shoot. He was looking at a set of American flag arrows I had built after 9/11/01, 13 red and white stripes, a blue cap dip with 50 stars, a red, a white, and a blue feather, and red stained shaft. That young man asked where he could get some stickers like the ones on my arrows. After showing him that the wood arrows were hand painted, not stickers, it left his mouth agape.

Some bowmen don't feel the need to have that personal connection with the equipment that they hunt with, which is good for those of us who build arrows now and then to sell to others. Somehow, I feel more "in the moment" when I hunt with tackle that I built myself. The most satisfying thing in world to me is to take an animal and know that very few people had a hand in what just happened. It doesn't matter if it's a chipmunk, pheasant, whitetail, or wildebeest. I shoot plastic nocks, Tusker or Grizzly broadheads, and Woodie weights. Other than that, it's all tackle that I build including the wild turkey or goose feathers that I grind myself. So what goes down from that arrow doesn't matter as much as the process that it took to get that arrow on its way.

There are many Traditional Archery Shops and Suppliers who can set you up with either the tools and supplies you need to build wood arrows, or sell you finished wood arrows. I would caution against seeking advice or supplies from any of the large chain sporting goods stores. While they may have big stores, most know little if anything about Traditional Archery.

If you go for building your own wood arrows, you will need some tools and supplies, a tapering tool, (buy the best you can afford), sand paper, a means to straighten shafts, a fletching jig, a feather burner or chopper if using full length feathers, points, nocks, stain, dip tubes, sealer, and glues for points, nocks and feathers. If you want to crest your shafts, a cresting lathe, cresting paint and paint brushes.

Make certain that all of your components are compatible with one another so you don't have paint that won't dry or feathers that won't stay on. Lacquer has been a popular cap dip and sealer for many years but the vapors are bad so you don't want to use them in your home. Water based choices have gotten much better in recent years. They are what I currently use because they are easier to clean-up and have no odor. I use Testor model paint for cresting and came up with my own cresting pattern that I have been using for years. Use your imagination and come up with a cresting pattern that you can call your own.

In the group I shoot with, wood arrows are in the minority. These days carbons are all the rage, but remember that woods have been used for thousands

of years to take all types of creatures worldwide. Why not give them a try? Maybe you'll fall in love like I did.

**Editor's Note:** The Traditional Archery Shops listed below are arrow building tool, and arrow component suppliers, who have supported the NTA in the past, and helped our club with generous contributions to our Rendezvous Auctions, Raffles and Drawings. If you are in need of any products or services that these Traditional Archery Shops handle, be certain to contact them with your specific needs.

### **The Nocking Point**

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

### **Bearfoot Traditions**

Tom Norris (515) 282-4623  
617 Euclid Ave, Des Moines, IA 50313

### **The Footed Shaft**

<http://www.footedshaftllc.com>  
Terry Banitt (507) 288-7581  
5510 Hwy 63 North, Rochester, MN 55906

### **Kustom King Traditional Archery**

<http://www.kustomkingarchery.com>  
(877) 566-4269 (877-LONGBOW)  
5435 75<sup>th</sup> Ave, Schereville, IN 46375

### **3Rivers Archery**

<http://www.3riversarchery.com>  
(866) 732-8783

Each of these shops have decades of experience with Traditional Archery Tackle and building wood arrows. Each vendor handles a wide variety of materials for building wood arrows. If you want to build your own wood arrows, they can aid in the selection of the proper tools and the right materials for your specific Traditional Bow. Most importantly they have the experience to give you truly professional advice and they all enjoy being helpful.

If you want to try shooting wood arrows but aren't ready to tackle building them yourself, these vendors also handle a wide selection of finished wood arrows, which vary greatly in price depending on feathers, dip, cresting, type of wood shaft material, broadhead, etc.



**Cedar Ridge Custom Sawmilling** Frank Hicken  
Owner

Custom Cutting for Soft or Hardwoods  
**Portable Bandsawmill**

Home: 402-652-8779  
Cell: 402-720-4646

North Bend, NE 68649

# Handmade Wood Arrows

by Dave Manwarren

Each year I build several dozen wood arrows because I enjoy building arrows. These are a couple styles that I built in 2011. They are parallel cedar, 50/55#, 550 gr and are footed with purpleheart. I use a Woodchuck to taper shafts, gasket lacquer, lacquer cresting paints from Hobby Town, a homemade cresting tool, a JoJan Multi-Fletcher and a Little Chopper to cut feathers. I purchase arrow supplies from the Nocking Point.



*Osage yellow stain shaft, 9" black & yellow crown, black & yellow spliced feathers, black Index nock.*



*Osage yellow stain shaft, 9" forest brown crown, white & blue bared spliced feathers, white Index nock.*





*Plum Creek Cabin, bowhunting headquarters of Dick and Carol Mauch, "Nebraska's First Couple of Archery".*

Dick and Carol Mauch invited Ken Oberschulte and me up to their place to spend some time with Dick while Carol was in Newfoundland hunting Caribou last fall. We spent a lot of time at their Cabin that is nestled along the clear, swift flowing Plum Creek in pine tree canyon country that drains into the nearby Niobrara River. The rustic cabin is fed by an endless supply of spring water that Dick harnessed in a very ingenious manner. A wood burning stove provides heat, hot water and serves as the clothes dryer. Propane is used for lights, stove, oven,

refrigerator and a hot water heater. There is no electrical power line run to the cabin because the nearest hookup is 4 miles away. However, a portable generator supplies electricity when it's really needed. We ate like kings and enjoyed every bite of Dick's world class gourmet meals, which are always memorable. Each morning, he cooked sour dough waffles one at a time in an antique cast iron waffle maker over an open flame. Waffles are served with eggs & a generous portion of meat. The only thing better than the food & scenery on this trip was the company.



*Dick Mauch and their Hungarian vizslas "Kat" and "Two" with a turkey that accidentally stepped in front of one of my misdirected arrows from an original Bear T/D. Dick picked the turkey and we celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday.*



*Third plateful of another gourmet breakfast, sour dough waffle topped with fresh pineapple, honey & Carol's delicious rosehip syrup, smoked spare ribs, an egg and a bottle of Plum Creek Cough Syrup (Carol's Sand Cherry Herring).*



# Archery History – Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Glenn St. Charles

December 15, 2011 was the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Glenn St. Charles. A short 15 months before his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Glenn passed away peacefully at his home in Seattle, Washington on September 19, 2010.

On December 10, 2011, twelve members of the NTA Board celebrated Glenn's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday five days early at our December meeting.



Over the years, Glenn touched the lives of many members of the Nebraska Traditional Archers as well as the lives of thousands of traditional bowmen across the country and around the world.

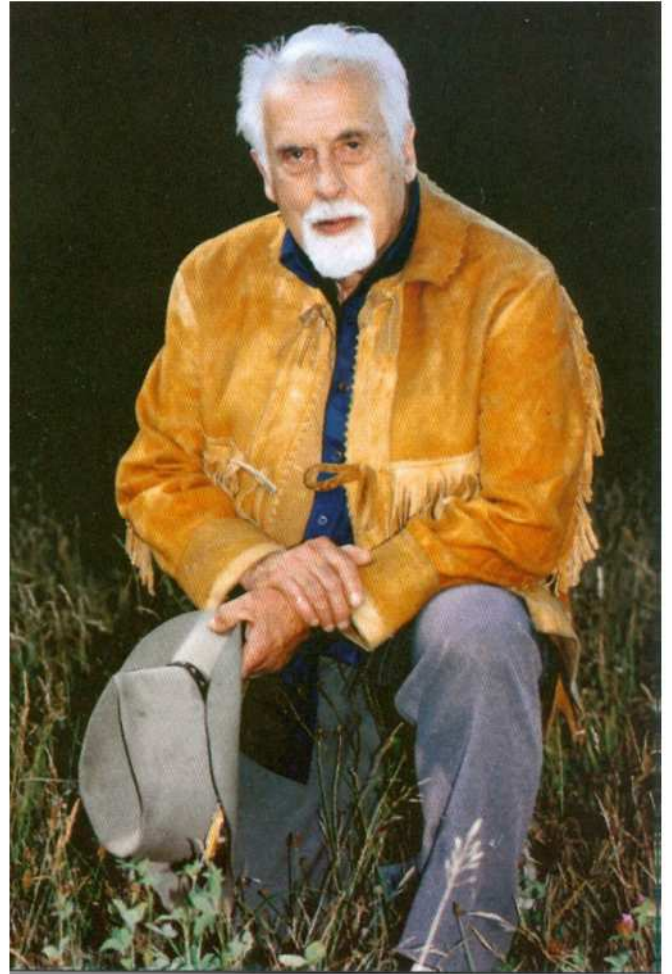
In September 2011, at the NTA Rendezvous, we held our first ever Glenn St. Charles Memorial Pie Auction in remembrance of Glenn and his endless contributions to us and to our beloved sport.

In our time, Glenn St. Charles was truly a Living Legend and the Dean of All Bowmen. Glenn was the Founder of the Pope and Young Club and Compton Traditional Bowhunters as well the visionary who is responsible for the creation of the Pope and Young Club / St. Charles Museum in Chatfield, Minnesota.

Glenn's legacy lives on in the Pope and Young Club / St. Charles Museum that is located in Chatfield, Minnesota, which is about a five hour drive from Omaha via Interstates 80/35/90. The Museum contains the most extensive collection in existence of the personal archery tackle of Art Young, Saxton Pope and Glenn St. Charles as well as many other historically important artifacts.

Many NTA members have visited the Pope and Young Club / St. Charles Museum. Some have visited several times. Any member who hasn't visited the Museum should plan a visit in the near future. The Museum is open to the public during normal business hours.

We all have Glenn St. Charles to thank for being foresighted enough to assemble many of these artifacts and for making his vision of a national Museum of Bowhunting become a reality through the Pope and Young Club, which he founded.



*Glenn St. Charles ...Gone But Never Forgotten...*

Glenn is a distinguished member of the Archery Hall of Fame and the Bowhunters Hall of Fame. He was an NFAA Vice-President and a driving force behind getting bowhunting seasons accepted across the country well before many of today's bowmen were even born. Glenn was a recipient of the NFAA's most prestigious old time archery award, the Compton Medal of Honor, named in honor of Nebraska's own William "Chief Compton", Patron Saint of all Nebraska Bowmen and the first inductee into the Nebraska Archery and Bowhunting Hall of Fame.

Glenn was the author of the two classic books "Bows on the Little Delta" and "Billets to Bow". Both books are required reading for any aspiring bowman who has an interest in learning about the rich history of archery.

Glenn's video version of "Billets to Bow" preceded the book and is regarded as one of the most informative tools developed during the national movement to revive old traditional archery methods. Glenn also authored numerous articles for old time archery magazines and other publications.

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Glenn.

# Make Plans Now to Attend these 2012 Events

## River City Hunting & Fishing Expo

From January 20 to 22, 2012, the NTA will again have an Exhibit and Hands On Self Bow Building Demonstrations at the River City Hunting, Fishing, RV, Boat Expo at the Mid America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa, west of Horseshoe Casino off I-80.

If you would like to volunteer to man the NTA Exhibit or Bow Building Demonstrations for one or more of the 2 hour slots, contact the NTA Chairman for this event Vince Smith (402) 936-0046, vsmith2425@neb.rr.com

Members who have Stave Presses and self bow building hand tools are encouraged to bring them for use during the demonstrations. Members who have osage staves that need to be worked down to single ring are encouraged to bring those staves along.

**Show Hours:** Jan 20 Friday 4pm to 9pm  
 Jan 21 Saturday 9am to 6pm  
 Jan 22 Sunday 10am to 4pm

**General Admission:**

Adults \$8  
 Kids 15 & under \$3  
 Free Parking

## Nebraska Big Buck Classic

From January 27 to 29, 2012, the NTA will again have an Exhibitor's Booth at the Nebraska Big Buck Classic at Omaha's CenturyLink Center (formerly known as the Quest Center). Members can cut out and use coupons below for admission discounts.

If you would like to volunteer to man the NTA Exhibitor's booth for one or more of the 2 hour slots, contact the NTA Chairman for this event Wade Phillips (402) 493-6004, wadephillips@cox.net

Bring your traditional bow and shoot for fun or competition in the Golden Arrow 3-D shoot that runs during the Classic at one end of the Exhibition Hall.

**Show Hours:** Jan 27 Friday 4pm to 9pm  
 Jan 28 Saturday 9am to 8pm  
 Jan 29 Sunday 10am to 4pm

**Big Buck Contest:** Tickets \$20 includes 3 day pass  
**Single Day General Admission:**

Adults \$10  
 Kids 7-12 \$5  
 Kids Under 7 FREE

Friday Free General Admission for Kids Under 12

**NEBRASKA BIG BUCK Classic**

**JANUARY 27-29**  
 CenturyLink Center Omaha  
 nebraskabigbuckclassic.com

*The BEST Outdoor Expo in the MIDWEST!*

**3 DAYS OF EXCITING HUNTING AND OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS!**

- Big Buck Contest & Awards Ceremony
- Golden Arrow Archery Club 3D Classic sponsored by Full Draw Archery
- Trail Cam Photo Contest
- North American Shed Hunters Contest
- Over 100 exhibitors showcasing your favorite outdoor products & services
- Professional seminars by outdoor industry leaders
- Ted Nugent Kamp for Kids Celebrity 3D Shoot & Live Auction
- Airgun & archery ranges, laser shooting games, antler shed find, face painting, balloon art & more for the whole family

*Make your mount a part of our impressive Big Buck Contest display! All entries are eligible for the grand prize hunt giveaway!*

**\$2 OFF**  
 Big Buck Contest Entry  
 One coupon per attendee 1000

**\$1 OFF**  
 General Admission  
 One coupon per attendee 1000

**Visit the Nebraska Traditional Archers Exhibit**



# Make Plans Now to Attend these 2012 Events

## Nebraska Traditional Archers

### Dart Shoot & Swap Meet

Saturday February 4, 2012

9:00am to 5:00pm

DB Archery

Platte Center, NE

11 Miles North of Columbus

On Site Lunch Available

Traditional Bows Only

3 Classes, Bowhunter, Women & Youth

Head to Head Shooting - Double Elimination

Open Shooting after Elimination

Novelties - Pick-A-Spot, Meat Shoot

Swap Meet - Bring Items to Sell or Trade

A Dart Shoot is good indoor practice for bowhunting live big game animals. The target is a short video clip of an animal(s) shown on a large screen. The bowman waits for the animal to move into an ideal position and angle for a shot. When the bowman shoots and the arrow hits the screen, a score is given for the hit angle and location on the animal and registered on the screen. Twenty different targets are shown at random to alternating shooters.

[www.nebraskatraditionalarchers.org](http://www.nebraskatraditionalarchers.org)

## Nebraska Traditional Archers

### 3-D Spring String Shoot

Sunday April 15, 2012

Registration 9:00am to 1:00pm

Hormel Park

1254 Ridgeland Avenue

Fremont, NE 68025

On Site Lunch Available

Traditional Bows Only

4 Classes

Longbow, Recurve, Primitive, Classic-Century

A String Shoot adds another challenge to a 3-D Shoot. At each target you walk along a string tacked to the ground until you think you have the best shot at the target. You can only move forward. There's no going back. If you reach the end of the string you must shoot from there.

[www.nebraskatraditionalarchers.org](http://www.nebraskatraditionalarchers.org)

## Nebraska Traditional Archers

### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Rendezvous

Sat & Sun September 1 & 2, 2012

Ranges

Vendors

Registration

On Site Lunch

Hormel Park

1254 Ridgeland Avenue

Fremont, NE 68025

Families Welcome

Traditional Bows Only

Unlimited Shooting on 3-D Courses

Many New 3-D Targets

Novelty Shoots

Kid's Shoot

Official Trophy Measuring Booth

YMCA Camp

1302 Ridgeland Avenue

Free On Site Primitive Camping

Free Showers

Saturday Night Potluck Dinner

NTA Will Supply the Pork

Auctions to Follow Dinner

Door Prizes

2012 NTA Dream Raffle Drawing

Member Drawings

Glenn St. Charles Memorial Pie Auction

Special Guest Speaker Sat Night is

Nebraska's own Dick Mauch

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

ROB BROOKS (402) 677-8677

[brooks.rob@gpcom.net](mailto:brooks.rob@gpcom.net)

or

RICK SAAR (712) 487-3013

[ricksaar@frontiernet.net](mailto:ricksaar@frontiernet.net)

Visit our Website

[www.nebraskatraditionalarchers.org](http://www.nebraskatraditionalarchers.org)

# Make Plans Now to Attend these 2012 Events

## Nebraska Traditional Archers

17<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Bow Building Jamboree

## BOJAM

## 2 Days of Building Self Bows

Sat & Sun, July 14 & 15, 2012

8:00am to 6:00pm Sat

8:00am to 3:00pm Sun

Izaak Walton Park - Small Lodge

2560 W Military Ave

Fremont, NE 68025

see map in column at right

No Cost to NTA Members

\$20 for Non Members

Members can furnish their own bow wood  
or purchase bow wood from the NTA  
Power Tools Provided by the NTA are  
Band Saws, Belt & Disc Sanders

### Mini Seminar Topics

Basic Self Bow Building  
Rawhide & Sinew Backing  
Advanced Arrow Building Techniques  
Z-Slicing Billets  
Removing Twist from a Stave  
Recurving Self Bows

On Site Camping Available Fri, Sat, Sun  
Lunch Available Sat & Sun

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

ROB BROOKS (402) 677-8677

brooks.rob@gpcom.net

or

RICK SAAR (712) 487-3013

ricksaar@frontiernet.net

Visit our Website

[www.nebraskatraditionalarchers.org](http://www.nebraskatraditionalarchers.org)

## NTA Monthly Meetings

The NTA Monthly Business Meetings are generally held at the Small Lodge at the Izaak Walton Park in Fremont, Nebraska on the second Saturday of each month. While NTA business is the predominate topic of discussion, members frequently bring some interesting vintage or new items to share with everyone.

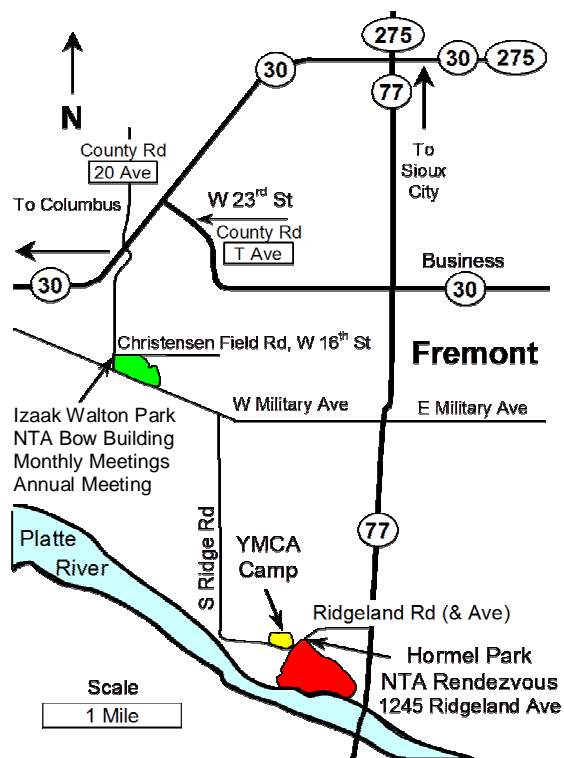
Meetings begin at 9:00am and last from two to three hours. Some members have lunch afterwards at one of the local eating establishments.

The exact date of each meeting is published in each issue of the newsletter on the inside front cover. If there are any changes to these dates, the time or the location of the meeting, advance notice is given to the membership via email.

In 2011 there was only one Business meeting change, when the time and location of the meeting was changed to accommodate and include the Paul Bunyan Stave Cutting Expedition in May.

A partial map is shown below of the Fremont area that illustrates the location of the Izaak Walton Park on the West edge of town on W Military Ave and County Rd 20 Ave, just South of Christensen Field Rd. This is the same location where we hold the July Bow Building Jamboree and the Annual Meeting & Banquet.

All members are welcome to attend Monthly Business Meetings. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the January Meeting.



# Make Plans Now to Attend these 2012 Events

## Nebraska Traditional Archers

### Annual Meeting & Banquet

Saturday February 25, 2012  
5:00pm to 10:00pm  
Large Lodge  
Izaak Walton Park  
2560 W Military Ave  
Fremont, NE 68025  
See map on page 16

Annual Business Meeting  
Election of Officers  
Card Raffles  
Potluck Dinner  
NTA Will Supply the Meat

Yankee Gift Exchange to Follow Dinner

The Yankee Gift Exchange is a fast pace fun event. When your name is drawn, you can draw for a gift or steal another member's gift. Each attendee receives at least one gift.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:  
RICK SAAR (712) 487-3013  
ricksaar@frontiernet.net

## Annual Meeting & Banquet

The Nebraska Traditional Archers Annual Meeting & Banquet will be held at 5:00pm Saturday February 25, 2012 at the Large Lodge at the Izaak Walton Park in Fremont, Nebraska. A map of the location is at the bottom of the facing page.

The first order of business is the Annual Business Meeting which is open to old and new business.

At the conclusion of the Annual Business Meeting, Election Ballots will be passed out to each member.

The Potluck Dinner will begin after Election Ballots are distributed. The ballot box will be placed at the start of the serving line.

Members must vote before they can eat!

During the meal, a few Card Raffles will be held for members who are interested in taking a chance to win some interesting prizes. While the meal is in progress, ballots will be counted. Election results will be announced at the conclusion of the meal.

The Yankee Gift Exchange follows which is always the most fun event of the evening. When a member's name is drawn, they can choose to draw for a gift or steal another member's gift. There is a limit of three steals for any one gift. When a gift has been stolen three times, it cannot be stolen again.

About February 1<sup>st</sup>, members will receive an invitation to the Banquet. Reservations will help determine the amount of meat and number of Gift Exchange items needed for that evening. Yankee Gift Exchange items are requested but not required for attendance.

## Member of the Year

### Nominations being sought

If you know of a NTA member who is deserving of this award, please nominate that person and include a summary of the reasoning for their nomination.

Nominations must be received by January 15, 2012  
Send nominations to last year's recipient,  
Rick Saar, (712) 487-3013, ricksaar@frontiernet.net  
PO Box 213, Treynor, IA 51575

Nominations will be reformatted without names, and an impartial panel of outdoorsmen with no knowledge of the nominees will make the selection.

## Needed

### Yankee Gift Exchange Items

The NTA is currently gathering items for the Yankee Gift Exchange, considered by many members as the most fun event at the Annual Meeting & Banquet.

If you can help by donating a new or slightly used outdoor or traditional archery item for this event, it would alleviate some of the stress from those trying to gather enough items to ensure that everyone receives a nice gift.

Please contact the Yankee Gift Exchange list keeper regarding items you can donate.  
Rick Saar (712) 487-3013 ricksaar@frontiernet.net  
PO Box 213, Treynor, IA 51575



In this column, we will discuss getting the wood to build a self bow. Self bows are the most ancient form of the bow. Over 10,000 years ago, somehow man figured out if he bent a limb and tied the ends together with a string, that he could send a sharp stick a considerable distance.

We'll begin with the tree. There are many woods that are suitable to use for bow wood, both white woods and yellow woods. Some of the most commonly used woods bow woods today are Osage (by far the number one), Yew (hard to come by these days), Hickory, Ash, Maple, Mulberry, Locust, Hop Hornbeam (white Osage or Ironwood), and Hackberry to name a few.

The first step is to acquire a piece of wood to make a bow. There are a couple of choices in this matter. You can cut your own wood or you can acquire a bow stave through purchase or trade. Acquiring a stave somewhere is pretty straight forward, simply decide what type of wood you want to use and shop around to find a good stave. Straighter, knot free and aged staves are usually more expensive than freshly cut staves that are twisted and have knots.

Cutting your own bow wood can be more fun, but a lot more work. You can cut down live trees or you can use standing dead or pushed-up trees. If you are going to drop your own trees, the best time of year to do that is in the early spring or late fall because it is easier to strip the bark off staves in those seasons.

Look for trees that are protected from being pounded by the wind. Protected trees are usually straighter than those exposed to wind. Look at the bark; if the bark goes straight up the tree and doesn't twist around the tree at all, that is the best indicator of a straight piece of wood. Unless you enjoy a challenge, look for a little over a six foot section of a tree that is four inches or more in diameter with no branches and no damage. If you are looking at standing dead trees, be sure to remember that white woods can rot in the middle very quickly, even when standing.

If you are looking at standing dead Osage remember any checking, or cracks in the wood may go quite deep, which can require stripping down several growth rings.

Yew wood was used by Medieval English bowyers to build the famed English Long Bow (ELB). Students of archery history know of the role the ELB played in the 100 years war and the battles of Agincourt, Crecy and Poitiers. In the US, Yew grows only in the Pacific Northwest and a permit is required to be able to cut trees down. Chances of Nebraskan's cutting their own Yew bow wood are quite slim. I have never had the opportunity to cut it myself. Cutting Yew will not be covered. Later we will cover Yew bow construction because Yew can be purchased, although it is very expensive in our region.

Once you have dropped your tree, or found your log in a pushed-up pile, you have some decisions to make. First, cut your logs in the 74"-80" range so you have extra length at either end as a little margin for error.

When a log is cut, it is also the best time to split the log into staves. A stave should be no wider than it needs to be. About four to six inches of stave width is enough to build any style of bow. I begin my split with a sharply and narrowly pointed axe head and then finish with splitting wedges. It takes some practice to learn where to start your split so that it finishes where you want. Many good staves have been ruined by trying to get two staves out one that is six to eight inches wide.

Once the log is split into staves, the bark should be stripped off of white woods. Stripping the bark is a simple matter if you are cutting your wood down in early spring or late fall because the sap is either going up the tree (spring), or coming down the tree (fall). I've found a tomahawk or good hatchet works best. Get your hawk started between the bark and the wood on the end of the stave and the bark will strip right off.

Once the bark is off the stave, the wood needs to be sealed where the bark was removed and on the ends. Use wax, sealer, or paint to keep the moisture in the wood from escaping from these places. Allowing the moisture to escape here will cause the wood to dry too quickly and cause it to check or crack in these areas. The moisture should escape only from what was the inside of the tree so don't put any sealer here. The bark and sap wood on Osage, Locust, and Mulberry type woods will seal the back and one only needs to seal the ends. At this point, some people will remove the bark and sap wood from these woods and seal them up like white woods to quicken the drying process. It will take the average size stave 12 to 18 months to air dry down to the 20% or less moisture necessary to build a useable bow.

The staves should be stacked somewhere out of the sun, where they will not get super hot, (like the roof of an un-insulated steel building), and stacked in a manner that air can circulate around them. The drying process can be speeded up with an oven, (make sure you have some way to move the air), or by working the stave down to rough bow dimensions and allowing it to then dry. If you don't have a moisture meter to check your wood the old layman's way was to bounce the stave off of a rock or concrete floor and listen to the wood. If you hear a hollow ringing sound the wood is dry enough, if you hear a dull "thud" the wood is still too wet to use.

Once the wood is dry enough to be worked the real work begins especially with Osage. In the next issue, we will discuss working the back of the stave down to a single growth ring, working around the quirks in the wood, bow layout and bow design differences.

## Deli Style Corned Venison

Corned meat is simple to make. This basic recipe is from the *Morton Salt Home Meat Curing Guide*. The easy innovations in parenthesis are mine. Use any red meat to corn, venison, bison, pronghorn, elk, beef, etc.

Trim the fat from meat to be corned. Removal of all fat from venison is key. Shoulder, neck and brisket portions of venison corn very well. Also those roasts which you may have had in your freezer for a while that are starting to dry or freezer burn on the edges will work well. Simply trim off the freezer burn before corning.

- 1 Brisket 4-6 lbs (or other cut of red meat)
- Mix together in dry form, the following ingredients
- 5 tablespoons Morton Tender Quick Mix (this can be found in the salt/spice section of most grocery stores, it is usually a 2 lb size blue bag)
- 2 to 3 tablespoons brown sugar (I use 3)
- 1 tablespoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon ground paprika
- 1 teaspoon ground bay leaves (minimum, this can be increased with use of just crushing bay leaves per your personal tastes)
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 to 1-1/2 teaspoons garlic powder (I like more garlic powder in the cure mix)
- Optional, 1 teaspoon mustard seed

You can also get along pretty well if you just want to substitute a pickling spice mix for the bay leaves, paprika, allspice, etc. which will also add some other spices including cloves. The brown sugar, garlic powder, and Tender Quick are the key ingredients.

Rub the mixture into all sides of the meat. Place the seasoned meat in a heavy duty type zip lock freezer bag, with some of the meat juices or perhaps a tablespoon of cold water. Immerse the bag in a pan of cold water right up to the zipper to expel the air and zip shut. This process vacuum seals the bag very nicely.

Place the now seasoned meat in the sealed bag in a pan in your refrigerator to continue to season for 4 or 5 days, turning over each couple days. After 4 or 5 days, the meat is corned and ready cook or freeze for later use. Label, identify and put the date of corning on the bag. Prepare in any usual corn beef method, roast, New England Boil with cabbage or in a Dutch oven with water to cover and brought to a boil, then simmered on reduced heat until tender, about 3 hours.

Be sure to try this corning recipe on some of your venison from this past season. Corned Venison is always a big hit on St. Patrick's Day, which will be just around the corner by the time you receive this issue.

Corned Venison also makes great Reuben sandwich material, especially with homemade sourdough rye bread, but for now, that is another well-kept secret.



Below is a wild turkey that Carol arrowed in October. We picked and prepared it for Thanksgiving using the instructions and the Dick's Herb Mix recipe from the October issue. This recipe works equally well for any species of wild turkey or domestic birds. Other NTA members, who tried this recipe for Thanksgiving, reportedly enjoyed the best turkey they've ever eaten!



Below is the Grayling Peanut Butter Pie mentioned in the last issue that was made using the recipe from that issue. The pie was made in September by Jim Edmunson and Wade Phillips in their Wyoming Badlands Camp. The 1950's Bear Archery Company Standing Bear Logo was made from crushed up Oreo Cookies in camp. The Pie is flanked by two 1969 Bear Take Down bows that they used on the trip



# 2012 Dart Shoot & Swap Meet

On Saturday, February 4, 2012, Stick Benders Unlimited will sponsor the Nebraska Traditional Archers Annual Dart Shoot and Swap Meet from 9:00am to 5:00pm at D B Archery in Platte Center, 11 miles Northwest of Columbus, Nebraska. Lunch will be available.

If you have never attended a Dart Shoot this will be a welcomed surprise for you. A Dart Shoot is good indoor practice for bowhunting live game animals. The target is a short video clip of an animal(s) projected on a large screen. The animals are near life size and are in their natural environment. The bowman waits for the animal to move into an ideal position and angle for a shot. When the bowman shoots and the arrow hits the screen, a score is given for the hit angle and location on the animal and registered on the screen. Twenty different target sequences are shown at random to alternating shooters.



*Patience pays dividends as the shooter waits for the elk to turn for a better shot...*



*As the bull turns, Bill Booth's arrow hits right behind the shoulder, and is falling to the ground before the score registers on the screen.*

This fun event consists of 20 arrows for each round shooting the Big Game Series. It is scored in friendly competitive manner with head to head competition in a double elimination format. Shooters are divided into three divisions Bowhunter, Women & Youth. Award plaques are given for top scores in each division.

Entry fee is Free for Kids under 16 to shoot for the award plaques.

There will be a full day of shooting for everyone. After elimination, shooters can participate in open shooting on the practice range next to the two Dart Ranges. Novelties are the Meat Shoot and Pick-A-Spot shoot.

This event is also a Swap Meet, so be certain to bring all of those archery and hunting items which you no longer use that you would like to swap or sell. There are always dozens of great bargains including many vintage items as well as newer items.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Dart Shoot and Swap Meet and having a lot of fun.

**Editor's Note:** Jerry Bennett was born on Leap Year Day, February 29, 1948 and wrote in that he does not officially turn 16 until 2/29/2012, so according to him, he believes that he qualifies for Free Entry. If Jerry isn't 16, you have to wonder if he is old enough to be eligible for a Nebraska driver's license?

**Traditional Bowhunter**  
Magazine

Traditional Bowhunter<sup>®</sup> has been your constant companion for over 20 years.

Dependable  
Timely  
Consistent  
Passionate

Just like a good hunting partner, we have shared many adventures, we have sweated & froze, we have laughed & cried, but together we have always enjoyed the hunt.

Please join us for another 20 years of adventures.

**Subscribe Today**  
Call toll free  
**888-828-4882**

1 year \$25.00 • 2 years \$44.00 • 3 years \$63.00\*  
Canadian: 1 year \$25.00 • Foreign: 1 year \$45.00  
\* taxes per year, U.S. funds only

\*FREE! Receive a Traditional Bowhunter's dress with any 2 year subscription or renewal.

e-mail: [Subscriptions@tradbow.com](mailto:Subscriptions@tradbow.com)

**www.tradbow.com**



# Izaak Walton Report

by Jerry Bennett

On Saturday November 19, NTA members Ken Oberschulte, Frank Hicken, Wade Phillips and Zack Hicken spent the entire day working on the kitchen in the Small Lodge at the Izaak Walton Park in Fremont.

When we first talked about NTA members doing this project, I offered to help, but Ken said that given my skill set, that the best thing I could do was to just say out of the way and not bother the guys while they were working. Ken's evaluation of my skills saved me from having to come up with a lame excuse for not being able to help.

Early that morning, my grandson Josh and I stopped by for a quick visit then left to go hunting on Frank's place. I figured if Frank and Zack were working on the lodge, the best thing I could do for them was to hunt their property and try to keep the deer population under control.

The guys had signed up to install a new linoleum floor in the kitchen. But I guess after they finished the floor, each of them tried to outdo the other by coming up with more improvements to make in the kitchen area.

When we returned that evening, I was the most surprised guy in the world to see all of the other improvements in addition to the new linoleum floor. Not only had they installed a new floor, they also put trim around the windows, a chair rail around the walls and cut down the counter to make a wider opening to the kitchen.

The NTA donated the cost of all of the materials for the project which Ken had picked up for a significantly discounted price from his contractor contacts.

The NTA members furnished all of the tools and labor for the project and untypical of many construction projects, they even cleaned up the small lodge.

The comments about the improvements that I have heard from other [Izaak](#) Walton members and directors have all been very positive and appreciative.

On behalf of the Fremont Izaak Walton chapter, I would like to thank the NTA and NTA members for this generous donation of materials and labor. These donations made a big improvement to this facility.

On a separate note, the Fremont Izaak Walton chapter will hold their Annual Game Feed on February 11, 2012. The Feed will be held at the Large Lodge. NTA members are encouraged to donate wild game for this event. Members who wish to do so may bring their donations to the January 14, 2012 NTA Monthly Meeting, which will be held at Large Lodge rather than the Small Lodge.



*The previous kitchen floor was conglomeration of different surfaces, cement, tile, missing tiles and wood. In this photograph, Ken is vacuuming up some of the debris after leveling the floor.*



*Frank, Ken and Zack laying the new linoleum.*



*Frank admiring the improvements of a long day's work.*

## New Compton Membership Director

Effective January 2012, longtime NTA Life Member, Craig Schoneberg of Grand Island, Nebraska became the Membership Director for the Compton Traditional Bowhunters, a national organization devoted exclusively to the promotion of traditional archery and its values.

Craig is well experienced in this position. For over 25 years he has served as the Membership Chairman for the Nebraska Bowhunters Association.

In December 2011, Craig retired from the Nebraska State Patrol with over 38 years of service. Craig said that he is looking forward to having more time to spend hunting as well as working on Compton business and playing his favorite role, that of Grandfather.

For NTA members who are interested in joining the Compton Traditional Bowhunters or renewing their Compton membership, a membership application can be found and printed online at:  
<http://comptontraditional.com/>

The new Compton mailing address is:

Compton Traditional Bowhunters  
Craig Schoneberg  
PO Box 5619  
Grand Island, NE 68802-5619

## 2012 Compton Traditional Bowhunters Rendezvous

The 2012 Annual Compton Traditional Bowhunters Rendezvous will be held June 15, 16 & 17, 2012 in Berrien Springs, Michigan, at the same location it has been since its inception.

## First Ever Compton Regional Gathering

In addition to the Annual Compton Traditional Bowhunters Rendezvous June 15, 16 & 17, 2012 that is always held in Berrien Springs, Michigan, in 2012 Compton will also hold its first ever regional gathering in McCalla, Alabama from February 24-26.

*"Pre-Spring Arrow Fling"*  
February 24, 25 & 26, 2012  
Tannehill Historical State Park  
McCalla, Alabama  
Terry Harris (205) 822-3563  
archertw@bellsouth.net

## Compton Dream Raffle 2012

For 2012, the Compton Dream Raffle will a 1959 Fred Bear package that includes a 1959 Bear Kodiak bow, Western Back Quiver, Bear Bow Quiver, Bear X-200 Arrows, Bear Bowhunter's Knife Kit plus a modern replica of the Kodiak Bow. A photo of the complete package is shown on page 8 of this issue and in Compton's Newsletter.

## Wanted

### Items for this Newsletter

**Please Send Articles & Photographs to**

NTA Editor, 1429 N 127<sup>th</sup> Cir, Omaha, NE 68154  
wadephillips@cox.net



*Jim Edmunson, NTA Life Member from Elkhorn, took this Wyoming Badlands mule deer in September while hunting from the ground with a 1969 Bear B Wood Handle Take Down, 55# limbs and a handmade arrow.*



*Brad Weiser, NTA Life Member from Albion, took this whitetail at 12 yards through the lungs from a tree stand on October 14 with a 56# Robertson recurve, Wensel Woodsman broadhead and an arrow he made himself.*

## 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, brooks.rob@gpcom.net

**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

**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.

**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



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

## Game & Parks Commission Update

After 24 years as the Director of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), Rex Amak has announced his retirement effective April 2012. It has been reported that a search committee, comprised of some present NGPC Commissioners, has been formed to conduct a National Search for a new NGPC Director. Although Commissioners are appointed by the Governor, the NGPC Director is selected by the Commissioners themselves.

If you know of a potential candidate who is qualified for this position, and who is favorable to the interests of the Traditional Archery Community, to Bowhunting and to Bowhunting Seasons, please submit that potential candidate's name to the Commissioners listed below and inform the NTA officers about the potential candidate's qualifications.

As bowhunters, this is also a critical time for all of us to express our view points to each of these Commissioners so they will understand exactly where Nebraska's Traditional Bowhunters stand on the issues and exactly what type of person we feel should be selected as the new NGPC Director.

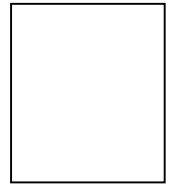
Contact information for Governor Dave Heineman is provided for those who may wish to contact him.  
 State Capitol: Office of the Governor, PO Box 94848, Lincoln, NE 68509-4848, (402) 471-2244  
 Western Office: Office of the Governor, PO Box 1500, Scottsbluff, NE 69363-1500, (308) 632-1370

## Nebraska Game & Parks Commissioners

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) 677-0442
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 and protect the sport of 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 string shoot, an annual Labor Day Weekend Rendezvous and sponsors several other events throughout the year including an annual 2-day Bow Building Jamboree 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:  **\$40 Business Membership** (includes business card in each issue)

**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**