

Nebraska Traditional Archers



We promise to keep it simple

Volume 5
Issue 1

January
2014

The Nebraska Traditional Archer



2014 Calendar of Events

Jan 11, 2014, Saturday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

NTA Monthly Meeting
Fremont Rural Fire Dept., Fremont, NE

Jan 17 – 19, 2014, Friday 4:00pm – Sunday 4:00pm

River City Hunting & Fishing Expo , NTA Exhibit Booth
Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs, IA

Jan 24 – 26, 2014

Kalamazoo Traditional Archery Expo
Kalamazoo, MI

Jan 31 – Feb 2, 2014, Friday 3pm – 9pm

Saturday 9am – 7pm, Sunday 10am – 4pm
Nebraska Buck & Bird Classic, NTA Exhibit Booth
CenturyLink Center, Omaha, NE

Feb 8, 2014, Saturday, 6:30pm

Izaak Walton Park Game Feed, Fremont, NE Large Lodge

Feb 22, 2014, Saturday, 5:00pm – 10:00pm

(Setup 1:00pm – 4:00pm)
NTA Annual Meeting, Elections and Banquet
Fremont Rural Fire Dept., 110 Boulevard Street, Fremont, NE

Mar 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Monday to Friday 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Mar 9, Saturday, 1:00pm – 4pm
Bowhunter Education Course (pre-registration required)
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

Mar 7 – 8, 2014

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

Mar 8, 2014, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

Mar 9, 2014, Sunday, 9:00am – 5:00pm

Nebraska Traditional Archers Triathlon
Izaak Walton Park Archery Range, Fremont, NE

Mar 14 – 15, 2014

Compton Traditional Bowhunters Classic
Louisville, KY

Mar 20 – 23, 2014

Oklahoma 10th Annual Self Bow Jamboree, OJAM
Stillwater, OK – www.ojam.org

Mar 25, 2014 through May 31, 2014 Tentative Dates

Nebraska Archery Spring Turkey Season Open Statewide

Apr 12, 2014, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting
1:00 – 6:00pm Sort Targets & Range Set Up
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

Apr 13, 2014, Sunday

NTA Annual Spring String Shoot
Hormel Park, Fremont, NE

Apr 25 – 27, 2014, Friday – Sunday

NTA Youth Hog Hunt
Shiloh Ranch, Stonewall, OK

May 10, 2014, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting
1:00 – 5:00pm BOJAM Instructors Workshop
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

May 24 – 25, 2014

Iowa Traditional Bowhunter's Society 20th Annual Rendezvous
Ames, Iowa

Jun 7, 2014, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

Jun 7 – 8, 2014, Saturday Noon – Sunday 3:00pm

Izaak Walton Carp Shoot
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

Jun 8, 2014 Sunday 8:00am - 4:00pm

Grant Hoefener Memorial 3-D Shoot
Schram Park Archery Range, Gretna, NE

Jun 20 – 22, 2014

Compton Traditional Bowhunters Rendezvous
Berrien Springs, Michigan

Jun 28 – 29, 2014, Saturday, 8am – 6pm, Sunday 8am – 3pm

May 1, 2014 Registration Deadline
NTA Fiberglass Longbow Building Class
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

Jul 19 – 20, 2014, Saturday, 8am – 6pm, Sunday 8am – 3pm

Nebraska BOJAM – 19th Annual Self Bow Building Jamboree
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

Aug 7 – 10, 2013

Nebraska Bowhunters Association Jamboree
Nebraska National Forest, Halsey, NE

Aug 9, 2014, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

Aug 20, 2013 through Dec 31, 2013 Tentative Dates

Nebraska Archery Antelope Season Opens

Aug 30 – 31, 2014

Nebraska Traditional Archers 19th Annual Rendezvous
Hormel Park, Fremont, NE

Sept 6, 2014, Saturday, 9:00am – Noon

NTA Monthly Meeting
Izaak Walton Park, Fremont, NE

Sep 15, 2014 through Jan 31, 2015 Tentative Dates

Nebraska Archery Turkey Season Open Statewide

Sep 15, 2014 through Dec 31, 2014 Tentative Dates

Nebraska Archery Deer Season Open Statewide

Dec 13, 2014, Saturday, 9:00am – 1:00pm

NTA Annual Pheasant Hunt (Nov 1, \$40 Registration Deadline)
1:00pm – 4:00pm Monthly Meeting
Little Creek Game Birds, Arlington, NE

On the Cover – Rob Roettele of Lincoln, draws on a well camouflaged whitetail at the Nebraska Traditional Archers Spring String Shoot, April 21, 2013. Photograph by Eric Wellman

Nebraska Traditional Archers

Purpose

- *The purpose of the Nebraska Traditional Archers is to promote responsible and ethical bowhunting practices and to support other archery organizations who do the same.*
- *To bring together people with a common interest and appreciation of traditional archery equipment and methods for the purpose of increasing their knowledge, skill and enjoyment of traditional archery*
- *To ensure continuation into the future the traditions and skills passed down by those bowmen who came before us.*

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 of this page.

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 Brian Shea

New Balance Reported Last Meeting	
Jan 10, 2014 ...	\$11,451.45
Balance Reported One Year Ago	
Dec 8, 2013 ...	\$11,670.07
Balance Reported Two Years Ago	
Dec 15, 2012 ...	\$11,425.11

NTA Board of Directors

President

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2312 C St. #3, Lincoln, NE 68502
ewellman@hotmail.com

Vice President

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davebonnie@windstream.net

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

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The club is preparing for our annual election of the Board of Directors. A ballot vote will be held Saturday, February 22 during the Annual Meeting and Banquet at a new location for our meeting, the Fremont Rural Fire Department 110 Boulevard St, Fremont, NE, 68025-9300.

The duties of the Directors are: (1) to attend the monthly meetings, (2) participate in making the decisions to manage the club's business affairs, and (3) to help with running the club's events throughout the year.

If you would like to become more involved with the club, you are encouraged to seek one of the Director's positions.

Details of the election processes are stated in the following sections of the NTA Bylaws that were adopted in 1996 and are now again being followed after a lapse of several years...

ARTICLE 5, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 5.02 – Election

Directors shall be elected by the membership at each annual membership meeting. Each director must be at least 18 years of age, and is elected by a plurality of the votes cast by the members entitled to vote in the election at the meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section 5.03 – Number, Tenure and Qualifications

The number of the Directors of the Corporation shall be a maximum of twelve (12)...

Section 5.04 – Regular Meetings

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held without other notice than this Bylaw immediately after the annual membership meeting. The place of the regular Board of Directors' meeting shall be the same as the place of the membership meeting that precedes it...

ARTICLE 6, OFFICERS

Section 6.02 – Election and Tenure

The officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors from their own body. The officers elected must have served at last one (1) year on the Board of Directors before they could be elected to serve as officers, excepting the office of Secretary and Treasurer. Each officer shall hold office for a period of one (1) year, or until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and have qualified, or until the officer's prior death, resignation or removal.

In accordance with the 1996 Bylaws stated above, after the Directors are elected by the membership, and after the annual meeting is adjourned, the newly elected Directors will hold a brief meeting on site, and from their own body will elect the club officers, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

If you would like to run for one of the Director's positions, simply contact one of the officers on page 3 to have your name added to the ballot.

If you do not have your name added to the ballot before the annual meeting, you can have your name added to the ballot during the annual meeting, as nominations from the floor will be called for and hand written on the ballot before the ballots are distributed for voting.

Also closely related to the Annual Meeting and the Election, is the Bylaw listed below.

ARTICLE 4, MEMBERSHIP

Section 4.9 – Quorum and Voting Requirements

Only adult members, those at least 18 years of age, may vote on any issues brought before the membership at either a regular or special meeting. A total of 20 adult members entitled to cast a vote shall constitute a quorum for action on any matter brought before the membership.

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Donations Needed

Yankee Gift Exchange

Contact:

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

Nebraska Traditional Archers



19th Annual Meeting & Banquet

Saturday, February 22, 2014

5:00pm to 10:00pm

Fremont Rural Fire Department

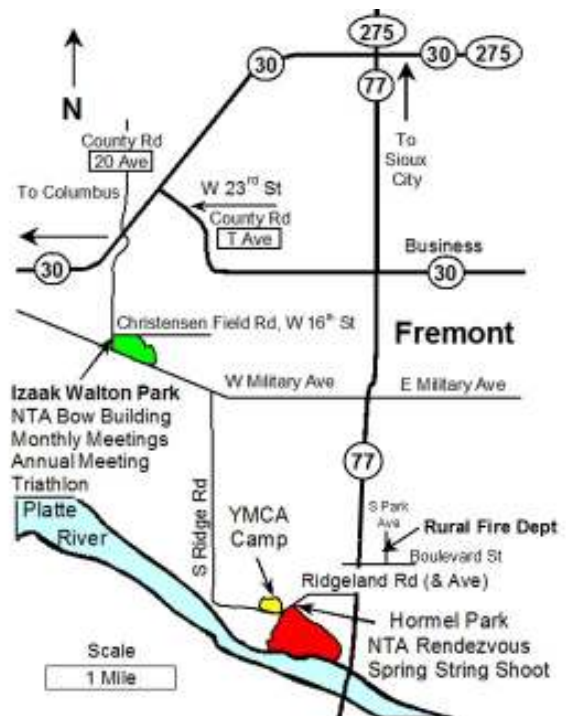
110 Boulevard ST

Fremont, NE 68025-9300

Annual Business Meeting
Election of Board of Directors
Potluck Banquet Dinner
NTA Will Supply the Meat
Card Raffles
Free Card Raffle for Kids
Silent Auctions
Yankee Gift Exchange

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

Rural Fire Dept Location



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

ERIC WELLMAN (402) 840-3596
ewellman@hotmail.com

or

BRIAN SHEA (402) 812-9807
bowguy50@yahoo.com

Visit our Website

www.nebraskatraditionalarchers.org

Nebraska Traditional Archers



Triathlon 3-D Shoot

Sunday March 9, 2014

Registration 9:00am to 12:00pm

Izaak Walton Park - Archery Range

2560 W Military Ave

Fremont, NE 68025

On Site Lunch Available

What is a Triathlon 3-D Shoot?

A Traditional Archers Triathlon is a uniquely challenging 3-D Shoot. Archers shoot three rounds using a different type of bow for each round, a Longbow, a Recurve and a Selfbow. Highest three combined scores wins.

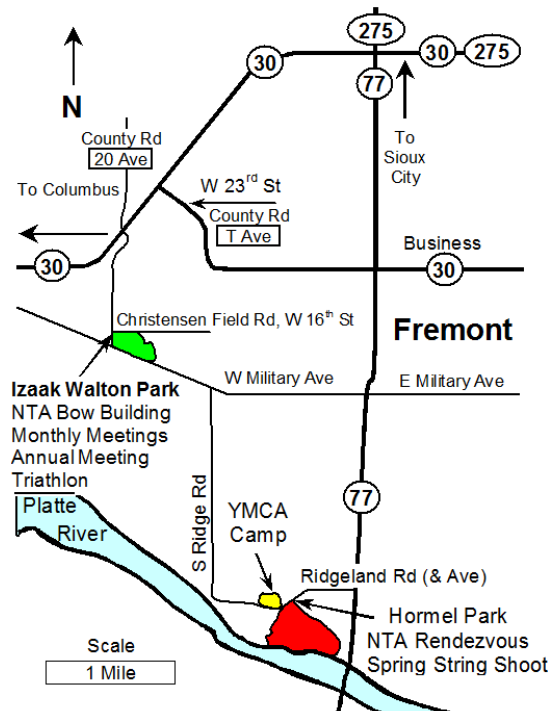
Longbow - string does not touch belly of limbs

Recurve - string touches belly of limbs

Selfbow - wood bow, natural backing OK

Shooters who do not own all three types of bows, can borrow needed bows from other shooters.

Izaak Walton Location



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

ERIC WELLMAN (402) 840-3596
ewellman@hotmail.com

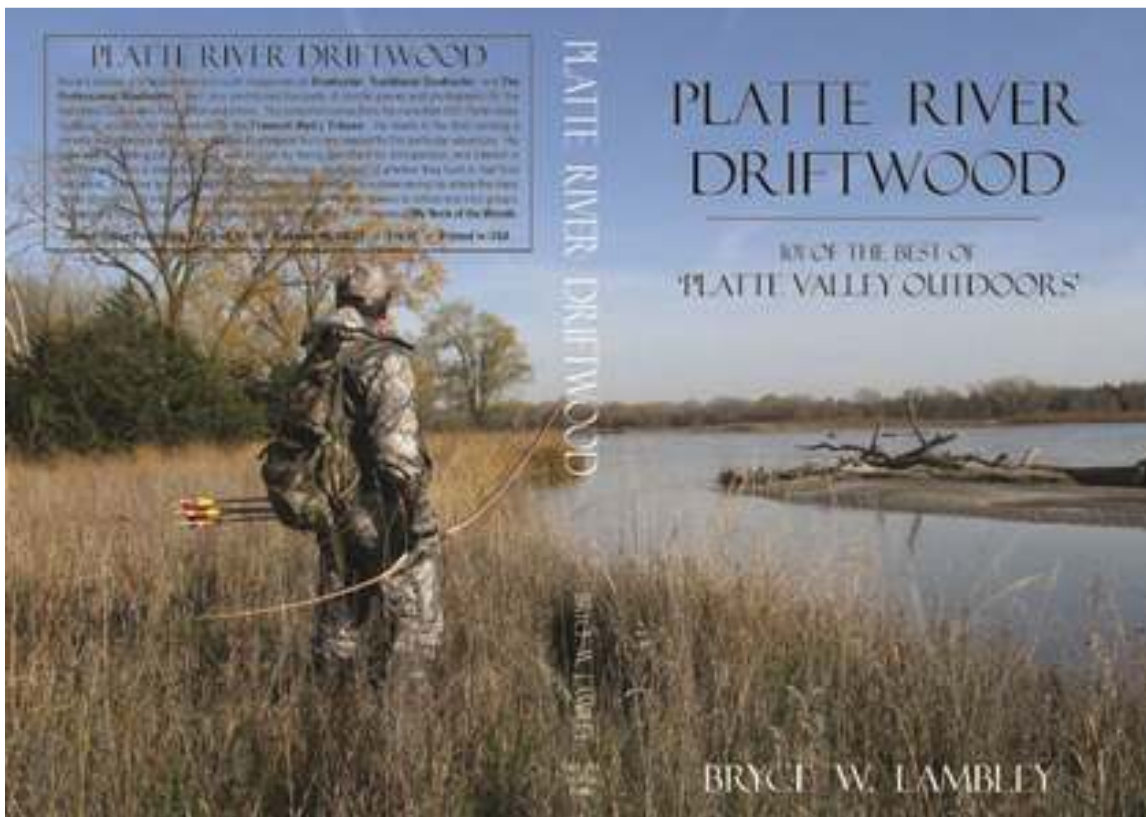
or

BRIAN SHEA (402) 812-9807
bowguy50@yahoo.com

Visit our Website

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Bryce Lambley's New Book – *Platte River Driftwood*



The much anticipated second book from longtime member of the Nebraska Traditional Archers, Bryce Lambley is literally hot off the presses. Platte River Driftwood is 242 pages, 114 photographs, and 101 chapters that will find a receptive audience with anyone who loves the outdoors. With a heavy family influence, an appreciation for wildlife and wild places, and a penchant for seeing the connections between the outdoor pursuits and the myriad of other things going through our heads at any time, Driftwood will resonate with a very wide-ranging audience.

Bryce granted permission to publish *Chapter 6...Ultimate 3-D*, in this issue of *The Nebraska Traditional Archer*.

The beginning of the school year always reminds me of county fair time which always prompts another stroll down Memory Lane. In this case, it is one regarding our involvement as kids in the 4-H sheep shows in Pierce and Boone Counties when we were young and lived near Plainview and Albion, respectively.

My dad grew up in Tekamah back in the day and showed sheep in the Burt County fair as well as the big prize of all, the Fremont 4-H Fair. Sadly, I fear that as the county fairs continue to struggle for survival, we are losing a bit of our history and tradition that we are unlikely to ever recover.

While bona fide farmers' kids are often involved in the 4-H programs, one can still feel like a farmer while raising livestock on a smaller scale and also learn many life lessons, a number of which are similar to those gleaned while caring for pets. The responsibility factor is there, as are the dealing with life and death and separation any rancher goes through with animals he or she regards as important. There is also a real lesson in commitment that is sorely lacking in many other aspects of today's world. Since my grandfather raised registered Southdown sheep, I think it was only natural that

Dad got into showing those same animals. And I suppose with our last name, it was doubly appropriate.

What was probably not appropriate was the double duty which our sheep—for a very short time—were also subjected to.

It was while at Plainview that we lived on a great acreage that included a full-size barn with hay loft and all the outbuildings (at least eight more) a family with four boys could ever want. With plenty of adjacent pasture, we generally had a flock of perhaps 15 sheep, mostly Hampshire-Suffolk cross as I recall.

We'd of course pick the strongest young lambs each spring to be our 4-H "fat lambs" for competition, and also groom and work with them and others so we'd also compete well in the "showmanship" division as well. It was this latter division that probably suffered most for the aforementioned and inappropriate double duty.

You see, it was also at this time that my brothers and I discovered the bow and arrow, probably because this was about when Dad felt the rifle was getting too easy and wanted to try archery for deer. He opted for a Bear Grizzly recurve, while his sons were outfitted with Bear's fiberglass youth bows (Blue Bear and Red Bear, if I recall correctly).

Platte River Driftwood

Whenever we got the chance, we'd pound wooden arrows into deer, fox, squirrel and bluejay target faces pinned to some straw bales. I remember learning to wrap my three shooting fingers with white athletic tape to prolong the activity before pain set in.

Eventually we began to look for other targets, but the rats that lived under the corn crib down the lane were pretty nocturnal and skittish, and all the local birds that I never connected with but certainly harassed were getting wary as all get out. I did manage once to surprise a raccoon in the crib, and made a perfect shot between the eyes only to see my arrow glance off and the now-wiser critter growl and scurry off to safety.

Those early little Bear recurves were probably in the 15 to 20 lb. draw range and not capable of doing much damage. Still, I knew better than to shoot at our sheep...unless of course I put broken pieces of corn cobs on the ends to make them blunt and incapable of damaging anything. The soft pithy core of the cob was perfect for impaling the target tips of our arrows into. This discovery of a makeshift bludgeon head immediately gave me the idea that we could and absolutely *should* hunt our sheep in the pasture.

And for a short time—a very short time—that's exactly what my brother Kevin and I did. We'd stalk the wooded pasture, and when we'd closed the gap sufficiently, we'd loose our cob-tipped arrows at the woolly sheep. I've got to say even after all these years it was probably the most realistic form of practice ever devised by mankind. And connecting on these deer-sized animals was a great coup.

That is until Dad happened to witness us in the act.

Punishment was swift and severe enough that we never considered doing that again. It joined the scrap heap of other bad ideas right alongside that of branding one's own initials into the hair of the pigs with a hot stick. Yeah, the neighbors were burning out a stump and my buddy Steve Kenney and I, bored with simply playing with fire, thought it was a good idea at the time. The biggest problem with that brainchild was that it was hard to deny your involvement once Steve's dad saw our signed handiwork.

Mr. Kenney's punishment was equally swift and terrible, and being the neighbor kid did not mean I was spared the spanking his own son got either. And I never 'fessed that escapade at home for a long time, because I'd surely been punished again by my own father.

In the end, it was probably best that we got caught early in our sheep blunting, as it was making the animals so wild that our chances in the showmanship division at the county fair were slim and none. And there are few things as embarrassing at the county fair than being dragged around by your lamb through the livestock droppings in the show ring.

Monthly Meetings

The NTA Monthly Business Meetings are generally held at the Small Lodge at the Izaak Walton Park in Fremont, on the second Saturday of each month. The exact date of each meeting is published in each 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 & 2012, there was only one Business meeting change, when the time and location of the May 2011 meeting was changed to accommodate and include the Paul Bunyan Stave Cutting Expedition.

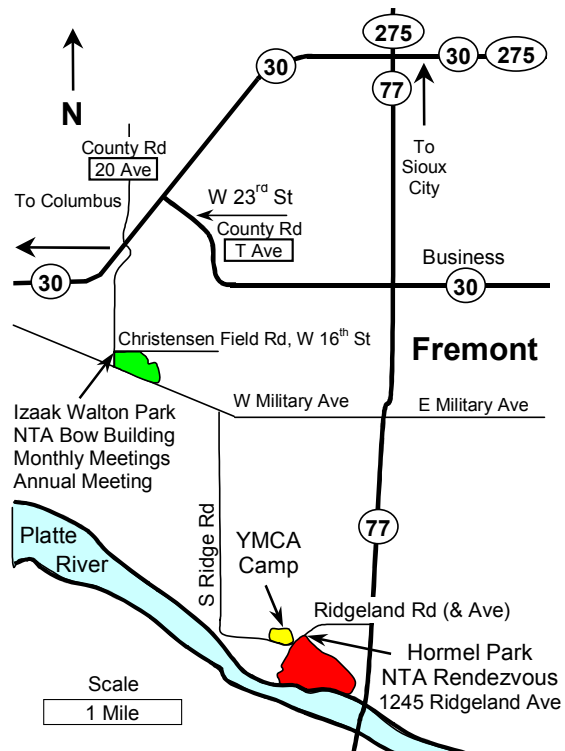
Meetings generally begin at 9:00am and last from two to three hours. NTA business is the main topic of discussion as well as state and national issues affecting bowhunting.

After the meetings, a free pot luck lunch is served and we usually have a free Lunch Drawing for one item that is donated by a member just for this drawing. Members frequently bring new and old items to show and discuss.

After lunch, we generally put everyone to work on club projects or shoot a bit, or possibly both.

Shown below is a partial map 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 March Triathlon, the July Bow Building Jamboree, BOJAM, and the Annual Meeting & Banquet.

All members are welcome to attend Monthly Meetings. We are looking forward to seeing everyone who can attend the next Meeting.



Make Plans Now to Attend these 2014 Events

Grant Hoefener Memorial

3-D & Fun Shoot

20 Targets

Sponsored by

The Lower Platte Archery Club,
Sheels, and
The Nebraska Traditional Archers

\$5 Donation for 3-D Entry Fee

Sunday June 8, 2014
8:00am to 2:00pm

Schram Park
Archery Range
Gretna, NE

6 Miles South of Interstate 80 on Highway 31

Nebraska Park Entry Permit Required

On Site Lunch Available

Raffles
Novelties for Kids
Novelties for Adults
Practice Range
Families Welcome
Shoot for score or shoot for fun

19th Annual Meeting & Banquet

Saturday, February 22, 2014
5:00pm to 10:00pm
Fremont Rural Fire Department
110 Boulevard ST
Fremont, NE 68025-9300

Nebraska Traditional Archers

19th Annual

Rendezvous

Sat & August 30 & 31, 2014

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 Targets

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 Follow Dinner

Door Prizes

2014 NTA Dream Raffle Drawing

2014 Self Bow Raffle Drawing

Kids' Auction

Silent Auctions - Used Targets

Glenn St. Charles Memorial Pie Auction

Special Guest Speaker

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

ERIC WELLMAN (402) 840-3596

ewellman@hotmail.com

or

BRIAN SHEA (402) 812-9807

bowguy50@yahoo.com

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My Strung Out Deer Hunt

by Carol Mauch

On a frosty October morning in 2004, I headed for my tree stand overlooking our 80 acre alfalfa field. It was one of those perfect mornings with very little wind and a clear sky.

In the mornings, the deer travel from the neighbor's bean and corn fields, cross the alfalfa as they feed, and make their way down to the canyon areas to bed.

While it was still dark, I walked out about fifty yards and dragged a scent trail along the edge of the alfalfa and a large weed patch that stretches along the west edge of the field. I walked past a large solitary alfalfa bale, up to a wildlife plot I planted for the deer and turkeys, and up to the tree with my stand, which is near a favored deer trail.

After getting situated and belted into my seat, I waited as the eastern skyline began to lighten. Dawn came and a small buck slowly headed my way as he nibbled on the alfalfa. Soon, a larger buck caught up to him, they stopped and faced each other and playfully rattled their antlers in a mock sparring match.

As full daylight approached, the larger of the two bucks moved on up the trail. He was almost to the lone alfalfa bale and the start of my scent trail. As I began to get ready, I thought this buck could be a shooter. While focusing on his antlers trying to determine their size, I heard movement in the weeds. Out of the corner of my right eye, I saw an even larger buck making his way toward the bale. Apparently, he got a whiff of some of that scent drag.

All of a sudden, the big boy charged like a rocket towards the other buck. The smaller buck spun and ran like the dickens probably thinking the larger buck was going to knock the daylight out of him. As the big buck shot across the field, I heard something thrashing in the weeds. My first thought was coyotes, but then I realized the big buck was dragging something that was rushing through the weeds. Wire was my first thought, until I saw baling twine start peeling off of that lone bale like line streaming off a fly reel when a large fish makes a long run. Yards and yards of twine unrolled from the bale with alfalfa and dust flying up into the air. Finally the baling twine snapped. As I looked back toward the field, the bucks were nowhere to be seen. All I could do was sit there with my bow in my hand and my mouth hanging open.

Apparently, there was a malfunction with the baler and a bunch of twine got wadded up inside the bale. As I looked around there was also a bunch of the twine strung out all across the field going to the next bale. When the buck had his head down in the weeds, he apparently got the twine caught in one of his antlers. When he raised his head and felt the tug, he must have thought the devil caught him and ran for his life right at the smaller buck.

The next morning we went out and gathered up the twine that the buck had pulled across the alfalfa field toward the canyon.

As you can see in the photo below, there was about 200 yards of baling twine. Unfortunately, there was no buck at the end of the twine.



Carol Mauch with the recovered twine the larger buck pulled across the alfalfa field.

From the Desk of the New Editor

My name is Brian Hoefener and I have taken over as Editor of the newsletter from Wade Phillips, who has done a great job over the years and it will be hard to fill his shoes. I am a carpenter by trade so have patience with me. I have been bowhunting for over 25 years. Started with a compound and played with a Ben Pearson recurve. For the past 10-11 years, I started shooting a recurve more and more. Made it to my first Rendezvous where I bought one of Vince's semi-finished bows on the live auction. The handle was not formed yet and knowing nothing about longbows or even traditional equipment, Vince took me into his shop and helped me sand on the handle until it felt good in my hand. Since then I have been hooked, and enjoy shooting the two bows that I have made with Vince and the one from Cory. For the last couple years I haven't shot anything other than traditional equipment. I have learned a lot from the articles in this newsletter. I am no writer so I will need lots of help with articles, stories, hunting pictures and recipes to keep up with our great newsletter that we have now. My email is bchoefener@yahoo.com, my address is Brian Hoefener, 16616 Weir St, Omaha, NE 68135.

Nebraska Traditional Archers



BOJAM

19th Annual Self Bow Building Jamboree

Sat & Sun, July 19 & 20, 2014

8:00am to 6:00pm Sat

8:00am to 3:00pm Sun

Learn to Build a Self Bow

Or finish up a bow that you have started

Bring completed bows to brag on & broken bows to fix

No Cost to NTA Members

\$20 for Non Members (includes free membership)

Furnish your own bow wood or purchase bow wood from NTA

Power Tools Provided by NTA

Mini Seminar Topics

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Basic Self Bow Building | Splitting Logs into Staves |
| Rawhide Backing | Recurving Bow Ends |
| Sinew Backing | Removing Stave Twist |
| Z-Slicing Billets | Advanced Arrow Building |

2014 Bowyer's Dream Raffle

An Extensive, Custom Crafted, Self Bowyer's Tool Package

Winner Drawn July 20

Silent Auctions

On Site Lunch Available

On Site Camping \$10 a Night, Fri & Sat

Free Showers

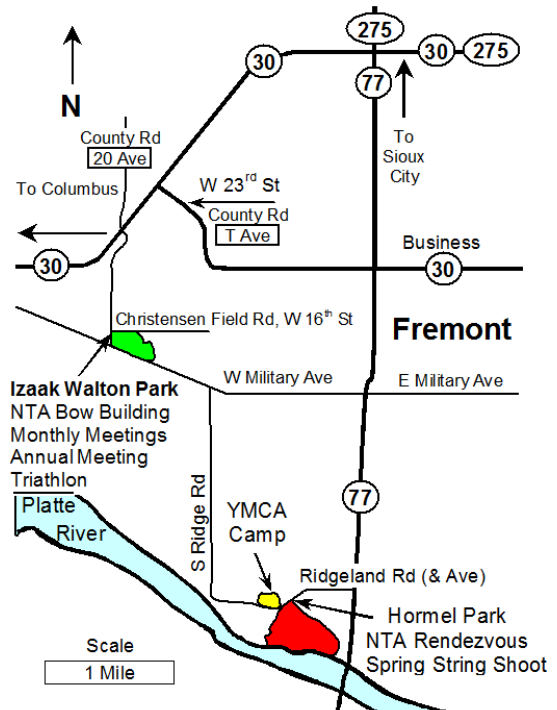
Free 20 to 50 yd Archery Practice Range

Izaak Walton Park

Small Lodge

2560 W Military Ave

Fremont, NE 68025



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

VINCE SMITH (402) 936-0046

or

BRIAN SHEA (402) 812-9807

vsmith2425@neb.rr.com

bowguy50@yahoo.com

Visit our Website

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In this column we will take a step backwards and discuss the use of many of the tools that we have mentioned in previous columns. One thing I hear a lot of when I am talking with people about building bows is that they would love to see my shop and the tools that I use for bow building. Well I have bad news for anyone reading this who really thought it would be cool to see my shop, it's pretty unimpressive. My shop is in the basement of my home, it is small, and it is packed with stuff (not all of it is for bow building). I have the bare minimum of tools needed for the work that I do. I would like to have more tools, but I have no room for more.

Space is probably the biggest premium in my shop, which is probably also true for most home workshops. My point being that you don't need to have a complete shop like Norm Abram has on "The New Yankee Workshop" television show to turn out nice bows. If you have some room and modest financial means, then go for it! Don't think that because you can only afford a few hand-me-down tools and just have a little bit of room in a garage or basement that you can't make great bows. Remember that Dale Karch of 3Rivers started by gluing up bows on top of the washer and dryer in his home.

Let's start with power tools. First off buy the best tools you can afford, even if they are second hand from Craig's List, a garage sale or pawn shop. Name brand tools usually do a better job and last longer than knock-offs. For example, when I first started to seriously build bows, I bought Black and Decker palm sanders from discount stores because they were cheap. Every year, I'd burn up at least one, usually two and sometimes three. I was buying two at a time so I had one to use when the first one burned up.

I finally wised and bought the best palm sander that Ridgid made. A year later I bought a second one for a back-up. That was in 2004 and just this winter I started to use the back-up because the switch on the first one was not working all the time. That's ten years for the first one as opposed to three to nine months for cheap ones. On top of that, it is just the switch on the first one, and that can be replaced, on the cheap ones the motor would burn up.



A good Ridgid palm sander outlasts cheap knock-offs.

Actually, one of the tools I use the most in my shop is the random orbit five inch round palm sander. I use it to shape, I use it to smooth, and I use it to blend. I use the Velcro pad for quick change outs and I get my sanding discs in grits of 50, 60, 80, 120, 150, 220, 320, and 400. If you are planning to do a lot of bow building, buy your discs in 50-packs because you will find that you need to change them out often to keep a sharp disc on the pad.

Another simple power tool I use often is a Dremel Tool. I use it to cut out string notches and shape bow tips. Once you own one of these versatile little tools, you will find many other uses for it. The bits you will need to get started are the tile cutting bit and the sanding drums.



Above is the versatile Dremel tool. Below is a tile cutting bit for cutting string notches and shaping bow tips.



A similar tool to the Dremel is the Roto-Zip saw. I run a tile cutter bit in my Roto-Zip for cutting out shelves on laminated bows. It is the quickest and most even way I have found to cut a shelf in a fiberglass laminated bow. However, I want to caution you that is important to be careful because it can get away from you. The Roto-Zip has a 1/4" collet and accepts 1/4" router bits so it can be for many other tasks.



The Roto-Zip with a tile cutter bit is a quick and even way to cut out a shelf in a fiberglass laminated bow.

I would guess that the most important tool in my shop is the band saw. I use and abuse this band saw nearly every time I enter my shop. So naturally, I wanted something tough. I bought a 14" Performax gold series. It was the best I could afford and has been worth every cent I spent on it. It can run a 3/4" wide blade for re-sawing, it has replaceable roller bearing guides for the thrust and sides of the blade, the cast iron blade wheels have seven spokes instead of four to resist deflection, and it has a full table with a graduated fence. I did my research and knew this would be the center piece of the shop so I went all out on it. You may not need a saw that is this heavy duty but keep in mind what your plans are for your saw and buy the best you can accordingly. Buy a saw that takes a common length blade, 93 1/2", 103 1/2", being able to find blades at any store is important.



The Powermatic band saw is the workhorse in my shop.

Regarding band saw blades, I prefer a three or four tooth per inch skip tooth blade for all of my re-sawing and for roughing out bows. For doing finer cuts like swoops in handles I will use a six tooth per inch rake tooth in a 1/2" width blade. For rough cutting out fiberglass limbs I have always just set aside an old 3/4" blade and used it for only cutting glass. Fiberglass can knock the edge off of a blade in a heartbeat and you'll see sparks fly off of a new blade. Cory Engert turned me on to something I am going to try

on my next fiberglass build, turn a blade inside out and run it backwards. Cory says he has had good success with this and I am willing to try anything coming from a reputable source. Another blade option for fiberglass is a Rem-Grit® blade, which is an abrasive blade. I haven't tried one as they are very expensive.

Although I have never owned a table saw, I do have a miter box saw that I use to cut material down to a manageable length. A table saw can be a handy tool to rip material down for handles and laminations. I have been in a position when I really needed to use a table saw, and had to go a friend's house to use his. However, I don't need to use one often enough to justify the space in my little shop.

Another piece of equipment that I think is a must have item for a bow builder is a good belt sander. I have 6"x48" belt with a 10" disc combo free standing sander. I also have an oscillating bench-top drum sander. Next to a band saw the sanders will be the workhorses of your shop. You can go with a 12" disc sander like the ones we use at the BOJAM in July or you can go with a belt type. Remember that the smaller the surface area of the sander, the faster the abrasive will clog up. This means that you can certainly use a 4"x36" belt sander or a 6" disc sander to grind a bow down, but the smaller belts or discs are not going to last as long as ones of a larger size. I like to use 50-grit on my sanders, its rough enough to remove material quickly and still not impossible to sand the scratches out.



A free standing sander combo with a 6"x48" belt and 10" disc.

A really nice little sander that the club bought last year, (and one that I am trying to find room for in my shop) is the Rigid oscillating belt sander that can be changed out to become an oscillating drum sander. I use my oscillating drum sander now for shaping handles. From what I experienced in using this oscillating belt sander last year at BOJAM, the belts last about four times as long as the drum sleeves and material removal is quicker.

If you are thinking of building laminated bows, one item you may want to look at is a horizontal drum surface sander. This is a horizontal drum with sand paper on it and it has a variable speed power feed belt. This sander can grind

The Bow Horse *continued*

laminations to the thousandth of an inch. I use it to grind all of my own laminations and to square-up a bow when it comes off the form. This is not a required tool for those starting out to build laminated bows. When most people start building laminated bows they buy all of their laminations. But if you buy all of your laminations you will soon figure out why this tool could pay for itself in no time.



Another large power tool in my shop is a drill press, which I use a lot. The main use for a drill press is to drill for the limb attachment hardware when building take-down fiberglass bows. I also use it for installing Bow-Bolts, the two piece take-down system. If you want to build only selfbows, then the merits of a drill press fade away quickly.



A drill press is used for drilling holes for takedown bows.

Another item I would recommend is a dust collector. Although I have a pretty good one, I still have sawdust covering everything. When building fiberglass bows, a dust collector is a must have item. Remember that the human body does not absorb fiberglass, it sticks to your lungs for the rest of your life.



Dust collection systems take up a lot of space in a shop and have ducts connected to each dust producing tool.

For building laminated bows you needed a good bench at the right height for working while standing. It should be long enough to do one-piece bow glue-ups.



A solid bow bench is needed at the right height for working while standing.

The Bow Horse *continued*

My hand made plywood bow oven is 8' long x 1' wide x 2' deep. It has a hinged lid with four porcelain light bulb fixtures in it. You can either line your box with foil or do as I did and line it with foil backed ½" insulation. I wired mine with a furnace thermostat so I can run four 200 watt light bulbs and let the thermostat regulate the heat. If you don't want to be that fancy you can put a thermometer inside and see what combination of bulb wattage is needed to get a desired temperature. The last touch I added to my oven was a timer. I can glue-up a bow before I go to bed and set the timer so that when I get up in the morning the oven has shut off and cooled down so I can pull the form out and get to building.



This bow oven is a large item. It is 8' long x 1' wide x 2' deep. Bow ovens are usually placed in an out of the way corner or nook of the shop.



A bow oven is a valuable tool for building laminated bows.

For building self bows you will need a good draw knife. You may also want a Stave Press which is the handiest way I have seen to hold a stave while working on it.



The heavy 5-1/2" x 5-1/2" plate steel base of a Stave Press can be mounted anywhere with clamps or bolts.

The one hand tool I would not be without for building a self bow is a Shinto rasp. This rasp is basically hacksaw blades put together to make a rasp. It has a course side and a fine side and is the best hand material remover that I have found. A selection of Cabinet Scrapers is another important hand tool for use in building self bows. Cabinet Scrapers and a Shinton rasp are a good combination to use together. You can rasp the bow and then smooth down the roughed portion with a scraper.



Above the standard 2-sided Shinto rasp has one handle, below an aftermarket second handle provides additional control and significant leverage to remove material.



The last item that every bowyer needs is some type of a bow tree. You need some way to check the tiller and draw weight of your bows. The one in my shop is attached to the wall with a pulley system to draw the bow. There are graduated lines on the wall that are used to see how evenly the limbs bend.

In my opinion, these are the "must have" tools for an efficient bow shop where it is fun to build bows. As you get more involved in bow building, you may find other tools that suit your individual needs better.

Nebraska Traditional Archers



3-D Spring String Shoot Sunday, April 13, 2014

Registration 9:00am to 1:00pm
Hormel Park
1254 Ridgeland Avenue
Fremont, NE 68025
On Site Lunch Available

Traditional Bows Only

No Sights * No Stabilizers * No Mechanical Releases

4 Classes

Shoot for Trophies or Just for Fun

Longbow - string does not touch belly of limbs

Recurve - string touches belly of limbs

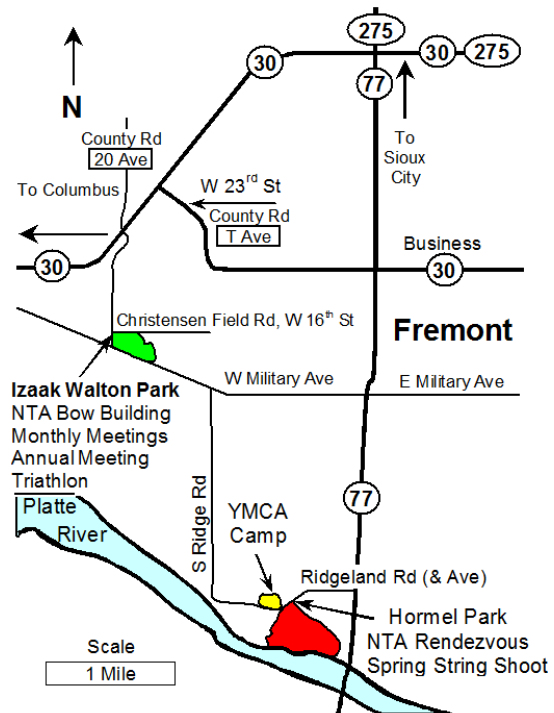
Primitive - wood self bow & wood arrows
-natural backing on bow is permitted

Classic-Century -
-either bow is at least 40 years old or
-age of bow plus age of shooter equals 100 more years

What is a String Shoot ?

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.

Hormel Park Location



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

ERIC WELLMAN (402) 840-3596
ewellman@hotmail.com

or

BRIAN SHEA (402) 812-9807
bowguy50@yahoo.com

Visit our Website

www.nebraskatraditionalarchers.org



During lunch, members gathered at the Registration & Concessions area for one of Ken Oberschulte's memorable meals. Left to right, standing Jim Edmonson, Zack Hicken, seated, Frank Hicken, Brian Hoefener, Shawna Booth, Amy Clarke and Rob Roettele.



Like last year, the bedded moose along the water's edge was a bonus target. Even as large as the moose is, fewer than 20% of the score cards recorded a score for this target. Just like 2012, this year's participants reported that the water behind the bedded moose proved to be a poor backstop. Some simply passed on the target rather than risk losing an arrow. The local scuba diving club was contacted to retrieve unfound high flying arrows.

When compared to the other images in this article from 2013, the above 2012 photograph, with green grass and full size leaves, clearly illustrates that our 2013 spring weather was far behind last year's spring.



Zack Hicken finds a promising location along the string for a clear shot at the target.



A few targets were so well hidden that some bowmen wisely used canine assistance to help locate the 3-Ds along the string paths.



Participants used several canine breeds for locating targets and retrieving lost arrows.

2013 Spring String Shoot *continued*



At left, Russ Most nocks an arrow in preparation for a shot as Jim Edmonson looks on, wondering if he should have taken his shot from that position.



One of the bow racks used at the registration and concession site.

It always it was a treat to look at the beautifully hand crafted custom bows used by participants on the course. The workmanship in many of these bows is exceptional. Many of these custom bows were made by members of the Nebraska Traditional Archers.

The combination of the meandering string path, well camouflaged target placement and invisibly placed obstructions, made for an interesting shoot. Throughout the day, many arrows encountered various obstructions that were strategically placed between the shooter and the 3-D targets.



Above, two of the three arrows shot at this whitetail found the branch placed across the animal's vitals.



Lexy Wellman's arrow was introduced to a vine on its way to the target.



For those participants who did not shoot over the raccoon in the tree, this was a memorable target.

2013 Spring String Shoot *continued*



Cory Engert won the Longbow Division with one of his handcrafted reverse handle bows.



As soon as the target was located many bowmen took the first clear shot they could find for their arrow.



Melonie Abbott finds an opening for her arrow.



George Kaplan and Rob Roettele wait for others in their group to shoot at the target.



Vince Smith set the sting, but still oftentimes had difficulty finding a clear shot along the string path.



Our youngest participants were Chase Raber age 7, and Peyton Raber age 6. As the boys agree on a good spot for a clear shot Matt Raber patiently looks on.

2013 Spring String Shoot *continued*



Brandon Abbott at full draw with others in the background.



Frank Hicken immediately after releasing an arrow. Frank's textbook form and follow through are captured in this photograph with an unmoving, almost mechanical, rock solid release hand and one of the strongest bow arms in the club.



Dave Manwarren after releasing an arrow. Note upper limb touches the string of his low braced longbow, resulting in its re-classification to the Recurve Division.



With a Kodiak T-Shirt and a Bear bow, the memory of Fred Bear, Nebraska's most famous Traditional Bowhunter, was alive at this shoot.



With the path of the string at his feet, Jeremy Misfeldt envisions the path of the arrow as he contemplates a shot at the target.



The Booth family from Genoa, Nebraska, is closely following the path of the sting. Nearly all eyes are on the ground. From left to right, the six family members are, youngest son, Blake; eldest son, Isaac; father, Bill; eldest daughter, Calie; youngest daughter, Addah (nearly hidden by her sister); mother, Shawna.

2013 Spring String Shoot *continued*



Watching others follow the string are left to right Vince Smith, Dede Smith (behind Vince), Melone Abbott, Brian Shea, Curt Friedrich.



George Kaplan stops along the string path and tries to twist his body around to get it into a position where he can avoid the obstacles and can take a clear shot at the target.



The simple beauty of traditional archery equipment.



Eric Wellman and daughter Lexy Wellman enjoy the late morning sunshine as they watch other shooters walk along the string in search of a good arrow path to the target.

2013 Spring String Shoot *continued*



Dave Manwarren's bow fit nicely inside a hollow tree trunk on the course.



Above, Isaac Booth looses an arrow; below, his older brother Blake Booth, tries to find a path for his arrow.



A young shooter takes a shot as Jacob and Brandon Abbot look on.



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Free Classifieds for NTA Members: Ads run for two issues and are then automatically dropped unless relisted by the member. Send your free traditional equipment ads to the editor, wadephillips@cox.net.

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

Wanted: Bear Archery Equipment from the 1930s to 1971. Bear Kodiak recurves from 1950 to 1966 any weight or any condition. Old, unusual or handmade broadheads, bows, arrows, quivers, etc from 1871 to 1971. Will buy individual items or entire collections. Wade Phillips (402) 493-6004



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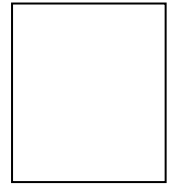


Nebraska Game & Parks Commissioners

The Governor appoints Commissioners. Contact information for Governor Dave Heineman
 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

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Nebraska Traditional Archers
PO Box 45902
Omaha, NE 68145-0902



TO:

The purpose of the Nebraska Traditional Archers (NTA) is to promote responsible and ethical bowhunting practices and to support other archery organizations who do the same. To bring together people with a common interest and appreciation of traditional archery equipment and methods for the purpose of increasing their knowledge, skill and enjoyment of traditional archery, and to ensure continuation into the future the traditions and skills passed down by those bowmen who came before us.

The NTA publishes a quarterly newsletter, holds an annual banquet, organizes an annual pheasant hunt, an annual spring string shoot, an annual Labor Day Weekend Rendezvous, holds monthly business meetings open to all members, and sponsors several other events throughout the year including an annual 2-day Bow Building Jamboree, BOJAM, that is free to NTA members.

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

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