



# STUDY of ANCIENT LIFEWAYS and TECHNOLOGIES

## S.A.L.T. MISSION STATEMENT

S.A.L.T.'s primary goal is to understand, practice and share all life skills and arts of the ancient world. This is accomplished by regular Skills Meetings and informing the public through various Events.

[www.saltskills.com](http://www.saltskills.com)

[saltskills@gmail.com](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)

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Volume 12, Issue 2

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

### S. A. L. T. CALENDAR

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING...

**ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS ARE STILL CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

at PUEBLO GRANDE MUSEUM

4619 E. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85034 602-495-0901



I wanted to let you know that Pueblo Grande Museum has opened its outdoor interpretive trails to the public! Guests can visit the interpretive trails free of charge Monday – Saturday from 9 am – 4:45 pm.

We have two trails - the portal loop trail near the grand canal and our main interpretive trail that includes the platform mound, Hohokam House replicas, and ballcourt. All indoor facilities including restrooms remain closed to the public at this time. Just wanted to share the good news!

Check our website and follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PuebloGrandeMuseum>) and YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/c/PuebloGrandeMuseumArchaeologicalPark/videos>).

Please let us know if you have any questions.

**Laura Andrew**, Visitor Services Supervisor  
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation  
Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park  
Office: 602-495-0901

## WINTER COUNT

**JAN. 5, 2021- DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS, WINTER COUNT IS CANCELED FOR 2021....**

**BUT, MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FEB. 13-19, 2022!**

Winter Count  
2119 Calle Tecolote  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
Winter Count 505-570-9484 [WinterCountCamp@gmail.com](mailto:WinterCountCamp@gmail.com)  
[www.WinterCountCamp.com](http://www.WinterCountCamp.com)





**S.A.L.T. LOOKS FORWARD TO GETTING BACK TO PGM WITH SKILLS MEETINGS ONE DAY IN THE FUTURE... WATCH FOR E-MAIL UPDATES. MEANWHILE, STAY SAFE!**



## **HOMEWORK**

**For all S.A.L.T. Members and Associates!**

While you are looking for something to do at home... please go to our S.A.L.T. Website, [www.saltskills.com](http://www.saltskills.com) and scroll way down to the bottom beyond CONTACT US and open the S.A.L.T. SKILLS pdf under S.A.L.T. INFO. Look through all the skills and please e-mail us the ones you are interested in learning to [saltskills@gmail.com](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)

We can include "How To" information in our newsletters and on the website.  
**THANK YOU!!!**

# **S.A.L.T. MEMBERS PROJECT GALLERY**

**INDIAN CORN & ACORNS**  
by Charlie Tadano



Now is the time to go to Goodwill or Saver's and look for Indian corn from the Holidays. Instead of a few dollars each, if you find them, they will average about .50 each.

The local oak trees that are planted at major shopping malls and other commercial parking lots have dropped their acorns. Now is the time to harvest them.

Harvest them now and in the next few months we will do a class in the newsletter on how to make jewelry from the corn kernels and acorns!

- Charlie

**BONE NEEDLES & RIVER CANE CASE**  
by Ron Moses



# LET'S MAKE AN AXEHEAD! Part I

by Charlie Tadano

## The Beginning

Start looking at your neighbor's desert landscape or any time you see river rocks being used for decoration. If you are lucky enough to have the time to visit a local riverbed, even better! Select stones that have the same shape as the axehead you want to make for a few reasons....

- 1). Less mass to remove to find the axehead that is hidden in your stone
- 2). Make sure you don't see cracks or other blemishes that may affect your axehead...this is very important! You do not want to invest a lot of time in pecking your axehead, only to have it break apart when you are almost done because of a crack or blemish. It will happen....I have had that happen too many times in the past....



Once you find the stone, decide where the bit and poll will be. The bit is the working/cutting edge and the poll is the back of the axe.



Then draw your "center line" completely around the length of the stone. This will show you where the edge of the bit will be...then draw your "groove" where you will be hafting the handle to the finished axehead.

### Hammer Stones

Find a nice smooth river rock, at least as dense as the stone you selected for your axehead. I now use a metal "pecking hammer" that Cano Ramirez made a number of years ago, but also have many hammer stones that I also use. My hammer stones are all different sizes, but they all have a common feature...the hardness of the stone and the shape....look for a stone shaped like an egg. This shape seems to fit into your hands better than any other shaped stone for pecking.

Once you have your assortment of hammer stones, let's start pecking!



Start at the bit (cutting edge) of the axehead. Wondering why? It is because the bit is the most important portion of the axehead. If your stone can not provide a strong clean edge, don't waste your time!!! I noticed this on a few axehead artifacts that were in various stages of production. They always started on the bit....if it passed the "test", then the artisan would continue working on his selected stone. In my pictures you will see how I work/peck the bit out. Please notice that I peck the bit right up to the black line (center line). I do this for a very important reason....if you start pecking to try and get an edge now, all you will do is "crush" the working edge. The actual "cutting" edge on the bit is accomplished by "grinding" the stone, which is the final step in making an axehead....don't worry....we have a lot of time before we get to that step....LOL...probably about 20 hours of working on your stone!



When you start "pecking" your bit, start about 2 inches away from the cutting edge on the bit...if you want it to taper more, increase the distance slightly. You will need to use enough force to remove small parts of the rock every time your hammer stone strikes your axehead blank. Keep striking the same area on your stone until you start to see the cortex being removed and you can see the stone's interior. Keep pecking until you have a small divot where you are striking. Once that happens you can start pecking on one of the divot's edges. Doing pecking in this method will help you remove more of the stone than randomly pecking on the stone.



Don't worry about removing the balance of the "cortex" (outer surface of the stone)....we will remove that later.

Try and get to the stages you see in this article....next month....we will work on the groove and poll....

# MAKING A CEREMONIAL GOURD HAND DRUM by Ron Moses 2020



Dried dolbe gourd marked before removing top and bottom sections.

This project is about constructing a ceremonial hand drum using a gourd for the instrument body. The finished size is about 6 inches tall and about 7 inches diameter. The drum is meant to be played held in one hand or using an arm to hold against the hip while the other hand holds the beater.

## Materials used:

- Dolbe (double) gourd for body
- Goat skin rawhide for drum head
- Deer rawhide for lacing and beater tip
- Tamarisk stick for beater handle
- Bone bead for clicker

## Tools Used:

- Bone awls for piercing gourd at cut lines and making head lacing holes
- Stone baton for driving awl
- Obsidian flaked blades for scoring and cutting gourd and cutting rawhide
- Sandstone for smoothing cut edges and polishing gourd
- Various pigments mixed with egg white for paint
- Yucca leaf for paint brush



Obsidian blades used to score and cut between awl piercings.



Bone awl used to make a series of closely spaced piercings along the cut lines.



The rough cut edges smoothed with sandstone abrasive.



Goat skin rawhide for drum head cut to size and lacing holes added before soaking in water to soften and allow stretching over gourd opening.



Wet rawhide lacing attaching wet drum head to gourd body



Lacing and drum head allowed to dry and shrink before decorating with paint and adding bone bead for clicker



Deer rawhide cut into narrow strip before soaking in water and twisted into lacing.



Finished drum ready for playing with beater made of tamarisk wood and rawhide

# PRESCOTT PRIMITIVE LIVING SKILLS Prescott, Arizona

Check out Kiowa Sage on Facebook!



Hello friends! It's Kiowa Sage! I started a local meetup group to teach courses on primitive living skills, nature awareness and outdoor survival skills - all of which I've been training in for many years. All classes ranging from two hour workshops, day long classes and multiple day immersion courses. Skills and knowledge bases such as making fire with sticks, edible and medicinal plants, animal trapping and tracking, fiber arts and weaving, basic outdoor survival skills and how to do more with less in the outdoors. Right now I only have a couple classes listed until I acquire more traffic. Check out some of the listings that are available! [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

Watch for new listings of other classes are offered, and there will be more to come!

-Kiowa Sage

## PRIMITIVE FIRE MAKING



**Saturday, February 6, 2021**  
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM MST  
Cost: \$50.00

Flume and Watson Dam Trailhead  
2425-2461 E Granite Dells Rd · Prescott, AZ

How to find us: We will meet in the dirt parking area. I will be near a red Ford truck.

This class will teach you how to make fire tick with sticks! Learn friction fire techniques that have been utilized cross-culturally for hundreds of thousands of years. We will cover the physics of fire by exploring fire lays, proper tinder bundle making, harvesting/processing local tinder resources, and making our own friction fire sets from a wild environment.



## Between the Rivers Gathering May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Happy New Year my Gathering family! In the past we have opened registration for Between the Rivers Gathering on January 1st. This year we are going to wait until March so we can know better what accommodations and adjustments we will need to make due to our pandemic. We are planning on holding BtR this year, but it will need to be a little different. At this point everyone will be doing their own food, and tuition prices will be reduced accordingly. Watch our e-mails and our website for updates, and if everything goes well we will see you all at the end of May. Winter well!

- Patrick

Please join us at our new location, our very own 40 acre campus in Valley, WA. Please see our website for details, and watch for registration to open in the spring.

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



## BTR LOGO HATS ARE AVAILABLE!



Kandis Larson is making Between the Rivers Gathering Logo Hats and making them available to you! Each hat has a leather patch branded with our BTR logo that we have all grown to love, no two are alike, and have a primitive touch to them.

[kandiscreated@gmail.com](mailto:kandiscreated@gmail.com)  
509-994-0585 cell . @kandis created  
(Instagram)



Dear RMS family & friends,  
~ Live What You Love ~



All classes held at Reevis Mountain School include hearty meals fresh from the homestead, class supplies, hot showers, and campsite. Camping is free, or stay in a yurpee (\$10 per night per person), single cabin (\$25 per night, sleeps 1), or double cabin (\$50 per night, sleeps 1-2+), availability permitting. We provide complimentary shuttle service from Roosevelt, AZ, or caravan in your own 4X4. Shuttle pickup is at 4 p.m., first day of class. Please see our [website](http://www.reevismountain.org) to enroll and to get more information

Sign up online!

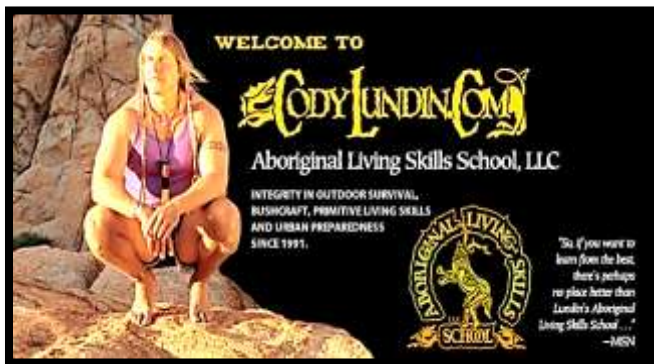
[www.reevismountain.org/classes](http://www.reevismountain.org/classes)

Order all your favorite Reevis Mountain Remedies online!

[www.reevismountain.org/country-store](http://www.reevismountain.org/country-store)



Blessings, Peter Bigfoot & the RMS Interns



**“Primitive (first) skills are our shared inheritance. It is the shared thread which links us to our prehistory and binds us together as human beings.” Steve Watts**



# 34<sup>TH</sup> RABBITSTICK

in Rexburg, Idaho

**SEPTEMBER 12 - 18, 2021**

*"Rabbitstick is the Mother Church of Primitive Technology"*

*-Steve Watts, Past President of the Society of Primitive Technology*

Rabbitstick Primitive Skills Gathering, held the 3rd week of September in ID, is the premier Backtracks event. Rabbitstick is the oldest of all of the modern primitive skills events and has been the model for most of the events currently running worldwide. Each year we host nearly 150 instructional and support staff who provide a camp with hands-on classes that run 9am-5pm for 5 days for about 400 registered participants. This is an unparalleled opportunity to learn skills and get to know teachers that you can trust. Visit our new website - [rabbitstick.com](http://rabbitstick.com) - for complete event and registration details. Backtracks has assembled one of the largest and most complete rosters of primitive skills teachers and practitioners available anywhere. Backtracks is your source for the best instructional staff you'll find at any event. Join Us!

[www.rabbitstick.com](http://www.rabbitstick.com)

[Register On-Line Today](#)

[Share a Ride Bulletin Board](#)

[Meet Our Staff](#)

Rabbitstick | (208) 359-2400 | [backtracks905@gmail.com](mailto:backtracks905@gmail.com) | [societyofprimitivetechnology@gmail.com](mailto:societyofprimitivetechnology@gmail.com)



Bulletin of Primitive Technology website at [primitive.org](http://primitive.org). Order back issues, download a complete index of topics and titles, or view the entire first issue and newsletters for free. Don't miss out on this amazing collection of information. It's up and running and ready to take your orders now.

<https://www.facebook.com/Backtracks-Keeping-Traditions-Alive-213565755397099/?fref=nf>

# ATTENTION

S.A.L.T. Members and Associates!

Please send in pictures and articles for this newsletter! Send in information on projects you are working on, information you have found on primitive skills, pictures from trips to archaeological sites, etc.

Send it to [saltskills@gmail.com](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)



STONE AGE TECHNOLOGY FROM PRIMITIVE WAYS



**ALSO, THINK ABOUT TEACHING ONE OF OUR SKILLS CLASSES WHEN WE GET BACK TO PGM!**

Contact Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910

**"Knowledge is not complete until it is passed on."**

**Steve Watts**

## Wuertz Farm's 18th Annual "Running of the Gourds"

### Gourd Festival

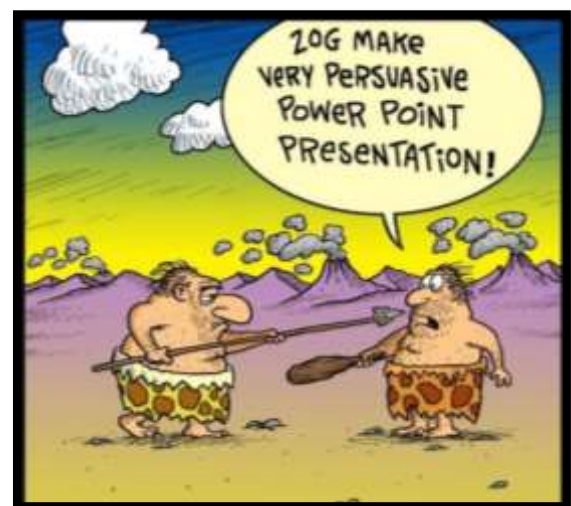
February 12-14, 2021

**HAS BEEN CANCELLED!!!**



Pinal County Fairgrounds  
Casa Grande, Arizona

**SEE YOU IN 2022!**







Primitive think tanks

## S.A.L.T. STORE

T-SHIRTS & PATCHES will be available at all S.A.L.T. Skill Meetings



S.A.L.T. T-SHIRTS are available in all sizes at \$20.00 each  
(Special pricing for Members)



S.A.L.T. PATCHES \$5.00 each  
(Memberships receive one free)



Have a place to store and carry all of your S.A.L.T. Projects and Tools! \$15.00 each  
(Special price for members)  
Call Charlie for availability on Totes  
602-524-6910

## 2021 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE !

**SINGLE \$12.00 & FAMILY \$24.00**  
(New memberships are pro-rated throughout the year)

Please mail them to S.A.L.T. Treasurer,

**TAMARA TADANO**  
12840 N. 45<sup>th</sup> Drive  
Glendale, AZ 85304

Please make the check out to  
**Tamara Tadano**

## S.A.L.T. MEMBERSHIP ITEMS

The Tan "Fishing Shirt" Style S.A.L.T. Membership Shirts are available by pre-order. Please contact Charlie Tadano to order your Shirt at 602-524-6910

**S.A.L.T. T-SHIRTS**  
and **S.A.L.T. PATCHES**  
are still available!

There may be some Tote Bags, too.

The S.A.L.T. "Sonoran Desert, Sorting out the Weak" T-SHIRT is available to anyone interested for \$15.00 each. They will be available at most S.A.L.T. Monthly Skill Meetings and Events until they are gone. (Only a few left!)

## S.A.L.T. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: [www.saltskills.com](http://www.saltskills.com)

e-mail address: [saltskills@gmail.com](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)

For **MEMBERSHIP** information call Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910 or Bob Sizemore at 520-705-9780 or e-mail [saltskills@gmail.com](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)

For **EVENTS** and **BEAD** information contact Donna Moses at 602-384-1359 or [saltdonna1@gmail.com](mailto:saltdonna1@gmail.com)

For **S.A.L.T. e-Newsletter** or **Website info** contact Laura Robins, Editor at 623-533-0847 or e-mail [saltskills@gmail.com](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)