



# 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)

Charlie Tadano, President    Tom Wax, Vice President  
Laura Robins, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Jennifer Ahumada, Secretary    Tamara Tadano, Treasurer  
Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

Volume 11, Issue 6

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

## S. A. L. T. CALENDAR

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

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

at PUEBLO GRANDE MUSEUM

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



**S.A.L.T. LOOKS FORWARD TO  
GETTING BACK TO PGM  
WITH SKILLS MEETINGS  
IN THE FUTURE...  
WATCH FOR E-MAIL UPDATES.**



Due to coronavirus concerns, Pueblo Grande Museum has cancelled all programming, events, tours, lectures, and meetings until further notice.

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



# HOMWORK

## 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!!!

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

*(A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO BOB SIZEMORE, RON MOSES AND TOM WAX FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NEWSLETTER!)*

### Containers by Bob Sizemore

I was organizing my things for a class on basic baskets that was on the calendar for the May 16<sup>th</sup> SALT Skills class.



I got to thinking about containers in general. I realized that a number and type of containers are endless. Everything from baskets to pouches, carved out wooden bowls, burned out wood vessels, bags of leather and cordage, bark containers, pottery, hollowed out yucca bloom stalks, gourds and ever the bladder of animals.



Today, we take containers for granted. We use them once and throw them away. Examples are water bottles, soda cans and jars.

In ancient times, a lot of effort was put into making containers and many of them became art forms in their own right, such as pottery and baskets.

The need for containers seem simple enough, however, in earlier times, when you had to carry everything you needed, containers were not only important but they could be critical for your survival. Even today, an unexpected event could leave you stranded. Knowing how to make an improvised container with whatever is at hand could make a big difference in the outcome of your situation.



With the downtime that many of us are experiencing, I find it a good time to practice and improve your skills, not only with containers, but with any of the skills we do in SALT.

I think it's a perfect time to be outdoors practicing alone or with family. You can always go to Youtube and search for tutorials on any subject you are interested in. You can find videos on anything from fire making to flint knapping.

If you are having trouble finding what you want you can always give me a call.

Be careful, have fun and be good to one another. It's the right thing to do.

Bob Sizemore



# Replica Jawbone Sickle by Ron Moses



A modified lower elk mandible was combined with an Arizona ash handle, using pine pitch adhesive and twisted rawhide cordage to make an ancestral style harvesting sickle. The design for this replica was copied from various museum displays, an article on Bone Tools in Ancient Technology by the University of Iowa, and articles in back issues of the Bulletin of Primitive Technology.

The primary food for a 500-700 pound elk is grass so it stands to reason that the teeth are well shaped for cutting plant material. In North America, deer and elk lower jawbones were readily adaptable to the task of harvesting native grasses, and grains. Wild grasses and hay could be used for things like bedding, insulation, and filler for mud or adobe construction. Indigenous cereal grains such as amaranth, wild rice, rice grass, and wild buckwheat could be cut for threshing the seeds. The raw materials used for this project were a lower elk jawbone picked up on a walkabout, a section of Arizona ash tree from my backyard, pine pitch adhesive, and rawhide cordage. Archaeological evidence suggests that jaw bones were used both "as is" and modified and hafted, such as this example.



The jawbone for this project was first washed and scrubbed to remove any remaining attached tissue. This one was very clean when found, but if a bone is fresher, it goes on an ant hill. The ants will pick it clean in just a few days. I sterilized the bone by soaking overnight in a half and half solution of hydrogen peroxide and water. This also helps neutralize remaining odors. I did all trimming while the bone was still damp as it is a little softer and easier to cut.

The branch was cut to length, stripped of bark, and a notch cut in one end to fit over the jawbone. The wood was freshly cut so it was fairly easy to work. The end with the slot was then put in boiling water for 45 minutes to make it more flexible so it would fit tight over the jawbone. A rule of thumb for softening wood for bending is to boil about 15 minutes for every 1/4 inch of thickness.



The Jawbone was modified by removing part of the front beyond the teeth. Part of the jaw hinge was also trimmed down to better fit the slot in the handle. The bone was first scored with an obsidian blade and then broken away. The broken edge was then smoothed and shaped with a piece of sandstone. Pine pitch was put in the opening exposed in the center of the bone from the shortening of the jaw.



Pine pitch glue consisting of equal parts of pine sap, crushed charcoal, and crushed dry rabbit dung was used to fill any remaining voids between the bone and the wood. This mixture was heated over coals in a shell container and quickly applied to the surfaces.



Dry rawhide strips were soaked in water until soft and pliable then twisted into cordage. The still wet cordage was wrapped around the wood handle. The wet rawhide shrinks and hardens as it dries and helps squeeze the slot in the wood handle tightly against the bone.

The assembled sickle was set in the sun for several hours to help dry and shrink the rawhide. Exposed bone surfaces were rubbed with animal fat to prevent drying and calcification of the bone surface. The wood handle was rubbed down with sunflower seed oil to seal the surface and minimize cracking. This project took about 8 hours total to complete.



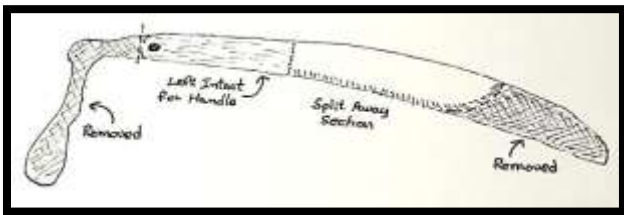
## Replica Split Deer Rib Knife by Ron Moses



This deer bone rib knife was made in 7 steps and took about 2 hours.

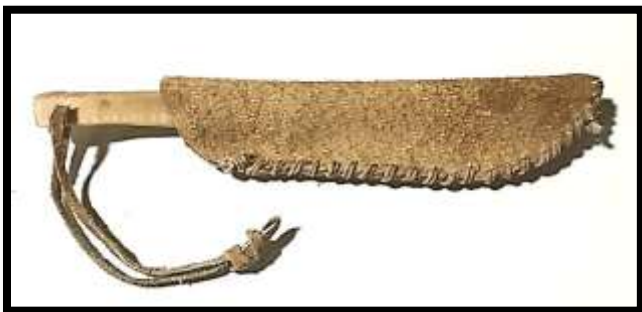
### Skills required were:

Using discoidal stone blades to score and crack bone;  
Using abrasive stone to grind bone;  
Using stone tools to bore holes in bone.



### Steps:

1. Collect materials:
  - Deer or elk rib bone
  - Sharp discoidal stone blades
  - Pointed discoidal stone chip
  - Fiber cord or leather lace
2. Cut and grind away both ends of bone saving straighter center portion.
3. Score bone on inside of rib at midpoint and along top edge of blade half.
4. Crack, cut, and grind away thinner inside half to form blade.
5. Use pointed rock chip, working from both sides, to grind hole for lanyard.
6. Attach lanyard.
7. Rub animal fat or sunflower seed oil on bone surfaces to prevent drying.



### Optional:

Make buckskin sheath to protect knife blade.

## Hand Drill Artifacts by Tom Wax

When traveling National Parks and Monuments throughout United States there is sometimes artifacts at the Visitor's Centers and Museums. Here are a few Hand-Drill sets that were on display.



#1: This Hand Drill which was a photo and the stone axe was found in an area of the Needles Section of Canyonlands N.P. The ranger said the Hand Drill was found in a nearby wash and is put away for protection. Hence a photo was used.



#2: Hand- Drill sets found at Mesa Verde N.P.



#3: Hand-Drill set with two different sizes of Yucca Fibers wrapped around the hearth. Found at Walnut Canyon N.M.

I remember recalling a very small Hand-Drill set on display at Montezuma Castle N.M. many years ago and did not get a photo of it. ☹️ I do not know if it is still on display, since artifacts are removed and replaced with other artifacts from time to time. Wished I had taken a photo of it. Maybe in the near future I will do stone axes and points, etc. that were on display at Visitors Centers in our National Parks. There were a whole bunch of them.



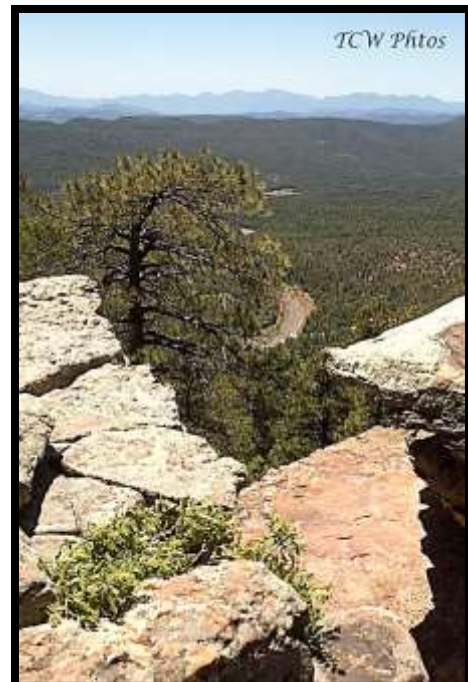
# S.A.L.T. MEMBERS OUT ON THE TRAIL

May 18, 2020  
Mogollon Rim Day Hike  
with Tom Wax

Annette and I went for a short day hike along the Mogollon Rim.



There are spectacular views from the top of the Mogollon Rim to the far, blue mountains with the highway below.



It was just a little over 2 miles round with strong winds blowing across the rim.

# Between the Rivers Gathering 2020 WAS CANCELLED See you next year!!!



May 25th - May 30th, 2020 CANCELLED!  
Primitive Skills for Self-Sufficiency Northeastern Washington  
Ancestral Skills & Self-Sufficiency Gathering

After much deliberation we have decided that it is in the best interest for all to cancel Between the Rivers Gathering this year due to the COVID19 pandemic. Projections for group size and travel restrictions in our region are beyond the gathering end date at this point, and we want people to be able to stay home and stay well in these times. Please know that we care for your welfare, and for the welfare of your loved ones.

For those who have paid for tuition and deposits for this year's BtR, we will refund your payments in full. If you paid through PayPal it will be electronically returned. If you mailed a check or money order we will send you a refund check.

If you have been accepted for our work trade crew this year we will keep your application on file, and you have pre-approval & first option for next year without having to redo your application.

Please plan to join us for Between the Rivers Gathering in 2021, May 31st - June 5th. We will look forward to a joyful reunion with our dear community of friends and family! Until then, please stay well and take care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,  
Patrick and the BtR Crew

Contact us: [patrickf@bridgestothepast.org](mailto:patrickf@bridgestothepast.org)

## BTR LOGO HATS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!



Kandis Larson is now 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.

From Kandis, "I am sure you all share my same feeling about our beautiful BTR gathering canceled. I decided since we can't be together in person this year, I would bring to you online the hats that I was planning on selling at camp this year, and we can all sport them in our daily lives."



Hats \$20 (four designs to choose from)  
1.) Brown 2.) Green 3.) Black 4.) Green/Tan



Beanies \$15 (four colors to choose from)  
1.) Black 2.) Grey 3.) Blue 4.) Green

Please contact Kandis directly if you would like to purchase a BTR hat (remembrance of the year that Covid19 squashed our plans)

She has many payment options available including, Venmo, cash app, and a card reader.

"Hope you all enjoy the rest of your spring. Thank you to my gathering family, and may we meet soon around the fire." -Kandis

**kandiscreated@gmail.com**  
509-994-0585 cell . @kandis created (Instagram)



**THE EARTH KNACK  
FAMILY GATHERING**

**EARTH KNACK  
Stone Age Living Skills**

**JUNE 11-16, 2020** in Crestone, Colorado

Visit [www.earthknack.com](http://www.earthknack.com) for a description and logistics,  
and to register. Further inquiries contact Robin Blankenship at Earth Knack  
1-719-256-4909 [earthknackschool@gmail.com](mailto:earthknackschool@gmail.com) POB 508 Crestone, Colorado 81131

**30 Years with Earth Knack!**

Three decades of top quality instruction in ancestral living,  
traditional arts, outdoor immersion, survival, primitive skills,  
remote expeditioning, homesteading, environmental education.

**New Offering June 2020**  
**Outdoor Living Immersion / Work Trade**

This new, unique opportunity replaces our traditional internship for the summer 2020 season.  
How wild can you go? Begins June 1st. For more information visit [www.earthknack.com](http://www.earthknack.com)

Join Us for the 30th.. and final,,,

**"The Gathering"** at Earth Knack

June 11-16, 2020!

It's been a good ride! What fun we have had! What learning we have done!

*Don't worry! Earth Knack will continue to offer 1 day to 2 week classes in primitive skills, survival, homesteading and pioneering skills! Also, outdoor immersions, primitive skills instructor training programs, internships and alternative natural building classes will be offered in the future.*

Look for our new course schedule coming in 2021.

But for now, consider celebrating 30 years with me at the final Earth Knack Gathering program!

Hope to see you in June. All the best, Robin

To register:

<http://www.earthknack.com/registration/>

Robin Blankenship  
45th Division Teacher - 4th/5th Grade  
Crestone Charter School  
330 E. Lime Ave.  
P.O. Box 400  
Crestone, CO 81131  
719-256-4907 ext. 101  
719-256-4908 - fax

**Class Schedule/Homework Calendar**  
**Link <<Click Here>>**

**Rabbitstick**  
Keeping Traditions Alive!

**33<sup>RD</sup> RABBITSTICK**  
**SEPTEMBER 13 - 19, 2020**  
in Rexburg, Idaho

**"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) | [societyofprimitivetech@gmail.com](mailto:societyofprimitivetech@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>

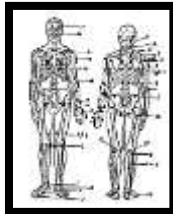


Dear RMS family & friends,  
~ Live What You Love ~

**Upcoming 2020 Workshops:**



**Herbal Pharmacology** Fri - Sun, October 2nd-4<sup>th</sup>  
Make your own medicine using wild and cultivated plants.



**Oriental Acupressure** Thurs-Sun, October 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>  
Hands-on healing workshop. Learn how to heal yourself and others.



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



**JOIN US OCTOBER 8-14, 2020  
FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL  
SKYEARTH IN VENUS, TEXAS!**  
[Click here to register and get more information.](#)

For more information, check out our [website](#) or don't hesitate to give us a call, 505-570-9484.  
Joshua and Kirsten  
[skyearthcamp@gmail.com](mailto:skyearthcamp@gmail.com)



**WINTER COUNT**  
**February 14 - 20, 2021 AT THE BOULDERS!**

About 1/2 hour east of Florence, AZ on the East Florence-Kelvin Highway which is just south of Florence off Hwy. 79.

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)

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



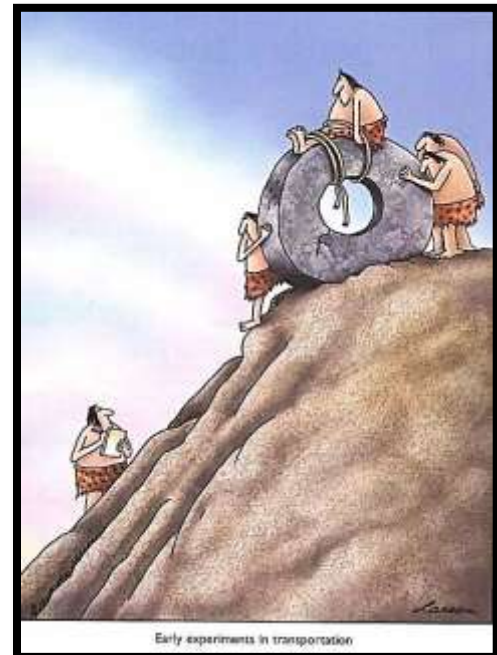
**REMEMBER, NOW THAT THE  
LOCKDOWN IS OVER,  
STAY SAFE!**

You've heard all of these at some point this week, but it's all good information worth repeating:

1. Don't touch people outside of your home. They'll understand. It's OK to be the awkward one right now.
2. Use the back of your hand or your knuckle to turn all switches, buttons, etc in public places.
3. Pump gas using a disposable glove or tissue and sanitize your hands when you get back in the car.
4. Use automatic door openers when available. Use elbow or wrist to open doors. Back through doors when possible.
5. Wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizer that is alcohol based whenever you've been somewhere where others have been.
6. Keep a bottle of hand sanitizer or wipes in your car and clean your hands each time you get in and before entering the house.
7. Try your best not to touch your face. We do it all day and aren't aware. Touching your face is likely how one would contract the virus.
8. Limit social outings to only what is necessary. Work from home if that is an option. BUG IN as much as you can stand right now.
9. Exercise and health are synonymous. Spending time outside hiking, biking, practicing skills, foraging, and more is highly recommended!
10. A friend of mine in the medical profession who is on the front-lines of COVID-19 recommends also letting all of that fresh outside air INSIDE as well. It's always good in these cases to let your house breath by opening up some windows.
11. Sleep is your immune system's friend. Try to get lots of it.
12. Social isolation can affect mental health. Reach out to one another by phone, e-mail or texting. Being alone doesn't have to be lonely.

Most importantly, be especially vigilant when interacting with the elderly or those at high risk. Even if you don't feel remotely sick, it's not worth the risk. If you're helping an elderly neighbor or someone you know with food or supply deliveries, be sure to wipe down the packaging with a disinfecting wipe and also encourage them to thoroughly wash all fruits and vegetables.

If you're not helping an elderly neighbor, consider it, so they don't have to leave for supplies.



**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!**

Contact Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910



Cool pictograph! "We are the World"

# 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

**"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**

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

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

Please bring it to the next Skills Meeting or 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)