



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.

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Volume 12, Issue 6

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

JUNE 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



Pueblo Grande Museum's outdoor interpretive trails remain open to the public free of charge Monday – Saturday from 9 am – 4:45pm.

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.

The indoor exhibits (including the restrooms) remain closed. Even though we are still only partially open, it is wonderful to see so many people enjoying the beautiful weather and outdoor interpretive trails.

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

S.A.L.T. LOOKS FORWARD TO GETTING BACK TO PGM WITH SKILLS MEETINGS...

THE MUSEUM SHOULD BE OPENING UP AGAIN IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS! THE DATE HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED...

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 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

We can include "How To" information in our newsletters and on the website.

THANK YOU!!!

S.A.L.T. MEMBERS PROJECT GALLERY

LET'S MAKE AN AXEHEAD! Part V
by Charlie Tadano

HAFTING

Look for this article next month in the July Newsletter!

COILED ROPE BASKETS by Tom & Laura Robins



(Class taught at May 2016 S.A.L.T. Meeting)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Any natural fiber rope. Any thickness you like, this example is cotton, 4mm (an eighth of an inch) in diameter will make a medium size vessel. Use roughly 5 and a half yards.

Scissors.

Any fine cord or floss in any color (red & black examples shown)

A large needle, bone works, too

There's no need to cut the rope – it's better to leave it on the spool so you aren't limited by its length.

Thread the needle with a long length of the fine cord or floss and tie a knot in the end. Cut the floss to a length as long as you can manage without it getting tangled.



Tightly roll up the rope, tucking the end into the center of the coil (top left hand image above).

Pass the needle through the first couple of coils, then pass it through again at right angles to the first pass (top right hand image above).

Now the center of the coil is secure you can begin to stitch. Stitch over the top of two coils of rope and pass the needle down and between (bottom left hand image above).

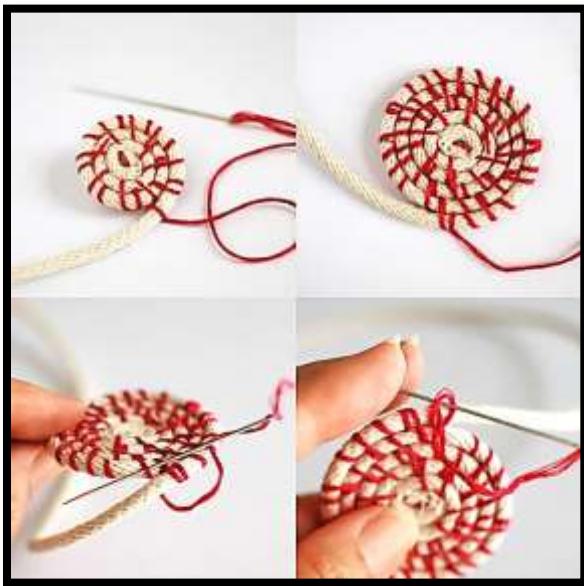
The next stitch only wraps around one coil of rope. Instead of passing the needle through the gap allow it to catch a small section of the second coil of rope. This will make the vessel sturdy and secure.

Continue coiling the rope around and alternating stitches over one piece of rope, then over two pieces of rope. Make sure the needle passes through the rope below at not just the gap.

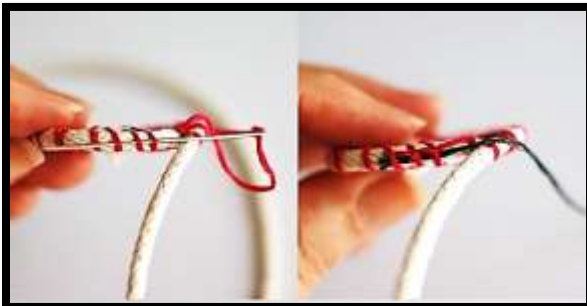
Continue to stitch around the coil at random but close intervals.

To end a thread pass the needle through the stitch below (bottom left photo, below) and pull it tight.

Take the needle underneath the coil base and knot it around another stitch (bottom right photo, below).

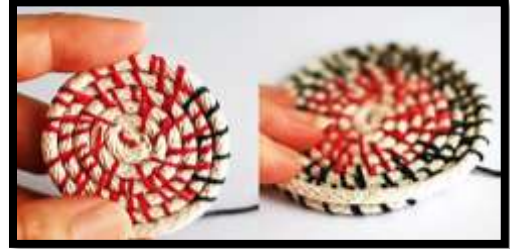


Run the thread under a few of the stitches on the side of the previous coil (top left photo, below), then cut the thread.



To start a new thread run it under the same stitches but in the opposite direction (top right photo, above) until the end is concealed.

When you're happy with the size of the base hold the rope on top and begin to build up the sides (bottom right photo, below).



For the first round all your stitches will wrap around both pieces of rope: the base and the new coil (top left photo, below).



After the first round go back to alternating stitches as before, making sure at least every second stitch passes through the rope in the previous round.

When you are happy with the height of the vessel continue stitching until you have completed a round. Look back at the base and find the place where you started to overlap it to make the side wall. The top should finish directly above that spot.

Cut the rope off on an angle so it tapers off (bottom left photo, above). Continue stitching and secure the tapered end.

To finish off knot the thread around a stitch and run the thread between two pieces of rope below so it disappears between them. Cut the thread off making sure the end isn't visible.



The possibilities are endless with color and shape variations. Cotton and natural rope can be dyed too, so you needn't be restricted to white.

Paul Campbell's UNIVERSAL TOOL KIT by Bob Sizemore

Hello fellow Salt Members,

This is a brief look at Paul Campbell's book "The Universal Tool Kit", and my attempt to replicate early stone tools. It seems that when we get started at knapping, we strive to replicate the most sophisticated and difficult stone artifacts. Most of these are relatively new and highly stylized, around 16 to 20,000 years ago (ie.Clovis.)

Success at producing these tools can be frustrating. There is an approach to stone tools that dates back to a million years ago and they are not so stylized. This tool technology is still used today by many cultures around the world. I'm not saying that early stone tool production doesn't have its challenges and frustrations, it does. Paul Campbell's book has many approaches to making these tools and some of them can help you to understand the dynamics of fracturing stone that can apply to other types of tool making. If any of you have participated in Charlie Tadano's class on discoidal flake production, you will know at least one method.

Here I will present some attempts at observations to produce hand axe/knives through direct percussion. A combination of direct, indirect and bipolar percussion could be used. However, I decided to use only direct hand held percussion for this exercise.

The first tool I wanted to try was a rather large knife (hand axe/chopper.) So I selected an elongated, sort of flat quartzite cobble that was about 6 in by 2 1/2 in by 1/2 inch thick. After a few strikes against the cobble with various hammers without producing any flakes I selected a hard heavy hammer stone, and with hard fast strikes I was able to detach a flake, after several strikes.



Using hammer stone

Analyzing the fracture scar and flake, it seemed to me the successful strike was fairly deep, about a quarter in. from the edge of the stone at a point where the curvature of the edge started to flatten out across the face of the stone.



Large hand axe

The strike also seemed to be at a high angle, about 60 to 80 degrees. Not having a way to measure that, it's just a guess. I turned the stone over, using the negative flake scar as a platform,



Using edge of flake scar as platform.

I struck at a point of the flake scar margin at about the center of mass which resulted in a flake removal. The flake came off somewhat easier, which brought to mind, if you select a stone that has a broken edge of chip from natural causes, it may save time and effort in completing your tool. I continued around the margin of the stone. However I didn't take flakes all the way around, thinking it might be better for hand holding when in use.



Large hand axe

Selecting a smaller flat disc shaped quartzite cobble, about 3 1/2 in by 2 1/2 in by 3 1/4 in thick, and struck flakes off one edge, leaving the rest of the cobble for hand holding. I see a lot of cutting tools like this and I don't know if the hand holding is the reason or it's just for expediency or if it's just not wanting to spend effort once you have the cutting edge you need for the task at hand.

The archaeological record indicates that these tools were made at or near the place where they needed them. Once the task was complete, the tool was left behind, and when another was needed it could be quickly fashioned if you know the methods.

Additionally, the flakes from production can be used and reshaped for numerous tasks. In fact, the smaller flakes (Paul Campbell called them teshoa flakes) were often the objective and not so much the core stone.



Left to right, small chunks, Teshoa flakes, small flakes and hammer stones.

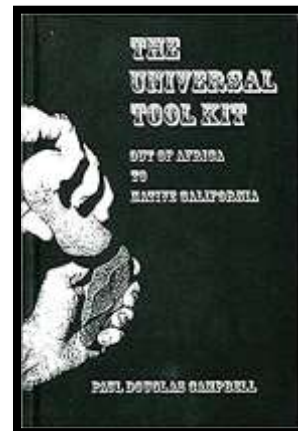
It's only been relatively recent that mainstream archaeology recognized all the broken stone at sites were in fact tools, giving us and incomplete picture of our past. I think that we have Leakey to thank for recognizing these stone artifacts as tools. The tools I made bear a striking resemblance to some that were found by Leakey at Oldowam Gorge in Africa. This was not intentional, just a natural result of fracturing stone with a task in mind.



Small chopper



Once you have made a cutting tool, it's not good enough to stop there. The next step at getting a clear understanding of these tools, is to use them. Try them out on several tasks such as woodworking, harvesting, meat cutting, digging and processing food etc. Paul Campbell did exactly that in his book, which I will do and evaluate them in a future report. So if you want a better understanding of your distant relatives and what made it possible for you to be here today, give it a try.



In Remembrance of Paul Campbell

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

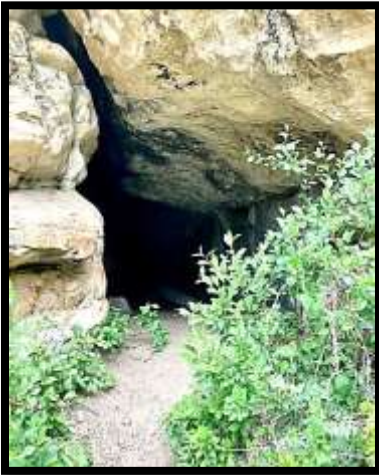
EXPLORING PUMPHOUSE WASH
FLAGSTAFF, AZ
May 2021 by Steven Hall

What a big day! I set off with no destination in mind, just picked some roads to see what I could find. Brought the pup too.

We explored a beautiful canyon,



found a small cave,



went for a swim,



saw some petroglyphs,



visited a historic grave and more!



Even tried some flintknapping. I made a pretty decent flint core, but destroyed it when I tried to make it a little more perfect (whoops).



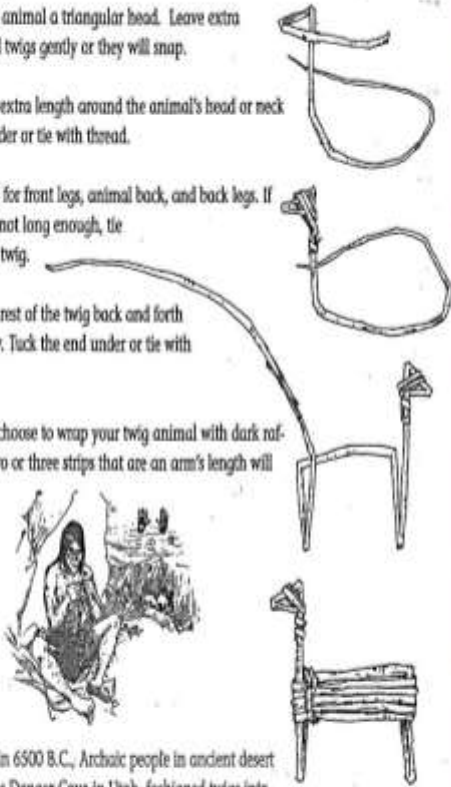
I also used some blades to make a split twig figuring.



WRAPPED TWIG ANIMALS

Materials: long, flexible, freshly picked twigs such as willow; optional thread for tying ends; and raffia for wrapping the twig body.

1. Give your animal a triangular head. Leave extra length. Bend twigs gently or they will snap.
2. Wrap the extra length around the animal's head or neck and tuck under or tie with thread.
3. Bend twig for front legs, animal back, and back legs. If your twig is not long enough, tie on a second twig.
4. Wrap the rest of the twig back and forth around body. Tuck the end under or tie with thread.
5. You may choose to wrap your twig animal with dark raffia strips. Two or three strips that are an arm's length will be enough.



Long ago, in 6500 B.C., Archaic people in ancient desert caves such as Danger Cave in Utah, fashioned twigs into small animal figurines. Some think the figurines look like deer. Nobody knows why these people made split twig animals—perhaps they were toys or used for good luck in hunting.

Over 2,000 years ago the desert sands covered and protected the Archaic people's delicate twig animals, stone tools, mats, sandals, grinding stones, and rabbit snares. Today we can see these objects in museums and think about their use.



Between the Rivers Gathering

May 31st- June 5th, 2021

Ancestral Skills for Self-Sufficiency

Sponsored by Bridges to the Past 501(c)(3)

Northeastern Washington State Ancestral Skills & Self-Sufficiency Gathering

Between the Rivers Gathering is a week-long workshop for learning skills that originate in the stone-age all the way up to modern homesteading. We are an annual event located in Washington State about an hour north of Spokane. We will have a multitude of instructors offering a broad-range of classes all week long. Included will be wilderness survival skills of all kind, basic and homespun living, preparedness and skills of a practical and archeological nature.

We offer **hands-on classes in ancestral living and survival**, and we also focus on the skills of *self-sufficiency* and *sustainable living* to minimize our impact on this planet we all share. Come join our community and experience for yourself what an ancestral skills gathering is all about!

Warning: *Attending Between the Rivers Gathering may change your life!*

To register click [here](#).

Other [Skills Gatherings](#)

[BtR T-Shirt](#)

Burning questions that can't wait? Contact

us: patrickf@bridgestothepast.org

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

509-994-0585 cell . [@kandis created](#) (Instagram)



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

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

-Kiowa Sage



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!

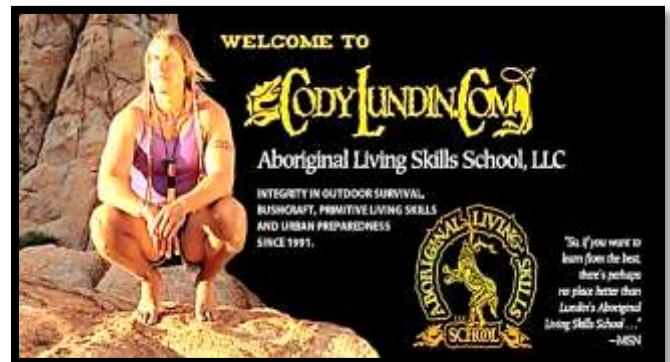
www.reevismountain.org/classes

Order all your favorite Reevis Mountain Remedies online!

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



33RD 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 - 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

[Register On-Line Today](#)
[Share a Ride Bulletin Board](#)
[Meet Our Staff](#)

Rabbitstick | (208) 359-2400 | backtracks905@gmail.com | societyofprimitivetechnology@gmail.com



Bulletin of Primitive Technology website at 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>



WINTER COUNT

**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
www.WinterCountCamp.com

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



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**



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. 45th 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. 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

S.A.L.T. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: www.saltskills.com

e-mail address: 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

For **EVENTS** and **BEAD** information contact Donna Moses at 602-384-1359 or 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