



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

saltskills@gmail.com

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Volume 11, Issue 10

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

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 is still closed to the public. However, we are hoping that the outdoor interpretive trail will be open for the public to enjoy sometime in the fall. The indoor exhibits and facilities will continue to remain closed to the public. We do not have target date to share at this point in time.

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
ONE DAY IN THE FUTURE...
WATCH FOR E-MAIL UPDATES.**

MEANWHILE, STAY SAFE!

PGM is looking for...

photos or videos on CORN OR GRAIN
GRINDING for their remote learning videos.

If you have anything to share, please call:

Lindsey Vogel-Teeter, Pueblo Grande
Museum Curator at 602-534-1572



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

GOURD CANTEEN by Ron Moses



The long very hot and dry summer got me thinking about water and the ancestral culture in the southwest. The survival rule of 3's says you can last about 3 minutes without oxygen, 3 days without water, and 3 weeks without food. The desert environment makes the water issue even more pronounced because water is so much more scarce. Available drinkable water from natural sources, when traveling on foot, could

have been hours or days away from your location. An easy to construct and transport water carrier would be a necessity for desert travel. A gourd canteen would be one solution available to ancestral desert people.

Gourds have been cultivated in the southwest for hundreds if not thousands of years. Cultivated gourds and their cousins, squash and pumpkins are likely to be hybridized descendants of the wild coyote gourd. Each variation was developed over time through careful selection to encourage desired characteristics such as shape, durability, use as a food, taste, and so on. Gourds fulfilled a need for a renewable plant product with a semi-durable shell that could be fashioned into a variety of storage containers, scoops, ladles, dippers, eating utensils, scrapers, and digging tools. Only minor modification was needed, to convert it into a portable water carrier or canteen.

This canteen was constructed from what is called a double gourd, so named from the overall shape having the appearance of an upper and a lower chamber. Many gourd shapes will work but I like the doubles because the narrow area between provides an easy attachment point for some sort of over the shoulder carrying cordage or strap. The stem end of the gourd was cut off to create the water opening. Six or so coarse pebbles were put in the opening and then the gourd was vigorously shaken to loosen and remove the seeds and the dry plant membrane. After about 20 minutes the pebbles, loose seeds, and fibers were dumped out. The process was repeated until only pebbles came out. Water was now poured into the gourd and shaken to remove any remaining dust and debris. After pouring out the water, the inside of the gourd was allowed to dry for 2 to 3 days in the sun.

When the inside was thoroughly dry to the touch, the gourd was allowed to warm in the sun and then melted beeswax was poured in and swished around to coat the inside of the gourd and thereby add a water resistant sealant. A stopper was shaped from a section of yucca stalk and attached with knotted jute cordage. A carrying strap was created from twisted jute cordage and a scrap of leather was added to help make the strap more comfortable. The gourd canteen was now ready to be filled with water, slung over the shoulder, and taken on a desert walkabout.

WORKING WITH GREEN SERPENTINE STONE

by Charlie Tadano

Green Serpentine is a wonderful stone to use to make ancient, Native American stone jewelry. It is a very soft stone, which like argillite is very easy to work and shape. It also takes a wonderful polish and looks absolutely beautiful when completed.



Green Serpentine is found in many places in Arizona. It is a light greenish stone with a waxy appearance. It is easily cut or broken into smaller pieces if you are lucky enough to find a fist size piece. Normally, what I find is about 1-2 inches in length, but what I have located has usually been found in washes and stream beds, so it's been tumbled and carried downstream far away from the natural deposit. Maybe one of these days, we can put together a SALT Expedition to a known Green Serpentine quarry to mine and gather enough for a SALT teaching class, but that is for another time.



Once you have found your "special piece", locate a piece of sandstone, a red brick paver, or if you have nothing else, a portion of your concrete sidewalk. All of these elements will abrade and reduce the Green Serpentine quickly.

While you can work without water, I prefer to use water to keep the dust from being inhaled. I am not sure if it's bad for your Lungs, but I don't want to take the chance. Besides, I think the resulting slurry (ground stone residue and water) help reduce the stone faster, but maybe that is up for debate.



Normally, when I select a piece of stone to work, the shape of the stone tells me what shape or type of item the stone wants to be. Study it, turn it over, turn it sideways and really look at all of the elements in the shape...where is it thick? Where is it thin? How wide? How long? All of these things need to be studied before you begin. Once you have decided what type of jewelry is to be made and what shape, you can start to work the Green Serpentine.



I like to abrade the stone using a simple back and forth motion on my grinding stone. Always abrade your stone in the same direction. This helps prevent a lot of swirls and scratches that are hard to polish out during the final stages.

I saw an artifact at Hogg's Hogan in Prescott that I wanted to replicate and so I decided to make a triangle shaped pendant.



I always start out by reducing the thickest part of the stone's body down to the thinnest part of the stone. Do this by bringing out the stone so the thinnest part is hanging over the end of the sandstone slab and you are only abrading the thickest part. Once it has been reduced down to the same thickness as the thinnest part, it's time to stop working in that area. Now look at the stone and start to shape it into the design you want. Start of the sides, then the top and then the bottom. When I abrade stone, I always use the "count method". That process is very simple, I select a number, let's say "11"....after every 11 strokes, I stop, and inspect the stone. That helps prevent abrading too much in one area.



Once the shape, and thickness is reached, it's time to drill a hole in the pendant to attach your cord. Here is where you can use a modern tool (power drill on very low speed, a pump or hand drill, or just a simple flaked and shaped stone tool with a "point". Take your time, don't use a lot of pressure (the stone is very weak at this time). If you are using a modern drill, just drill through on one side. If you are using primitive drilling methods, as soon as you know your drill has reached the opposite side, turn the stone over and make another hole on that side. That is why you almost always see the "bevel" shape on ancient drill holes, it's a two sided drilling process!



When that is done, now it's the time to make it beautiful! You can use sand paper (60 grit, 100 grit, 220 grit, 600 grit, 1000 grit) or you can also use fine sand and any type of fat. Animal fat (lard) or butter are my favorite to use. Make a paste and polish away. Make sure you are always sanding/polishing in the same direction. You won't want to add any swirls or blemishes to your stone's finish at this time. Use water if you can and as you go up to the higher/finer sandpaper, make sure your pressure is eased up to.

If it's going to break, it will be because you applied too much pressure.

It generally takes about 30 minutes to polish your stone until it shines and sparkles!



This same method can be used on almost any type of stone soft enough to abrade. Look for a close grained stone that is soft. How do you know if it's soft enough to abrade? Use another stone of see if you can "scratch it". If you can, then you can work the stone.

Good luck! Have fun and send me an email showing me what you made!



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

WUPATKI NATIONAL MONUMENT

NE of Flagstaff, AZ off Hwy. 89

by Tom Wax



Some Artifacts found from Wupatki National Monument. Each photo shows how extensive and technological there culture was.



Photo 1: Shows a partial Hand-Drill set which is rare to find because the wood deteriorates and I have a second theory. Like me, when the wood is used up, I add it to the fire.



Photo 2: Yucca Sandal



Photo 3: Necklaces, one necklace has a seashell which shows that they had extensive trading as far as the Pacific Ocean which is almost a thousand miles away.



Photo 4: Pigment paints



Photo 5: Black on White Pottery.

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 other classes are offered, and there will be more to come!

-Kiowa Sage



Kiowa is excited about teaching Indigenous Southwestern Pottery at the SkyEarth Primitive Gathering in Venus, Texas October 8 – 14, 2020!



**JOIN US OCTOBER 8-14, 2020
FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL
SKYEARTH
IN VENUS, TEXAS!**

SkyEarth:

With all that is going on, we feel it is best to hand off the baton of hosting this gathering to Scott Ezzell and his crew.



Scott and his family are the owners of the land, Prairie Haven, where SkyEarth takes place. They are excited at the prospects of running this vital gathering.

Please do what you can to get the word out and support Scott. You can start by going to his [Facebook page](#) and "liking" it.

You will find some of the particulars of the gathering there.

To be in touch with Scott directly regarding the gathering, you can call or text him at (817) 994-7735.

Joshua, Kirsten, Kiyota and Tomoki



This has been a long time coming and we are excited to share this news!

First, Bridges to the Past has secured 40 acres of land in Valley, WA for use as a permanent campus and gathering site. We have long wished for a piece of ground to call our own, and this spring we were able to make it happen. The photo is of the meadow which will be the heart of our primitive camp. The location of this new campus is about 4 miles northwest of the previous gathering site, and Between the Rivers Gathering will be moved to this site this coming Spring, AND...(drum roll please)...



We would like to announce **Fall Camp Gathering** to take place this **October 8-11th!** This is a shortened format running Thursday through Sunday, with classes starting Thursday morning and running through Saturday evening. Camp will break after a morning get-together on Sunday. Please see www.fallcamp.net for details, differences from other events, and how to register.

There will be a few differences in format from other gatherings and from BtR due to current world events as noted on the website. We will be following CDC guidelines and local laws for the current pandemic during Fall Camp.

We are excited to be offering this first annual event, and we look forward to hearing from you! We plan to have a Fall & coming Winter focus for Fall Camp including food preservation, shelters, warm clothing, fire making and use, primitive cooking, hides & such, felting, metalwork, and of course lithic technology and weapons & hunting (and more!). If you are unsure please don't hesitate to ask! **Registration will open August 1st.**

<https://www.fallcamp.net/register.html>

Follow us on social media through our Bridges to the Past Facebook page, and on Instagram @fallcamp_gathering. We will also be updating our Between the Rivers Facebook Group with the new name of BtR, FallCamp & Bridges Group to reflect our recent changes.

We hope to see you this Fall! Patrick and the BtR Crew

Sept. 20th: Got more stuff done over the weekend with the help of some friends. Smoky sunrises until yesterday, and today it cleared up beautiful. We finally had some rain yesterday evening right after planting grass seed in some of the disturbed areas. I think we are nearly ready for some visitors! See you at Fall Camp!! -Patrick



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

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)



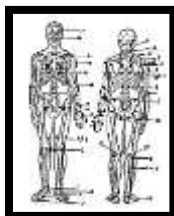
Dear RMS family & friends,
~ Live What You Love ~

Upcoming 2020 Workshops:



Herbal Pharmacology Fri - Sun, October 2nd-4th

Make your own medicine using wild and cultivated plants.



Oriental Acupressure Thurs-Sun, October 22nd-25th

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

Order all your favorite Reevis Mountain Remedies online!

www.reevismountain.org/country-store



Blessings, Peter Bigfoot & the RMS Interns



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:

People have been asking us if we're planning to host Winter Count, February 14-20, 2021. The answer is YES! It is our full intention at this point to host this wonderful and life sustaining gathering in the saguaros of Arizona.

So put it on your calendar and we will plan to see you there!

We look forward to seeing you in the desert,

Joshua, Kirsten, Kiyota and Tomoki

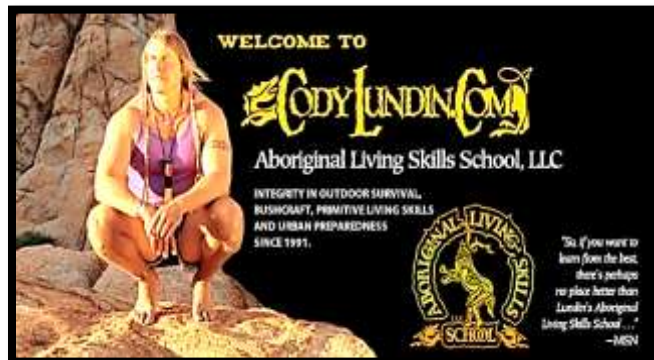
Winter Count

2119 Calle Tecolote

Santa Fe, NM 87505

Winter Count 505-570-9484 WinterCountCamp@gmail.com

www.WinterCountCamp.com



"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

9/13-19/2020 in Rexburg, Idaho

**HAS BEEN CANCELED UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 12 - 18, 2021**

DUE TO COVID-19

*"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 | societyofprimitivetech@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>

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

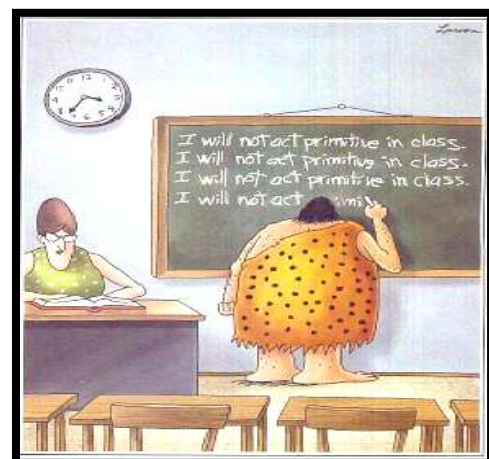


**ALSO, THINK ABOUT TEACHING ONE OF OUR SKILLS
CLASSES WHEN WE GET BACK TO PGM!**

Contact Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910

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

Steve Watts





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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

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. 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. 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