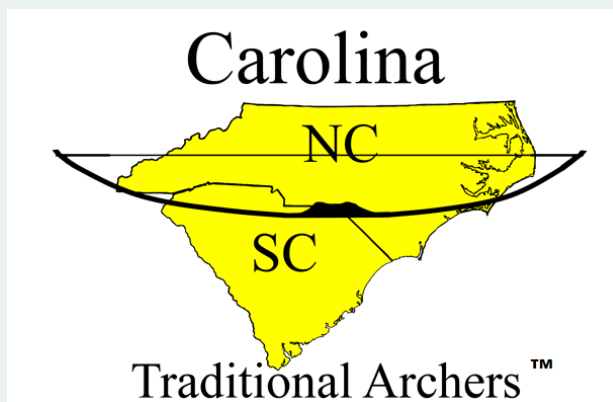


# The Whispering Shaft

Quarterly Newsletter of the

Jan/Feb/Mar 2016

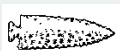
## CAROLINA TRADITIONAL ARCHERS



*Keeping The  
Tradition Alive*

[www.theCTA.org](http://www.theCTA.org)

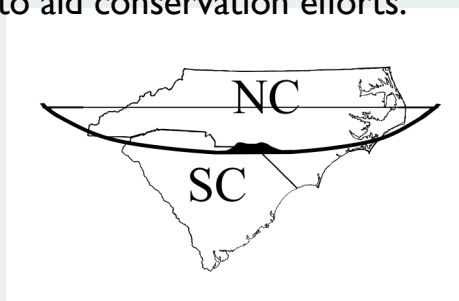
## CAROLINA TRADITIONAL ARCHERS



### MISSION STATEMENT



The mission of the Carolina Traditional Archers is the preservation and promotion of the ancient art of traditional archery through club activities and educational interactions with others. Members will adhere to the highest ethical standards in their support, practice, promotion and preservation of traditional archery and bow hunting. The Carolina Traditional Archers support sound wildlife management principles and seek opportunities to aid conservation efforts.



Member of:



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Drew Sumrell

#### **SECRETARY**

Allen Wagner

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

John Frazier

#### **EDITOR**

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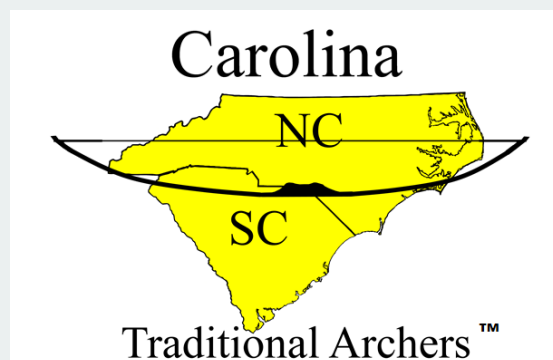
Logan Sumrell

Joe Henz

Jonathan Beltz



## *Letter from the President*



Members and friends of CTA,

We have a year behind us in our new club home and I'm glad to report that much has been accomplished. If you've attended our monthly shoots regularly, you have seen the improvements that we have made as the year has gone by. We have worked hard to be good stewards of our resources and have had members contribute untold hours of work to put those resources to good use. The progress is evident.

To continue to fulfill our mission of "the preservation and promotion of the ancient art of traditional archery through club activities and educational interactions with others", I see our tasks moving forward as twofold. We must continue to build our membership and continue to renovate our facility into a venue that will make it conducive to fulfilling our mission. It is difficult for an organization or club to physically relocate and change its leadership at the same time without a few setbacks. CTA lost some members via our physical move and we were gifted a very run down piece of property.....two pretty serious hurdles. The good news is that we are already rebounding in a positive direction.

I can remember only one month this past year when we did not have new guests and visitors interested in our club. As mentioned above, there has been considerable improvement to our range and club house as well. It is exciting to see the progress. And even more exciting is the fact that I have not felt any let down of enthusiasm from our members that will deter this forward progress. Our visitors are joining the club and starting to be regulars at our shoots. Members continue to bring up new ideas about how to improve things. Yes, our monetary resources have been greatly depleted this past year, but we have improvements to show for it. But most importantly, I still feel the enthusiasm and passion to keep this "snowball" rolling forward.

It will take money and it will take manpower. We will continue to sponsor events to raise funds. Numerous members have donated many, many hours of work, material items and dollars toward our cause. If we could get all of our membership involved a bit more, it would be amazing what we could accomplish in 2016. If you haven't been actively involved in activities other than our monthly shoots, give it some thought. Ten hours of work per year from each member would equate to huge steps forward. Think about it. If you have not volunteered your skills, time and talents, give it a try. It is fun working as a team member to accomplish a common goal.....and helping to pass traditional archery to the next generation is a worthy one.

Drew Sumrell

President

## ***From the Editor.....***

Many thanks to all that contributed pictures and stories for this issue. It only helps the newsletter and hopefully makes it much more interesting for you. Any suggestions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Martin Seeley

### **Work day scheduled for Saturday Jan 16<sup>th</sup>**

We plan to work from 9 am until 1pm. We will be cleaning trash and debris off the range and shooting lanes. Please bring garden tools for the cleanup.

Also....After the work time is done, we will be having a bow and arrow tech day. If you have some bow and arrow maintenance that you are behind on just bring your stuff on Saturday. We plan to get close to the woodstove and get our equipment back in shape for 2016. This will be a very informal time for us to get together and have some fun. Bring your Fletcher, arrow spine reader, arrow crester or anything you like. This will be a first for CTA so come out and have some fun.

### **January Shoot Recap**

This is just a short recap of our January shoot. We had a really good turnout of over 30 shooters. The weather was cold in the morning but warmed up throughout the day. You couldn't ask for a better day to get together and fling some arrows. The range stayed busy all day and I even heard someone say he was going back to shoot his 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the day.

The chili's, hotdogs and baked potatoes that we ate for lunch were delicious. Thanks to Mary and Ali for handling the lunch for us. No one left the room hungry.

The "Long Shot" game has its first monthly winner. Drew shot an impressive 5/8" from the center of the dot. There were several very close shots but no one could get as close as he did. Congrats Drew!!!! We will have a new scenario set up for the February participants. Good luck to all.

Our wood stove and hearth project is completed. The hearth was completed on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> and the woodstove was installed on New Year's Day. It looked like it was being well used at our shot last weekend. I have added some pictures at the top.

One other very important thing-Please take the time to send me your nominations for Vice President and one Board of Directors member. This is very important to the growth of the club.



## 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>January 2</b>	<b>Herb Reynolds Memorial Shoot, 9am-3pm, Conover</b>
<b>February 6</b>	<b>Club Shoot—Annual Business Meeting, 9am-3pm, Conover</b>
<b>March 5</b>	<b>Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Conover</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Club Shoot—Traditional Skills Weekend &amp; Turkey Warm Up, 9am-3pm, Conover</b>
<b>May 7</b>	<b>Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Conover</b>
<b>June 4</b>	<b>Club Shoot—Kid's Day, 9am-3pm, Conover</b>
<b>July 9</b>	<b>Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Conover</b>
<b>August 6</b>	<b>Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Conover</b>
<b>September 3</b>	<b>Club Shoot—Whitetail Warmup, 9am-3pm, Conover</b>
<b>October 10</b>	<b>Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Conover</b>
<b>October 19-22</b>	<b>Club Hunt at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir</b>
<b>November 5</b>	<b>Club Shoot—Traditional Skills Weekend, 9am—3pm, Conover</b>
<b>December 3</b>	<b>Club Shoot, 9am-3pm , Conover</b>



# Member Shots





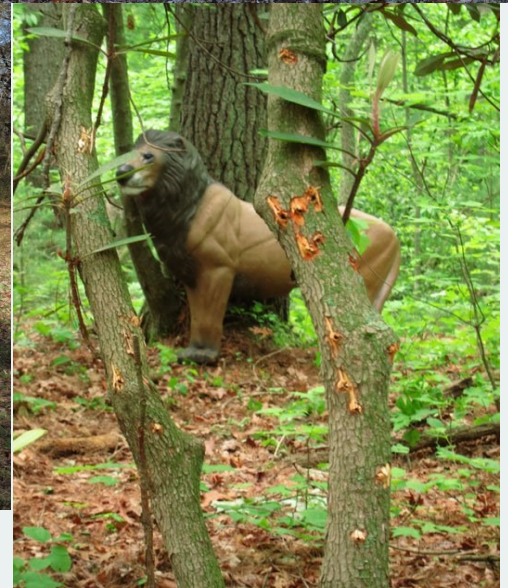
## About our Club Shoots

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Our monthly Club Shoots are loads of fun! If you like traditional archery, or even if you're just curious as to what traditional archery is all about, you owe it to yourself to check us out. It's an event the whole family can enjoy.

All club shoots are held the first Saturday of the month at the Carolina Traditional Archers Club: 6072 Timber Ridge Rd, Conover, NC. 28613 All shoots run from 9am - 3pm,. We set out twenty 3-D animal targets. All the foam targets are in the woods, amongst the trees, which makes for a realistic and very pleasant setting.

Shoots cost \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. Meal is included with the price of admission, and first-time visitors shoot and eat for free!





## *Archery Humor*



# The Hunter's Feast.....

## *Louisiana Alligator*

### INGREDIENTS

- 12 oz Alligator tail, pounded thin
- 8 oz Boudin sausage or Cajun link
- 2 oz Flour, seasoned salt/pepper
- 2 oz Cooking oil or clarified butter
- 1 oz Bourbon whiskey
- 4 oz Heavy cream
- 16 oz Corn cake batter
- 12 oz Louisiana Compound Butter
- 4 oz Green onion, thin sliced

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Pound alligator into 12-1 oz medallions.
  - Heat saucepan with oil.
  - Lightly dredge medallions in flour and sauté in hot pan for 10 seconds on each side.
  - Remove from pan and hold on heated plate. Slice sausage in to thin pieces and place in saucepan.
  - Cook for 1 minute, add bourbon and flame.
  - Add compound butter and melt it while swirling pan. Add cream and whip until smooth.
- 
- Makes 8 3-inch cornmeal cakes on griddle.
  - On heated plate put corn cakes in middle.
  - Put cooked alligator on corn cakes and ladle 3 oz sauce with sausage over all.
  - Sprinkle with sliced green onions for garnish.



## CTA Primitive Skills Weekend - Nov 2015

We had one of the best primitive skills weekends that I've ever attended at the club this past weekend. The weather cooperated and we had a grand time. Bruce Parris and his dad built the stone fire pit in our new fire ring and we had a multitude of activities going on all day.....flint knapping, straightening cane arrow shafts, primitive fire making, atlatl throwing, self- bow tempering and a lot of good camaraderie.

Our new fire ring at the club is now official. We had our first fire Friday night started with flint and steel thanks to Rowan Parris. We were treated to a fine dinner Friday evening prepared by Judy and Bill Morris.....smoked pork butt, venison, chicken, pasta salad, baked beans and a delicious berry cobbler for dessert. The only problem it all ended too soon.

The shoot Saturday was a successful with very little rain.....thankfully. It was the best attended November shoot in recent years and we had a number of members that haven't attended a shoot in a long time show up. We also had five members of the Appalachian State Archery Club join us. It was a terrific weekend and many thanks to all those that helped make it happen.



Dan Dracup straightening arrow shafts.

Bruce Parris building the stone fire ring.



Learning knapping skills.



Rowan Parris nursing the first fire.



## Clubhouse Update:

Many of us in the club have worked hard this year to make improvements to our property each month. Some months have been more fruitful than others, but we have made steady progress while mixing in some fun with our monthly shoots. Various members of the club have had many discussions for our vision of the future of CTA. A club house in which we can be proud, comfortable and share the knowledge of traditional archery has been the focus of many discussions. Seminars, workshops, winter tournaments and well as our monthly shoots have all been part of these discussions. The board of directors and officers have identified five capital improvement projects to work on next.....a wood stove for heat, new doors, new windows with operable shutters, a new ceiling and a storage building for our targets and other valuable items. I will be in touch again soon with more information and details about these projects. The wood stove project is already underway.

But for now, I wanted to share a rendering that I created of what our clubhouse could possibly look like in a couple of years. This is a concept, not necessarily what we are going to do. This is an image to further discussion and brainstorming. We need input from everyone with their ideas for Carolina Traditional Archers. This club and property belongs to each and every member and your input and ideas are valuable to our future success.

This rendering shows a covered front entry and a long covered shed on the side of the building, which could later be enclosed and include bathrooms and storage. The exterior of the building could be insulated and then covered with board and batten, stucco or other materials of our choice. The shutters would be operable so we could better secure the building when it's not in use.

The possibilities of how we can move forward from here are endless.....only limited to our imagination, time and resources. Give your club some thought and share your ideas with the board and officers. We have a "diamond in the rough" here. Working together, we can polish it and make it shine.

Drew Sumrell, President



## **Clubhouse Updates cont.....**

If you attend the shoots at the club, you may or may not have noticed the mess we had behind the building. Junk, stumps, tires, limbs.....just a trash heap.....and we had a "pond" that leaked through the wall every time we had a hard rain. Thanks to Jim Jordan, Dave Haggist and Logan Sumrell we provided ten hours of CTA horsepower this morning and got it cleaned up.....and hopefully draining properly. Many thanks guys. HUGE improvement. We even got it seeded with rye.

It was one of those projects that won't be very noticeable, but sure needed to be done. An "out of sight, out of mind" improvement to our club property. If you missed out on helping, don't despair. We have a LOT more work to do this winter.....indoors and on the range. We'll keep you posted.



## **Just Grin and Bear It**

**By Jeff Holchin**

I've been a CTA member for several years now but didn't have a chance to participate in the member hunts at Warrior Creek Campground at Kerr Reservoir near Wilkesboro. I guess until this year I didn't realize just how special this hunt is, with the opportunity to bowhunt deer that otherwise are not hunted. However this year my son Daniel was on his fall break from college at the time of this hunt, and we wanted to hunt together at that time. In the past we have hunted my farm and Daniel has killed several deer there, but this year the deer just aren't present. The only problem with Daniel participating in this hunt was that he had neglected his recurve for several years, but just like riding a bike, it all came back after a few shooting sessions and soon he was nailing the vitals of our practice deer target. When buying my hunting license, I also bought a bear license "just in case". I didn't expect to see any bears on this hunt, and just assumed that we wouldn't be allowed to shoot them anyway, since the intent of the hunt was to reduce the deer herd. That was a mistake, a really big mistake!

I arrived at the campground on Thursday afternoon and met up with Drew and several other hunters to set up my camp. Then we all headed out to find some deer. It took several hours but I found a nice finger ridge that went out towards the lake and contained red and white oaks that were dropping acorns. I saw several deer there, so I spent the remaining time setting up two ladder stands. One was at the end of the ridge where several trails came together and there were a few rubs and scrapes, and the other in a saddle/funnel where the finger ridge separated from the main ridge. The next morning, Daniel and I were back in there well before dawn and I let him choose a stand – he chose the one at the end of the ridge and ended up seeing several deer. Because he hadn't shot his recurve in several years, we imposed a 10-yard limit on his shots and of course, he had several deer walk by at 12-13 yards!

About ½ hour after daylight, a doe came in behind me and began crunching acorns, so I prepared for a shot. Not long afterwards, I heard something approaching from my front right and was very surprised to see two bears coming through the woods. They were twin 150-lb bears and they were headed right for the funnel I was watching. It took them about ten seconds to reach me and many thoughts flashed through my mind in that time. My first thought was "wow look at those bears", then "hey, I had better get ready, they are coming this way", then "oh boy, I don't know if we can or can't shoot a bear here". Although I have killed several bears with a rifle, I have long wanted to arrow a bear without the aid of dogs or bait, and here was the perfect opportunity. But I didn't want to be THAT guy who ruined this wonderful hunt opportunity for CTA, so I put down the bow and took several photos of the bears as they blissfully walked through my shooting lane at 18 yards. Then a funny thing happened – that doe behind me heard them and came up and stood directly under my stand (no shot) before falling in line behind the bears, I guess thinking they were deer. A little while later, after my heart calmed down, I contacted Drew and had him ask the park ranger if we could kill a bear. The answer was hard to bear: YES, if we were properly licensed! Oops. I can't wait until the 2016 hunt and a chance for redemption.



## Just Grin and Bear It cont.....



Daniel shooting his recurve.





## Member Profile: Harold Sipe

At 87 years young, Harold Sipe is CTA's oldest member. Harold began his archery journey more than 50 years ago with a purchase of a wooden bow from Sears. He then graduated to a 47lb. Ben Person which resulted in his first deer taken near Lake James. Shortly thereafter his first buck was taken with a 50lb Bear bow.

Like most of us, Harold dabbled with compounds, but after being introduced to some primitive archers and self-bows his archery path was decided. Harold attended a bow making class as an observer and soon was making his own bows, arrows, and hunting heads.

His first bow was made of Mulberry and he used it to hunt squirrels. As his bow building skills progressed so did his thirst to hunt larger game. Harold has built about 15 self-bows, most are backed with sinew and decorated with snake skins. Bow draw weights range from 40 to 50lbs. Harold has taken several deer with his self-bows over the years and has a vivid memory of each hunt. Although he didn't get a deer last year, the circumstances surrounding his miss are quite interesting. After settling in to his tree stand (yes, he still hunts from a tree stand) he took a practice shot. The shot fell short of its mark and he was preparing to take a second shot when a doe approached. You guessed it; the shot went right over her back. Well that's hunting.....

Harold is a great example of how archery and bowhunting can be a lifelong journey. May we all enjoy one as long as his.....

Dave Haggist



Please see the cover for a picture of Harold.

## Whack a Gator

Minutes before last light, the eerie quietness of the swamp was broken by familiar footsteps. The deer moved in a pattern that brought it painfully away from my hide, but then closer....

The shot looked high but good, and within seconds silence had returned to the swamp. I climbed from my tree stand, examined my arrow, and scanned where the deer had entered the head high palmettos. A large swatch of blood dripping from the palmetto leaves calmed my nerves and gave me confidence that this trailing job would be short.

Preparations for this hunt began a month earlier when my hunting partners and I came to Blackbeard Island for a scouting trip. Keith and I went to our familiar spots on the North Trail while other members of our group made the long trek up Middle Trail. Keith and I decided to check out a Persimmon grove near one of my stand sites. As we walked down a game trail we were surprised by a good size gator. The gator's location was really out of place since there was no water nearby. Thinking I could just whack the gator on the trail and it would move off, I retrieved a small tree limb. Surprise number two came when the gator did a 180 and lunged at me with jaws open. Plan two involved a bigger and longer stick and assistance from Keith. After several minutes of playing "whack a gator" the only ones retreating were me and Keith. Wisely we decided that we would find a different path to the Persimmon grove and left the gator in "his" spot.

The Persimmon grove was loaded with ripe fruit and I was able to hang a stand in a nearby tree. My usual slough looked good as well and I hung a second stand. This stand location would later prove fruitful.

Now back to the hunt; I marked the location of the blood sign and began the 40 minute walk back to camp to get some trailing and dragging help. After a quick drink and snack bar, my friend Joe and I headed back to my stand site. It's funny how it never takes as long to get to your stand from camp when you have a deer down.

I led the way on the blood trail, and to say Stevie Wonder could have followed the trail would have been an understatement. Less than 30 yards later I found my deer. After a joyful drag to the road for pickup by wildlife staff, it was off to camp.

After many years of hunting I still consider every animal taken with traditional archery equipment a trophy and a blessing. This deer turned out to be a button buck and I knew it would provide many outstanding meals.

On this hunt I used a 1973 Bear T/D, Easton shafts, and Ace Broadheads.

By Dave Haggist





Boneyard Beach



Blackbeard Sunset



## Photos from the Past.....



## Methods to stay connected....

Check out our club website when you get a chance!

[www.theCTA.org](http://www.theCTA.org)



Tweets by @CarolinaArchers

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*Carolina Traditional Archers*



CAROLINA  
TRADITIONAL ARCHERS  
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## Keeping the Tradition Alive

Traditional Archery: Longbows, Recurves and Selfbows. Located in Maiden, North Carolina

### Welcome to the Carolina Traditional Archers!

Founded in 1985, the Carolina Traditional Archers (CTA) is the oldest and largest traditional archery organization in the two Carolinas. Our organization is a 501 (c) 4 corporation that has both state and federal tax exemption. CTA is managed by seven club officers consisting of a president, vice president and five board of directors. Rounding out this management team are three appointed positions; secretary, treasurer, and editor. The organization is guided by a mission statement, by laws, and a standard operating procedure. Each month, CTA hosts a 3D shoot for traditional archery enthusiasts. Participants shoot a 20 target course that consists of foam targets that exactly duplicate game animals placed in realistic hunting settings. A meal is also served. These shoots are open to members and visitors, and first time visitors shoot and eat for free. Click on the Events tab for current shoot / activity information.