

# The Whispering Shaft

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
C A R O L I N A T R A D I T I O N A L A R C H E R S

*Keeping The Traditions Alive*



Carolina



Traditional Archers

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

## CAROLINA TRADITIONAL ARCHERS

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Carolina Traditional Archers is the promotion of traditional archery and bow hunting. Members will adhere to the highest ethical standards whether in the field or on the range and hold in reverence the traditions and history of archery.

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Letter from the Chairman:

Wow, where does time go! As we say goodbye to 2008, rest assure that CTA has a full schedule of exciting events scheduled for 2009. For all of us this has been a tough economic year which makes us cherish our recreational time even more. What better way to get away from the stresses of life than to spend a day on the archery range flinging arrows and sharing with good friends. CTA continues to offer a high end experience at a bargain basement price. I challenge anyone to find an activity that affords 6 hours of entertainment and a meal for \$10.00. Enclosed in this newsletter you will find the 2009 CTA Event Schedule. Please plan to attend as many events as possible. Not only will you have a great time but you will also be supporting our efforts to promote traditional archery and bow hunting in this region.

There are a few items that I would like to bring to everyone's attention:

We need your email address! The very best way to receive information about CTA and get reminders on upcoming events is to become a CTA Subscriber. Contact CTA Secretary Barry Clodfelter at bclodfelter@thecta.org for details.

I know our membership would expect nothing less than for CTA to have good bookkeeping practices. One area that needs improvement is our membership roll. Please make a point to renew your membership no later than January 31, 2009. By doing so you will ensure our records are correct, and that you will continue to receive the Newsletter. You also don't want to miss out on the Club Shoot discount that CTA members enjoy. Enclosed is a membership renewal form.

**Our first shoot of 2009 will honor our founder Herb Reynolds. The proceeds from the Herb Reynolds Memorial Shoot will go to support archery programs in area high schools.** I don't have to tell anyone that the future of archery and bow hunting lies with our youth.

The Step Up to the Plate Program continues to be a great success. So far in 2008, 56 members assisted with CTA events. That is nearly double the number from 2007. Several CTA members will be honored for their contributions to our club at the annual CTA Awards Banquet. Please plan to attend this event and celebrate another successful year.

Election of club officers will be held February 7, 2009. The positions open for nomination are President, Vice President and two Board of Directors positions currently held by Bill Stroupe and Dave Haggist. The success of CTA in the past several years can be directly linked to the influx of fresh faces and ideas and their active participation in CTA events. To nominate someone please contact Barry Clodfelter. As always I want to thank each of you for your support of CTA.

Best Regards,  
Dave Haggist

The Whispering Shaft, Carolina Traditional Archers (CTA) newsletter, is published on a quarterly schedule. All members are encouraged to submit articles and tasteful photographs about issues of interest to traditional archers and bow hunters. Please submit articles in MS Word format or even just simple email text to jhenz@thecta.org. If you can, also include an archery-related photo of yourself with your article so that people can put a face with a name. CTA Officers and Directors reserve the right to refuse or edit any material submitted for publication that they deem detrimental to traditional archery/bow hunting or to the Carolina Traditional Archers.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**December 13—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden**

## 2009

**January 10—Herb Reynolds Memorial Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden**

**January 24—Awards Banquet, 6pm-9pm, Ryan's Steakhouse, Lincolnton**

**February 7—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden**

**March 14—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden**

**March 21—CTA Workday, 8am-noon, Maiden**

**April 4—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden**

**April 11-14—Club Hunt, Kerr Scott Reservoir**

**May 16—NCTAC Workday, 8am-noon, Catawba Valley Wildlife Club**

**May 21—NCTAC Workday, 8am-noon, Catawba Valley Wildlife Club**

**May 22-24 North Carolina Traditional Archery Championships  
(NCTAC 2009) - Catawba Valley Wildlife Club**

**June 13—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden**

**July 11—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden**

**August 8—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden**

**September 5—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden**

**October 14-17—Club Hunt, Kerr Scott Reservoir**

**October 17—Youth Day, Kerr Scott Reservoir**

**November 14—Club Shoot & Coon Shoot, 2pm-10pm, Maiden**

**November 21—CTA Workday, 8am-noon**

**December 12—Club Shoot, 9am-3pm, Maiden**

Carolina



Traditional Archers



## Ft. Hamby Pow Wow

On September 20, CTA members Tommy Blackburn, Dave Haggist, and Jim and Maggie Vogt participated in a Native American Pow Wow held at Kerr Scott Reservoir. This event consisted of Native American music, dance, and story telling along with art and crafts. CTA members demonstrated flint knapping and held an archery clinic.

About a dozen youngsters had a fabulous time shooting bows and arrows and there parents had a hard time getting them to stop long enough to have lunch. A comment by one parent summed up the experience; "looks like I'm going to be buying some bows and arrows when I get home."





## October Club Hunt

October 15-18, was this year's Club Hunt at Kerr Scott's Marley's Ford Gameland. Attending this year's event was Dave Haggist, Bill and Jason Stroupe, Mike Neely, Jim Jordan, and Joe Henz. Camping facilities at Kerr Scott are very clean and nice, with hot, running water in the bathrooms and clean water and electrical hookups at the campsites. Unlike last year, everyone saw deer this time, although no one brought home any venison. The CTA food plot was looking very good, and most people hunted in the area around it.

Dave Haggist left early and missed the fun Thursday evening, when everyone who hunted saw deer! Jason Stroupe drew on a buck that came under his stand, but couldn't connect. Spirits were high Thursday night! Unfortunately a cold, steady rain squelched the party on Friday. What started as a heavy drizzle around 4am Friday morning grew to moderate showers as the day progressed.

This caused folks who had planned to come for Saturday to cancel, and dampened the spirits of those who were left. The Stroupe's washed out around 1:30 Friday afternoon. Joe Henz threw in the [sopping wet] towel at 6:30 in the evening, when the wind shifted to the North and the temperature dropped another ten degrees. Only Mike Neely and Jim Jordan were tough enough to stay over Friday night and hunt Saturday. Except for one other compound bow hunter on Saturday, the CTA group had the place to ourselves the entire time, and deer were seen every day. This place should only get better during gun season, as the deer move to the relative safety of this archery-only hunting area. If you're looking for a safe place to bow hunt during gun season, take advantage of our CTA food plot!



CTA food plot at the Marley's Ford Gameland. This food plot was done in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation, which supplied the soil testing, fertilizer, and "Fall Blend" seeds. CTA member Charles Suttles plowed the field, and Mike Neely, Bill Stroupe, Jim Jordan, Kyle Garrou, and Tommy Blackburn helped with seeding and fertilizing.

## North Carolina Artisans Series

# Treadway Longbows

*This is the first of a series of articles focusing on local people making traditional archery-related items. North Carolina is blessed with some truly remarkable talent!*

"Now don't go writing this up as something bigger than what it is." Those the last words I heard as I said goodbye to a modest, unassuming man who makes a superb longbow. Those who know Mike Treadway know that he's a bowyer who lets his work speak for the him. I first met Mike at the North Carolina Traditional State Championship Shoot in Hickory, North Carolina. Treadway sets up a vendor tent there every year. And of course I couldn't help but notice that many traditional archers in our state carry Treadway bows.

These remarkable bows are made in an nondescript, sheet-metal building in the mountains of rural North Carolina, about a half-hour's drive north of Asheville. Treadway's shop is easy to miss. It sits back off the road, across the street from the log cabin where Mike and his wife Diane live on the same piece of land that the Treadway's have lived for generations. The inside of Mike's shop is neat, clean, and well-organized.

I asked Mike how he designs his bows. I'm not sure what I expected in terms of Research & Development, but I never would have guessed what I saw. Pulling out an aluminum yardstick—such as you would buy at any hardware store—Mike laid it edge-wise on the counter and flexed it. "I just lay this on a piece of paper until I got a curve that looks good, then I have my wife trace it out while I hold it. Then I make my form off that pattern."

"How many iterations did you have to go through until you got a form you liked?" I asked.

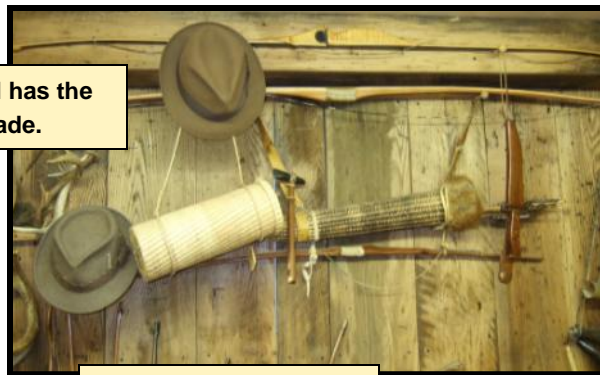
"That's it", Mike replied, pointing to a bow form sitting on a log stump. "That was the first try."

In an age where all the large bow manufacturers are using computer-aided finite-element analysis and CNC machining, I found the idea that one man could make a bow using pure art and an experienced eye that equals or exceeds the performance of anything designed by computers and machined by robots both amazing and strangely comforting.



Mike has an artist's eye for distinctive and striking wood combinations. His bows really stand out from the crowd! The beautiful limbs on this bow are sycamore. I know of no other bowyer that uses this wood, but it commonly graces Treadway bows, as does sassafras. The dragonfly logo is the trademark of Treadway bows.

Top, right: Mike still has the first bow he ever made.



Some of the bows Mike has made or collected over the years.



Treadway's shop.

Mike demonstrates how he develops the curve for a new bow with a flexible yardstick.

Inset: the bow form for his new Black Swamp hybrid longbow.



Mike let me shoot his newest model, a highly reflexed/deflexed longbow with a forward handle that he calls "Black Swamp". Quiet and quick, it flung my very first arrow right where I was looking. My second arrow practically touched the first. Of course any Treadway-built bow I've shot was that way, and I've shot more than several over the years. In terms of "pointability" Mike's bows are second to none.

In a me-too, copy-cat world, Treadway prides himself in making a distinctive product. "I don't like to copy anything anybody else is doing. I like my bows to look like nothing else out there," he told me. Mike may not copy others, but others are happy to copy Mike! Treadway has invented and patented several novel takedown bow mechanisms, which other big-name bowyers buy to use in their bows.

Mike made his first bow 23 years ago, and has been making bows commercially for 15 years - the first 5 years part-time, and the last 10 years full-time after retiring from 25 years in the trucking business. There is a two-week, no-questions-asked return policy on Treadway bows. There doesn't have to be even the slightest flaw in the bow. The customer can simply change his mind. Mike will take it back. In the past 15 years—out of about 1,000 bows made—he has had only three returns, and in none of those cases was there any defect in the bow. I'll let you do the math; suffice it to say that that level of customer satisfaction would be the envy of pretty much any business anywhere.

I was fortunate to attend the Compton Traditional Archery Shoot this year (the largest in the nation), where I got to sample many of the well-known, top-brand bows. I can say without reservation that Treadway bows are superior to most and inferior to none. Incredibly, Mike prices his bows hundreds of dollars below what most of the other top-of-the-line bows go for. "I make a working man's bow. I like to make a bow that the working man can afford", Mike explains.

Mike is old-school. He doesn't have a website. He doesn't have an email address. But he does have a vendor booth every year at the North Carolina State Shoot. I have also seen him have a booth at ATAR in West Virginia, and he occasionally goes to the state shoot in Florida. He also has a telephone: you can reach him in his shop at (828) 683-8728.

If you want a Treadway bow, you better be patient though; Mike's bows are always in high demand, and there's usually a year-plus wait after a custom order. But as 99.7% of his customers will tell you, the wait is worth it!

*Written by Joe Henz, based on a visit with Mike Treadway on Oct. 3, 2008.*

Treadway, Bowyer  
1000 Town Road  
28753  
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Treadway has invented - and patented - several novel forms of takedown bows.





# NOV Club Shoot







# EMBER Coon Shoot







Pictured above are some of the **sixty** points that CTA member Jim Jordan knapped himself and generously donated to CTA for use on the trophy plaques at this years State Shoot—NCTAC 2009.

The points are made of obsidian, flint, chert, novaculite, and rhyolite. One point will be permanently affixed to each plaque, making this year's trophies even more coveted than usual. This year's North Carolina Traditional Archery Championships will be an extra special event!

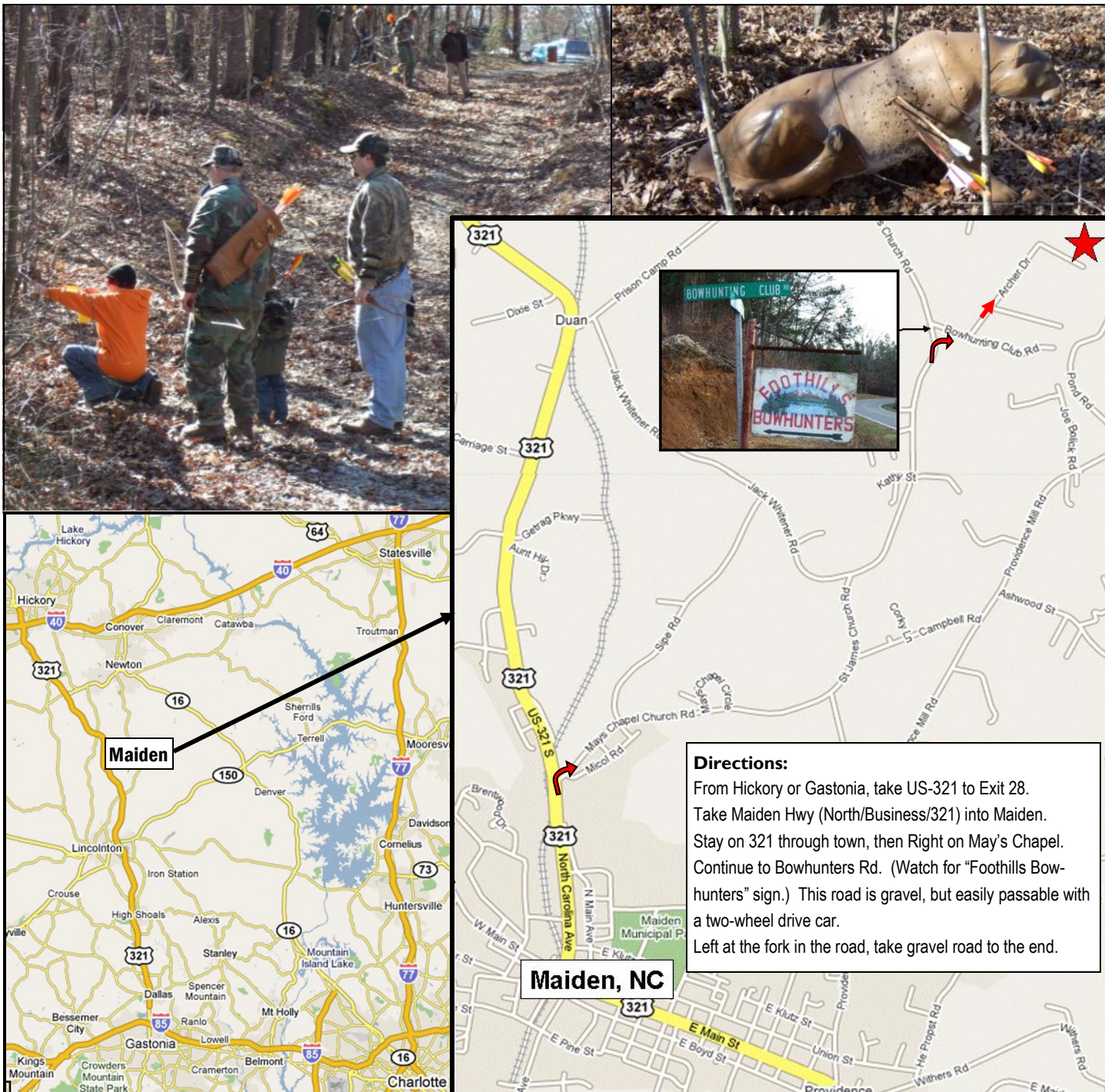






## About our Club Shoots

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 at the Foothills BowHunters/CTA range in Maiden NC. Shoots have about 20 3-D animal targets. Shoots cost \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Meal is included with the price of admission. All the foam targets are in the woods, amongst the trees, which makes for a realistic and very pleasant setting.





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