

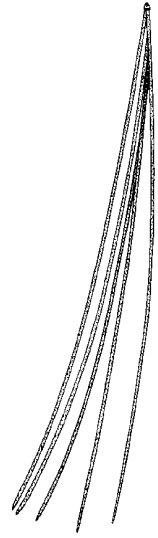
WOOD

The Wood Guild should involve all aspects of knife safety (blood bubble), woodworking, curing and bushcraft. These skills are meditative and creatively empowering, they are also irreplaceable for the survivalist. There are many tools and techniques within this guild. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Tree Nations for the gift of their bodies, the Survivalist pays this debt through mindful craftsmanship.

The following 5th Needle challenges should be accompanied by continual supervision and regular R3 (Remind, Reinforce, Redirect).

Students should be mentored through all the stages of reduction from saw and hatchet, to knife and rasp and finally to sanding, and finishing.

Students should be mentored in all the properties of wood, from Specific Gravity to Moisture Content and curing, growth rings, grain and qualities, as well as an lore or spirit of the tree from personal medicine bundles or traditional myth.

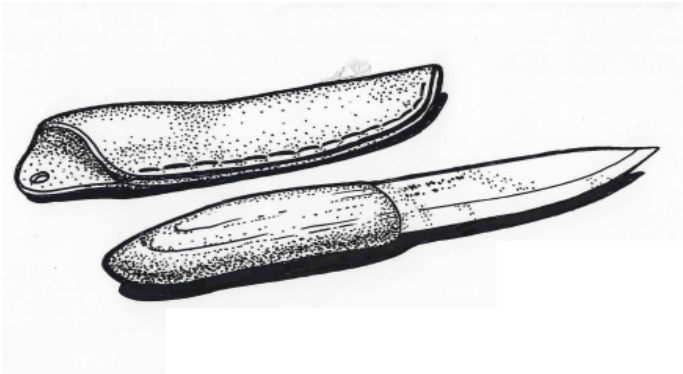


good medicine harvesting

Every project requires the right tools and the right materials to begin. Aside from some of the Quests, everything you need to complete all of the activities in this Handbook are either at White Pine or just a short walk away. You will however have to locate, identify, harvest and care for those materials to bring your project to completion. Every project has an optimal resource and optimal dimensions to succeed. We will do our best to describe these in each project, but you may need to consult your instructor for further guidance. You also may need to be patient until the right resource reveals itself to you. Remember, it is a Native Tradition to fast before going out to harvest a sapling for a bow. The Bowyer should scout and read the landscape, pay attention to his dreams, fast and pray. Bowyers are looking not just for a straight hardwood sapling, but for a sapling that has character, one that has to reach for the sun and compete with her neighbors, a sapling whose removal will help instead of harm the forest, a sapling who “wants to walk with you for the rest of your life.” So take your time, you may be eager to carve, but sometimes a little scouting and praying will go much further than just grabbing any old stick to begin. That way you will be working with nature and your project will carry Good Medicine.

White Pine Youtube Wood Guild

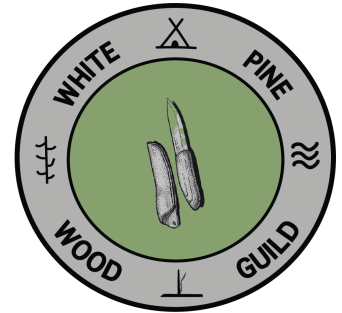
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6cF8eGs4ZB4-RhZOkQ7rk8iuqpgj85eT>



spoon

Spoons are really fun to make. You will want to choose a moisture resistant wood like cedar, locust or walnut.

Blank out your wood using a knife and a bopper, you will want a blank that is about the length of your hand and the width and thickness of two or three fingers. Next you'll want to hollow the bowl. I love to use my bow drill for this, it makes a perfectly rounded heat treated bowl. Next you'll want to study the symmetry and design of an existing spoon, they are actually quite lovely tools by design. Now you can carve and rasp your spoon into shape.



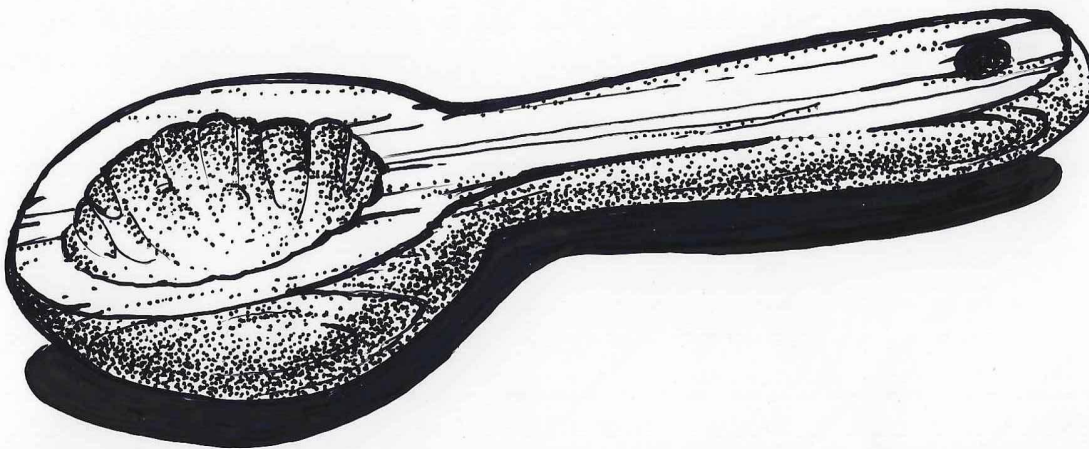
spindle

It is good to start with a nice soft wood like cedar. Choose roughly a 1.5" x 1.5" square blank that is roughly 8" long to start. Draw a line across the center of the piece. Review our knife use guidelines on the previous page, take a deep breath and begin.

A spindle looks like a large pencil. You will want it to be cylindrical, sharpened on one end and like a pencil eraser on the other. Stay focused, remember, you are working with a lethal weapon.

Tier 1

Present your Wood EDC (See Survivors Packing and Caching Guild)



bowdrill kit

Now you are ready to carve a Bowdrill Kit. Take your time to harvest and craft all of the parts with care. The more artistry you put into your craft the more 'medicine' your Kit will have. And you will want all the medicine you can get when it comes time to twirl one up.

If you've already made a spindle it never hurts to make two, or you can move on to the baseboard. For the spindle, It is good to start with a nice soft wood like cedar. Choose roughly a 1.5" x 1.5" square blank that is roughly 8" long to start. Draw a line across the center of the piece.

Review our knife use guidelines on the previous page, take a deep breath and begin.

A spindle looks like a large pencil. You will want it to be cylindrical, sharpened on one end and like a pencil eraser on the other. Stay focused, remember, you are working with a lethal weapon.

The baseboard wants to be about 2 fingers wide, thumb thick and a foot long.

Your bow and top rock can be from the same hard wood like osage or honeysuckle, it should be roughly the length of your arm from wrist to armpit and should be constructed like a stiff bow, so that it flexes slightly

Good fire by friction woods for spindle and baseboard are

Cottonwood

Root of any kind

Tulip Poplar

Basswood

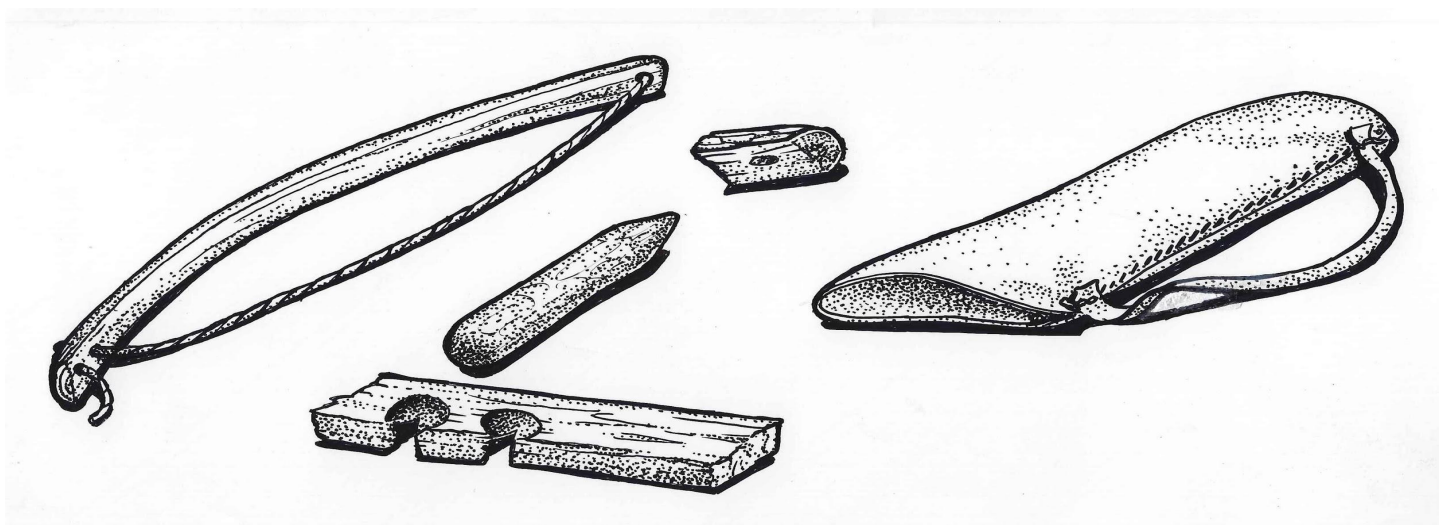
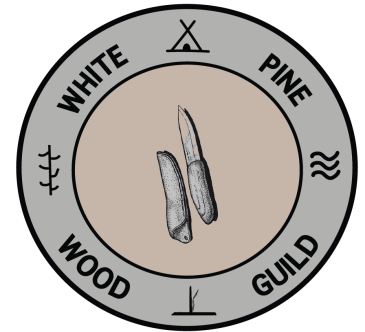
Cedar

Sassafras

The final step in this challenge is to tune your kit. This refining involves scraping, tightening, loosening, adjusting notches etc. You will need your kit to advance to wolf in the Fire Guild. Once you get a coal you can move forward to Warrior in the Wood or Fire Guilds.

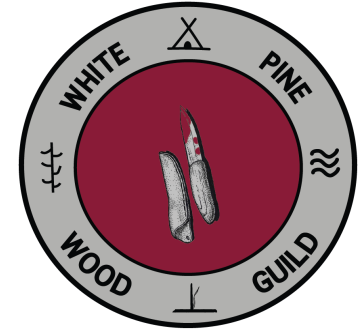
Tier 2

Present and demonstrate your Wood GoBag. (See Practitioners Packing and Caching Guild)



knife and sheath

The Knife is The tool to make all other tools. It is the primary tool of the Survivalist and the Scout. It is not the most difficult Quest but it is probably the most useful. Your knife will serve you throughout all of the projects in this handbook. There are few things more gratifying than using a tool you have made yourself. Just like the ancients your life will become a series of crafts that enable the execution of more and more complex crafts.



You can begin by Harvesting the Wood and Leather for your project.

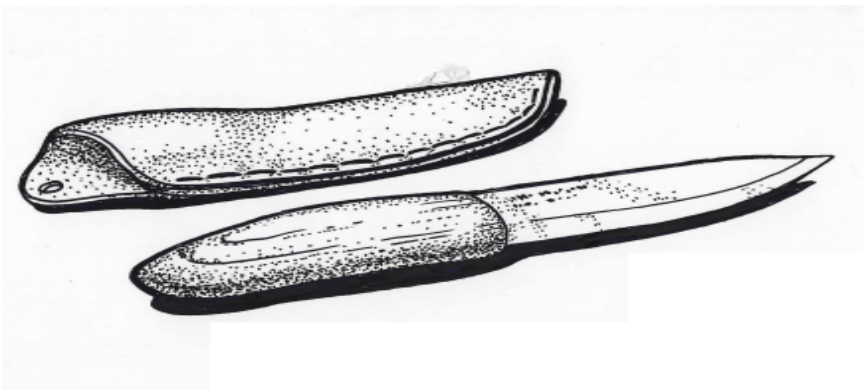
Select a nice hardwood like Honeysuckle, Osage, Maple, Oak, Mulberry or Hickory. Use a knife and bopper to reduce your blank to roughly the length of your hand and two to three fingers wide square. Next you can carve your handle into its approximate shape. Allow the design to be an expression of both the character of the wood and the ergonomics of your hand. Switch over to a rasp as your handle begins to take shape. Drill your hole somewhere in Stage 2 of Reduction, do not wait for Stage 3 as sometimes you can mis-drill and have to start over. Drill carefully until the full tang of your blade can fit into your handle. Next you will Epoxy the blade into place. Allow it to cure overnight and then you can move forward with the rounded Stage 2 Rasps and then onto Stage 3. When you have sanded all of the abrasions out you can choose the Finish you like, my favorite for heavy use knives is 3 coats of Birchwood Casey's Gunstock Oil.

Last you can customize a Sheath. Choose a chem or vegetable tanned leather from a large animal like a deer, cow or buffalo. Use the form on the back of this page to trace and cut out the main sheath and welt, then soak in water for a couple hours. Prepare a triple string bundle from artificial sinew roughly 20" long, wax the tips with beeswax, then grab an awl, a bopper and a stump. Pound the awl through at the tip making sure you catch both sides of the folded Sheath and the Welt. Pound the awl all the way through to spread the fibers, pinch all the pieces together as you pull out the awl, then poke your waxed thread through and pull it to the middle. You will proceed with a double runner stitch every 1/4" or so up one side of the sheath. When you reach the end you can back stitch one stitch, cut it and seal the stitch with melted beeswax.

Now squeeze in the knife while the sheath is still wet, pinch and shape the sheath around the knife handle. Allow 24 hrs to dry, then you can stain and finish the Sheath with tallow, shoe polish or leather finish. Congratulations, you have completed a very important Quest.

Tier 3

Present and demonstrate your expanded Wood GoBag. (See Practitioners Packing and Caching Guild)



SHEATH

+

WELT



selfbow 140 fps

The selfbow is a truly functional craft responsible for feeding and defending Nations for thousands of years. Trees evolved to grow year after year and compete for light by reaching higher and higher into the canopy. Their massive bodies can weigh up to 10 tons. Watch a storm roll through blowing this weight from side to side and you can see what the original boyers must have seen when they began to harness the power of wood.



A bow sapling or stave must be harvested and sealed with care, the back growth ring must be uncompromised, it must be reduced over days and weeks with careful hatchet and rasp reduction. Then the tillering begins by reducing where it is stiff and leaving where it is weak. The bow can be drawn closer and closer to full draw length, usually around 26”.

Let's pause here for a second to reflect. You have probably realized that this page here isn't going to be adequate instruction in making a selfbow. We have multiple books in our library including the 4 Volume Traditional Bowyers Bible, that give chapter by chapter instruction on this process. There are also great video tutorials. If you have succeeded in making a bow that can shoot an arrow then congratulate yourself, you are now a Bowyer.

However, if you would like to enter an elite group of Shadow peers in the Wood guild then you still have some work to do. For me it was another 10 bows or so.

140 fps. The real measure of a bow's performance is not the draw weight but the cast, measured in arrow speed (fps). 140 fps is the minimum goal to ethically harvest an animal. To get a bow to perform to this level will take lots of fine tuning, possible heat treating, tip refinement, tiller adjustments, string refinement, etc. et. Welcome to the journey.

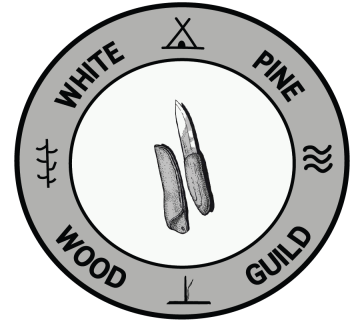
Tier 4

Present and demonstrate your Wood Tier 4. (See Practitioners Packing and Caching Guild)



selfbow 160 fps

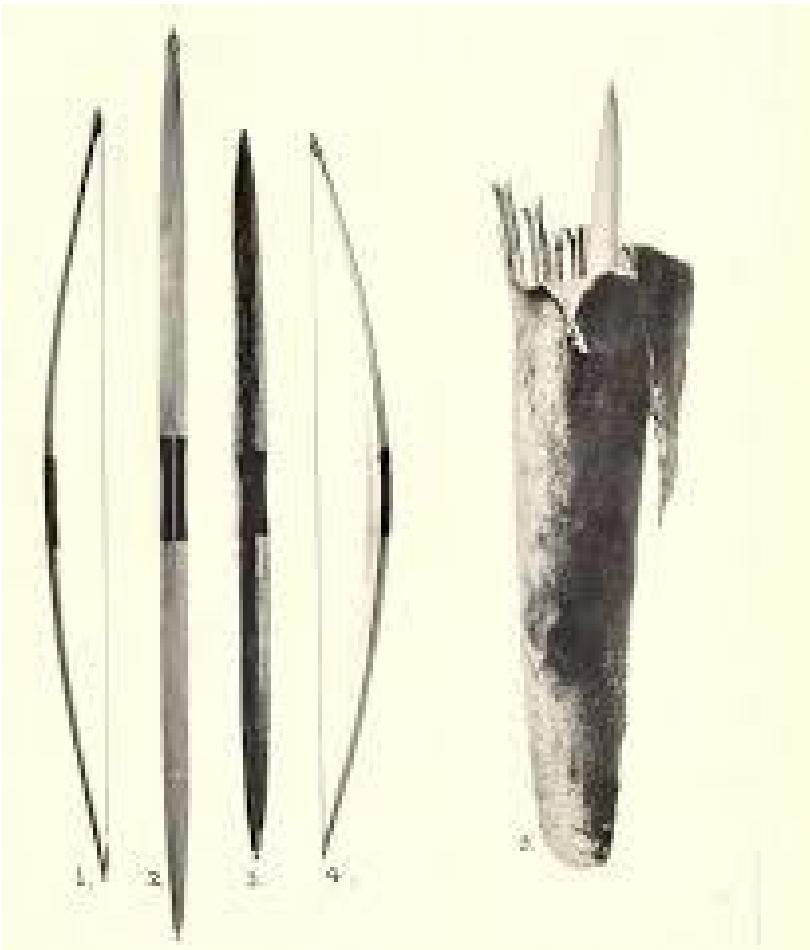
Another 50 bows got my bowyer skills into the 160 fps range. This should be the goal of the Sacred Hunt Practitioner Questing to ethically harvest deer on a regular basis. The chronograph is our friend.



Remember fps readings are based on a 10 grain per lb of draw weight reading. So a 50 lb draw weight bow must shoot a 500 grain arrow through the chronograph. Then you take an average of 6 shots, known as a “string”, to get an accurate assessment of the bow's overall performance.

Tier 5

Share with your community about your Quests and Medicine Areas.



Thank you for joining us in the Wood Guild, hope to see you there.

