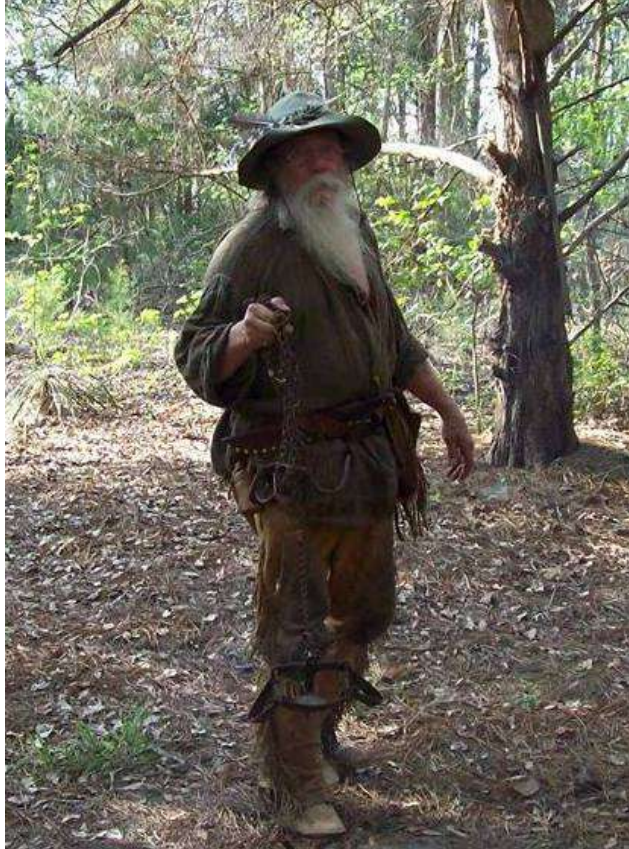




**RED RIVER BRIGADE**

*The Trace*

*May 2014*



## ***From The Booshway:***

Howdy Brothers,

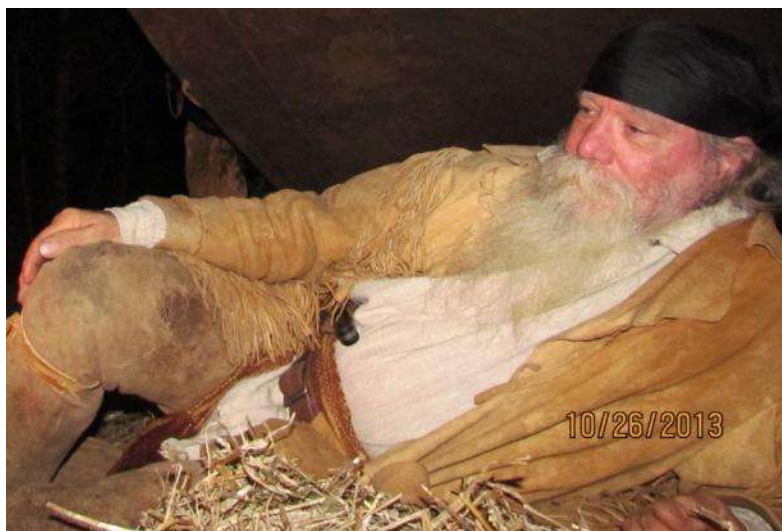
I'm glad the green up has finally come to our parts. I hope many of you have had a chance to get out and go to some camps. I just returned from the Bear Lodge party Spring encampment. We had a great time.

More about that camp later in this issue of *The Trace*. We have several men about to finish up their requirements for Bossloper. Please remember when listing your requirements give plenty of detail as to exactly what you did to fill a specific requirement, so that it will go through the first time.

I have been asked to sit on the Land Use Committee for the AMM land in Kentucky. I am to help represent the Western Territory and the horsemen of the organization. I would like for any of you that have horses and mules to give some input as to anything we may want to consider on our land in Kentucky. We are getting a good number of riders in our brigade, so hopefully we will have some ideas.

I have also been asked how many men might be thinking of riding to the AMM Western at Bents Fort in October. I have sent out a separate message on this but only got a few replies, so if you think you might, please contact Bill Bailey of Colorado.

Yr. Svt.  
Kraig







## Ramblings from the Editor:

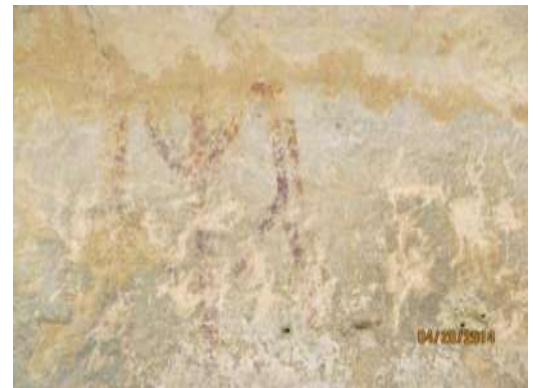
Brothers,

Last weekend (25-27 April) Cuz and I went out to Pandale, Texas for a camp of fishing, hunting and scouting. First, I must thank Cuz for the trip and arranging for us to camp on his friends land. It was a beautiful site! A hearty THANK YOU Brother Cuz!

If you have not been in the Pandale area in Val Verde County it is uniquely different from most of Texas and the mountains that we love so much in Montana. The land is, of course arid and very rugged. Living off the land takes a lot of work in that area. We were lucky enough to be able to camp on the Pecos River.



During the weekend we hunted some goats, did some fishing and visited a beautiful Indian living/working area complete with petroglyphs, a stone used for centuries to sharpen spear and arrow points as well as to tan hides.



Part of the rock was worn smooth like marble from working hides. Not to mention the rock used to grind mesquite beans or other items into flour.



While there we picked some agarita berries and made agarita cobbler.

We simmered the berries until they were soft.



Then we slightly mashed them and then added sugar, cinnamon and a keepsake biscuit for a right proper desert!

It was a great weekend and we sure wished more folks could have made the trip with us to a new and unique area. We are working on several events this year in addition to others that we hope folks can make. They are listed at the end of the Trace.



## **June 13-15 Deer and Trapping Scout in Comanche, Texas**

This event in June is in Comanche, Texas on the property of Prospect Rob Evans. This event will be a late spring deer/coyote scout preparing us to hunt deer and trap in the fall at the same location.

I realize this event is close to when folks may be heading out to the National, but for those, like me, that cannot make the National event; this will be a great local event to attend.

The land owner, Rob Evans, is interested in becoming an AMM Brother and I would like to have folks come to meet him and bring any old, used or otherwise for sale or trade clothing and accoutrements for him to cogitate about buying, borrowing or trading for .

We will camp on his 320+ acres, do some fishing; scout for deer hunting and coyote trapping in the fall.

We will be able to shoot hawgs, squirrels and rabbits as required for food. I will be there Friday morning set up and ready to go.

**Details:** Plenty of firewood on site and the fishing ponds are potable water

**Date:** June 13-15

**Location:** Evan's Ranch Comanche, Texas

For use on Bing or Google maps: **31.958014, -98.625876**

5 hours from Linden, TX

2.5 hours from Dallas

3 hours from Marietta, OK

4 hours from Duncan, OK

4.5 hours from San Antonio, TX

4.5 hours from Victoria, TX

4 hours from Shiner, TX

**PLEASE E-MAIL ME IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING. I NEED TO LET ROB KNOW HOW MANY TO EXPECT.**

**I'll send directions to those that will attend.**

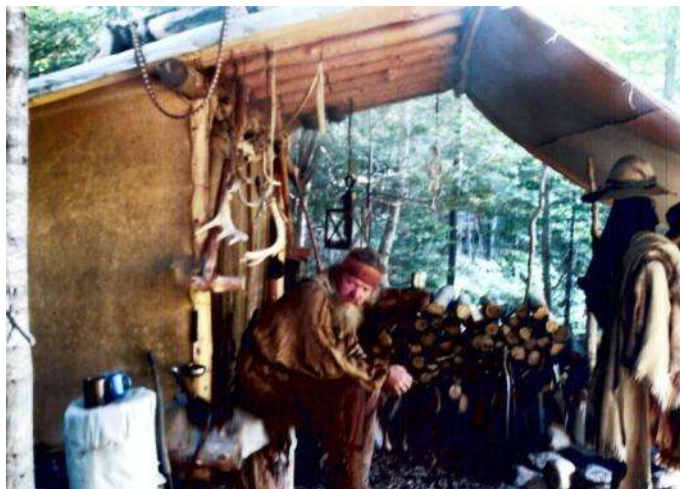
**Booshway: "Lucky" Gerry Messmer**

**[AMM2046@reagan.com](mailto:AMM2046@reagan.com) (910)964-2580**



# Aux Aliments du Pays

By Wild Bill Baker #1905H



August 8, 2012: Arrived at Big Brook Wilderness area on Indian Lake. Will spend one more day in base camp and head for Eaton Lake, known as "Clear Pond" in the 1800's. I will travel in an Ottawa 16 foot Fur Trade Canoe with all period gear of the time.

August 9, 2012: Cleaned the smooth bore trade gun at camp and when I reach my camp. Don't know where it is gonna be yet! Never been here! I will put 40 grains FFFg and 2 3/4 inch over powder wads, for this is nuisance bear country. One shot in his ass should make him leave. I hope only one

shows up or better yet, none at all! Going to be a nice day in the mountains, around 70 degrees. Going to look for spruce gum to melt down and apply to raw-hide repair I made on trade gun. Saw 4 ospreys in their nest on Abenaki Lake. For the trip: two paddles, 2 gourds of water, hand line for fish, oil skin frock, 2 pairs of mocs, belt ax, canoe ax, fire makings, canoe gun, canoe pack, haversack, 2 belt knives, compass, corn boiler, lean to and bed roll. I threw in one heavy wool shirt too since this is the ever changing Abenaki Mountains. Got canoe packed and in the lake by 9:30 am.

August 10, 2012: The water was calm as I scouted for a good camp. Since I never paddled this lake, I picked the thick spruce woods, lots of tinder, for the rain was at my back. When I got to where I was going to camp I had to sacrifice a wet ass. Barely got gear and canvas up hill and here comes the rain! Now I'm wet twice. In a little while I will load flintlock for the night. This is a glacial lake. My camp is as usual here, wet 365 days a year! I am surrounded by giant hemlock, spruce, yellow birch, beech and some oak. Lots of bogs, blowdowns and fiddle ferns. Looks like it will rain all night. Cold camp. If it is safe to paddle on the lake tomorrow I will fish and look for edibles. Looks pretty desolate to me! Lots of dead spruce to snap off tomorrow for a small fire. Hope to cook at least one fish a day. My mosquito prevention for bites is a recipe by George Washington Sears or better known as the Woodsman 'Nessmuck'. It consists of 3 ounces castor oil, 2 ounces pine tar and one ounce of pennyroyal. Loons are singing on the lake. Got fire going to dry mocs. I decided to go barefoot, ouch! I am well hidden and bark fits right in with terrain.





August 11, 2012: Collected tinder and spruce wood for today. Hot but nice wind on the lake. Caught two small perch and let them go, what a mistake! Went back on the lake but no luck. Seen a small splash in water by a rotting tree. A “woodland jumping mouse” fell in and could not swim. I found him under the water and scooped him up with my paddle and laid him on a wooden log. He made it! Waugh! Went back on lake after rain and thunder storm and fished and fished and finally caught a 10 inch bass, yahoo! This

pards friggin hungry! Get back to camp to start fire, nothing seemed to work! Finally at 4<sup>th</sup> wack this pard gonna eat a fish with a 1000 percent markup after all the shit I went through. 1 ½ more days of starving. Nice night, warm, beautiful sunset and the moskitoes are a commin. Good night.

August 12, 2012: 50 degree night. This morning was absolutely pristine. The scent of the forest opens your senses in a very relaxing way. Cleaned up camp and hung up AMM Flag. Fishing sucks, lost about 4 pounds since Friday with just 1 fish to eat plus two handfuls of blackberries. No edibles that I could find. Found some mushrooms but not sure. If it were in the spring I could have picked a bunch of fiddle ferns, but now in full maturity and not edible. Wildlife I seen so far is loons, osprey, jumping mouse, cedar wax wings, king fisher, chickadees, mallard ducks, mergansers and reluctant red squirrel. Got wood for tonight’s fire.



August 13, 2012: Get up early and take down camp and pack canoe for paddle back. Got another wet ass getting canoe in lake. Now it is raining again and I’m hungry! Got back to starting point around 12:00. It was great and I’m going back next year but will bring fishing gear that will go down deep.





## ***Bear Lodge Spring Camp***



On 11 of April, through 13th 2014 we had called for our annual Spring camp. I was met at my cabin by two invited guests around mid day. Cody Livingstone and Ron Butler, aka Buckskin Billy. Billy and I had planned to ride over to the camp on horseback. Cody was to meet us at the site. It was a warm Spring day and we had a great ride. We jumped several deer along the way.

Upon our arrival, we found there were already three other men there. Bill Rasco, Randy Muirhead, and Cody. After we put our horses out to graze, we threw out our bed rolls and proceeded to catch up on what everyone had been doing.



We cooked our supper and watched a beautiful sunset through the trees. It was a clear night so several of us elected to just lay out under the stars. Sometime in the night, I was awoken by the sound of my horse whinnying loudly. I was up quickly and went to investigate what was going on. I found my mare, but my gelding was not at the end of his rope like I had left him.



Luckily it was a near full moon and I could see pretty good and found him grazing not far away. Morning we are up and have a fire and coffee is set to boil. After breakfast we go on a short scout and see much game sign. After a while, Jason "Coonass" Mays arrives.





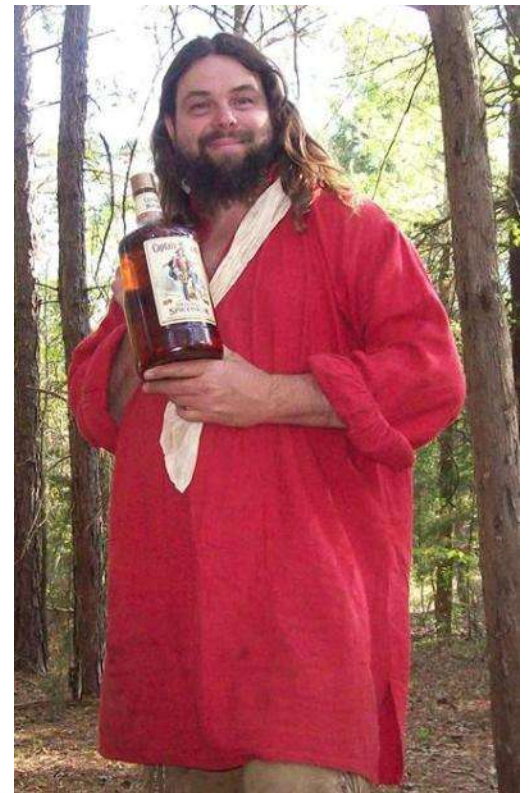
Cody wants to show us some trapping methods that he has employed with good success and we go out and make several sets and he explains different ways to catch beaver and other fur bearing animals.



When we come back from this, Jason announces that he wants to have a shooting match. So a few of us take our weapons and go to where he has a target hung from some trees.



After a few shots we have determined that Billy has been declared the winner and Jason presents him with his prize, a fine jug of rum which he cheerfully shared later that night.



We prepare our dinner tonight of some hog meat, 'taters, onions, peppers and bacon with some bread that Coonass has traded for along the way. The clouds are beginning to roll in and it is a little windy. We stay up late swapping lies and drinking from several jugs. We drink a toast to the men that could not be there and enjoy our time in these woods. As the first light creeps through the trees I am up and rekindle the fire for coffee.



We must be leaving today so everyone begins the task of gathering gear. It has been a really good camp and even better when shared by brothers. After we put our fire out, we are ready to go.

YHOS & Brother,  
Kraig







[www.scandinavianmountainmen.se](http://www.scandinavianmountainmen.se)



## The lean-to: A favorite shelter

Published: 2010-01-22

By Michael Nilsson

"Took a blanket and lay out at nights, sometimes in a hollow tree. There used to be a good many large sycamores. Get inside one of them, and sometimes tolerably warm. In rainy weather elsewhere our blanket was stretched up on sticks and we lay under it.."

- Samuel Mcdowell-Draper Manuscripts

Lean-to: A free standing structure of three walls and a sloping roof. The open side is sheltered away from the prevailing winds and rains. Often it is a rough structure made of logs or unfinished wood and used as a camping shelter.

- Wikipedia.

### Home away from home

In some cases a simple fire can be the first priority, but depending on weather, a shelter from the elements can be just hours away from a disaster.

Learning how to set up an easy shelter during outings is rewarding. When perfected it makes the transition from domestic life into wilderness easier and in time it quickly transforms the casual "lunch spot" into "a home away from home".

### Simple and basic structure

The tarp shelters are simple and probably the most basic structures you can build. They are very fast to setup and are generally used for short weekend outings or camps. There are as many ways to construct a shelter as there are human imagination and ingenuity.

In addition to your trusted friend, the tarp, you would only need rope and a structure consisting of a few poles to support the tarp.

Depending on size of tarp, it can be a simple structure consisting of two walls and a sloping roof or just the sloping roof. Opening in front is always higher than the closed back, so in case of rain, it will not drip on the fire. The opening should also be sheltered away from wind should rough conditions exist.

A shelter can of course be made without the use of a tarp. All depending on the time of year, mode of travel and your portrayal. I carry a tarp generally in most seasons, favoured in late fall and winter where it really performs well.

During spring, summer and fall, you will have plenty of ventilation and in some cases, shade. A small breeze keeps mosquitoes from bothering you as much as in an enclosed shelter.

### **Poor weather protection**

With the front of this shelter open, weather protection is extremely poor considering harsh weather conditions and chillfactor, especially during winter.

In this case you should try to make a reflector to reflect heat from fire. A simple wooden structure or an extra tarp will suffice. With the fire fronting the opening, you can sleep under the shelter and still keep your feet warm.

### **Wedge tent lean-to**

If portrayal and mode of travelling includes horses, you may pack a wedge-tent. This solution performs bad during winter season since you cannot make use of the fire in the same way as you can utilizing the lean-to.

However, recent experiments by the S.M.M. show that the wedge can easily become a lean-to by just laying it on its side, having the floor acting as opening.

We have also got to adapt to the 21st century. Much planning is needed prior to an outing. You can not use whatever you want to build a shelter. Nor can you raise a shelter or make a fire wherever you lay your hat.

Imagine this: A night of sleep in the wilderness, sheltered from the elements in a primitive fashion. Perhaps close to a babbling brook, listening to the wind, crackling of fire and the distant sound of nocturnality... as you slowly drift away.

### **Quick tip**

You would also not want to pierce your tarp whilst making a shelter. There are means of securing ropes without having to make a hole. Keep in mind that if not properly done, the hole will continue to tear. Instead of making a hole, take a lead-ball from your shot pouch, push it from under the tarp, and wrap a loop around it from above.



# Building a saddle with Blackpowder Jim Branson

## By Keith Hickam



This journey started in September in a hospital bed in South Dakota recovering from a horse wreck on a solo trek. I determined I was gonna build or get a saddle as period correct as I could.

Well, upon arriving home I set about to get the materials - first was a Wade style tree by Hercules that I paid \$100 for from a saddle shop. Then we got the rings, buckles stirrups and other hardware - since most of this was nickle plated brass or iron - I threw it into my cast iron pot and heated the parts to a dull cherry red and quenched them in a light oil. They

took on a dull grey appearance that I thought would do nicely. Next I obtained some heavy harness leather from a store.



After initial attempts I determined I did not know enough about making a saddle and I contacted Jim and we arranged to do it one Sunday at his place near Victoria. I left early morning and arrived around 9 am Sunday. We got the stuff out of my truck and brought it into his house. Jim proceeded to assess my materials and what needed to be done first - - using a gauge tool he cut the leather into strips 1 1/4 inch wide and about 6 ft long - he did four of these.

Jim then cut a couple of short pieces to make the front hangers of the saddle - he shaved them and clamped them - using an awl he punched holes and using a saddle stitch he sewed one hanger - and then I got to do the other one - in this manner the

hanger and rings were attached - Then using a template tool we got the right angle for the hangers and using a couple nails attached the hangers to the tree . Then taking another strip of leather Jim soaked it to make it supple to mold in a little bit later to make the other part of the cinch hanger.

Then Jim and I took a small piece of metal and cut it to the appropriate shape and covered it with leather - tacking into place





with small brass nails. This would be the foundation for the seat. While the leather for the seat was soaking.

We soaked and molded a piece of thin rawhide to cover up my mistake of making a hole in the back of the saddle - using small brass nails we covered that mistake and it turned out to be a very unique fix.

When the leather for the seat was well soaked - Jim and I molded the seat and although Jim did all of the layout and cutting - I once again did most of the nailing of the seat in place under the watchful eye of Jim.



Next we did the back part of the cinch/hangers we stitched it together - again mostly Jim doing the layout and cutting and me driving nails and attached it to the cinch rings using leather laces.

Next we got some Latigo to make the cinch leather - using a tool Jim split the leather into a thinner piece and these were attached to the bottom of the cinch rings.

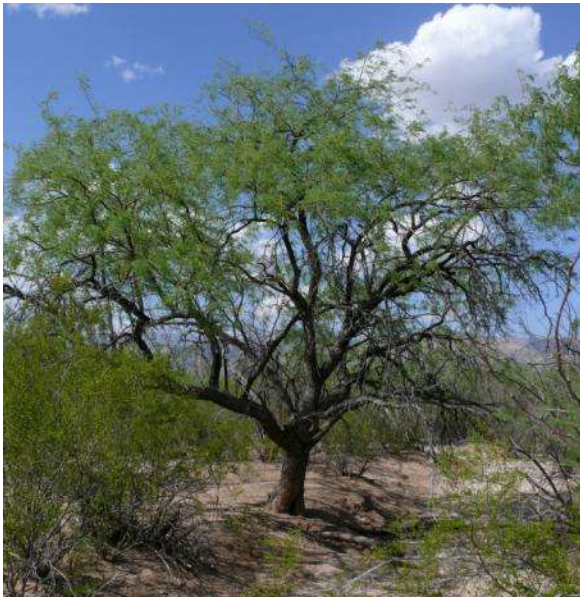
So, although I did very little (some nailing and sewing) with the guidance/expertise of Jim - I now have a workable saddle for primitive treks - all that remains to be done is getting a girth in place, oiling the saddle and hanging my stirrups.





# Mesquite Info

by Rob Evans, AMM Prospect



Mesquite is one of the most common shrub/small tree we have in our area. A member of the Legume Family (called Fabaceae these days), mesquite restores nitrogen to the soil. There are 3 common species of mesquite: Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), Screwbean Mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*) and Velvet Mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*).

All 3 are deciduous and have characteristic bean pods which have long been used by humans, wildlife and livestock as a food source. It is estimated that over 75% of a Coyote's diet in late summer is mesquite beans.

Native Americans relied on the mesquite pod as a dietary staple from which they made tea, syrup and a ground meal called pinole. They also used the

bark for basketry, fabrics and medicine. A favorite of bees and other insects, mesquite flowers produce a fragrant honey.

The taproots, which can be larger than the trunk, are often dug up for firewood. Next to Ironwood, mesquite is the best firewood of the desert, because it burns slowly and is smokeless. The wood is also used for fence posts, tool handles and to create aromatic charcoal for barbecuing.

Cattlemen regard mesquite as range weeds and eradicate them, but much of the invasion of mesquite into former grasslands, where it did not grow a century ago, is due to overgrazing.

## Description

### Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*)

Honey Mesquite is a shrub or small tree characterized by 8-inch, bean-like pods and 3-inch spines occurring at large nodes on branches. It reaches a height of 20 feet; the trunk may be up to 12 inches in diameter.

Honey Mesquite has smooth, brown bark that roughens with age. Narrow, bipinnately compound leaves 2 to 3 inches long are sharply pointed. They are yellowish green in color with oblong leaflets 1/8" wide and 1 1/4" long.

Honey Mesquite blooms in May displaying 1/4-inch long fragrant, creamy yellow flowers in narrow 3-inch clusters. The fruit is a flat, narrow, yellow-green pod up to 8 inches long and ending in a point.

### Screwbean Mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*)

The Screwbean Mesquite is a shrub or small tree characterized by 2-inch, screw-like pods and spiny,

twisted branches. It reaches a height of 20 feet; the trunk may be up to 8 inches in diameter.

The Screwbean Mesquite has light-brown to reddish, smooth bark that separates into long, shaggy strips. Narrow, bipinnately compound leaves 2 to 3 inches long are sharply pointed. They are dull green in color and slightly hairy containing 5 to 8 pairs of oblong leaflets 1/8" wide and 3/8" long.

The Screwbean Mesquite blooms May through August displaying many crowded, 2-inch clusters of 3/8-inch light yellow flowers. The fruit is a hard, 2-inch, spiraled, brown-to-yellow pod with sweet pulp.



#### Velvet Mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*)

Velvet Mesquite is a larger shrub or medium-size tree characterized by straight, 2-inch spines on the branches. Often growing in dense thickets, it is larger than the other species, reaching a height of 30 feet; the trunk may be up to 24 inches in diameter.

Velvet Mesquite has dark-brown, smooth bark that separates into long, shaggy strips. Narrow, bipinnately compound leaves 2 to 3 inches long are sharply pointed. They are dull green in color with gray hairs.

Velvet Mesquite blooms in April, and sometimes again in August, displaying small, fragrant, greenish yellow flowers in slender, cylindrical spikes up to 4 inches long. The fruit is a slender, brown pod up to 8 inches long.

#### **For Those that are looking for natural alternatives to public medicine!**

Medical studies of mesquite and other desert foods, said that despite its sweetness, mesquite flour (made by grinding whole pods) "is extremely effective in controlling blood sugar levels" in people with diabetes. The sweetness comes from fructose, which the body can process without insulin. In addition, soluble fibers, such as galactomannin gum, in the seeds and pods slow absorption of nutrients, resulting in a flattened blood sugar curve, unlike the peaks that follow consumption of wheat flour, corn meal and other common staples.

"The gel-forming fiber allows foods to be slowly digested and absorbed over a four- to six-hour period, rather than in one or two hours, which produces a rapid rise in blood sugar,"

Like the Coyote, the Black-tail Jackrabbit, the Western Diamondback, scorpions, the Saguaro and prickly pear cacti, the mesquites symbolize our Southwestern deserts. Like the Indian peoples and the Hispanic and Anglo settlers, the mesquites define the very notions of individuality, adaptability, opportunism, toughness and stubbornness. Occurring as respectable trees or as small shrubs, they cover a monumental range, spanning tens of millions of acres from the southern Rolling Plains and the Texas Gulf Coast westward across the Chihuahuan, Sonoran and Mojave Deserts. They prosper in a diversity of habitats, from humid and sandy coastal plains to the grassy prairies to perennial and



intermittent stream beds to desert basin shrub lands and dunes to flattop mesas to mile-high rocky mountain slopes.



The mesquites, including the three species in our Southwestern deserts, belong to the legume family, which ranks near the top of plants especially adapted to an arid environment. Typically, the legumes, which have woody stems and ranches, produce bipinnately compound leaves (leaves with two or more secondary veins, each with two rows of leaflets). They bear flowers that have five petals. They produce abundant large seedpods that serve as a nutritious food source for wildlife. They grow wide-spreading and deep-reaching root systems that host colonies of bacteria that can fix nitrogen, one of the minerals most important to plant germination and growth.

Our three species of mesquites, which include the Honey Mesquite, the Velvet Mesquite and the Screwbean Mesquite, share various characteristics. They range from a few feet to 10 to 15 feet in height, although the Honey and Velvet Mesquites may reach 30 to 60 feet in especially favorable settings. They may have single or multiple-branched stems, with each plant assuming its own distinctive shape. They come armed with thorns on the smaller branches. They shed their leaves in the winter. They bloom from spring into summer, bearing small frothy-looking clusters – called “catkins” – of tiny, five-petal, pale green or yellowish flowers, which lure numerous pollinating insects. They produce pods that contain hard and long-lasting seeds that must be scarified before they will germinate. Mesquites have lateral roots that extend far beyond the canopies of the plants and taproots that penetrate well below the surface of the soil. Some mesquites may live for more than two centuries, according to Thomas B. Wilson, Robert H. Webb and Thomas L. Thompson, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-8.

During the Ice Ages, which lasted from about 1.8 million to some 10,000 years ago, the mesquites “coevolved with large herbivores, such as mastodons and ground sloths, which ate the pods and then dispersed them widely in their feces,” said the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Internet site. The mesquites found the arrangement to be ideal. The seeds became scarified by mastication, preparing them for germination. Seed parasites died when exposed to the animals’ gut juices. The seeds found moisture and nutrients in the animals’ dung. It proved to be a perfect formula for expansion.

Over time, the mesquites expanded their range to correspond largely with the herbivores’ range, which extended from flood plains and washes up into prairies, mesas and mountain slopes. When the Ice Ages ended, however, the large herbivores died out, becoming extinct, and rainfall diminished. Deprived of their animal agents for distribution and faced with intensifying competition for water and nutrients, mesquites retreated to the flood plains and washes, forfeiting the higher elevation landscapes to the grasses. Further, the mesquites remained contained by frequent wildfires fueled by the grasses, which recovered within a season.

When European descendants moved into the desert Southwest, mesquites found a new ally,

domesticated livestock, especially the cattle. The new herbivores not only ate and dispersed the pods, the great livestock herds stripped away the desert grasses, eliminating competition and wildfire fuel. In many areas, the opportunistic mesquites moved in to displace grasses. They reclaimed much of their Ice Age range, expanding from the flood plains and washes again up into prairies, mesas and mountain slopes. Mesquites grew up along the historic cattle trails, defining the routes to this day. In fact, mesquites have become established in borrow ditches along modern desert roadways traveled by cattle trucks.

## **Mesquite Bean Jelly**

### **Ingredients:**

**3 cups juice**

**1/4 cup lemon juice**

**4 1/2 cups sugar**

**1 box Sure Jell(included 3 methods of making your own alternative to this at the end of the article)**

**Instructions: Gather fully ripe mesquite beans (When they have turned a tan color and begun to drop from the tree). Immerse in water for a time so that any bugs that are in or on the pods will crawl out and can be removed. I never harvest the pods from the ground, these tend to have lots of bugs. When the pods are ripe, you can easily pull them from the tree. {be careful harvesting the pods, remember the mesquite tree has thorns!}**

**Drain and put in a pot and cover with water. Cook until soft. You may have to add water while cooking to get them soft (it takes a while). After the pods have become soft, and simmered a while, you will see the water is a beautiful honey color. I just let mine simmer until it is a deep rich honey color, then using tongs I remove the pods from the pot. (I threw the used pods into my compost pile and recycled them)**

**Strain the juice through a jelly bag, or muslin cloth. I prefer the muslin cloth because I can double it up and really strain the juice thoroughly.**

**Take 3 cups of the strained juice, add the 1/4 cup lemon juice, and box of Sure Jell(natural alternatives like sugar cook-down method, apple peel method and high fruit pectin substitution methods can also be used). Bring the mixture to a full, rolling boil; gradually add the 4 1/2 cups sugar, stirring until it is well dissolved. Continue cooking, stirring occasionally, until the liquid reaches the jelly stage.**

**Spoon into hot sterile jars and seal with paraffin or two-part lids.**

**I sterilize my jars and rings in the dishwasher, but wash the lids with hot soapy water in the sink. You do not want to ruin the rubber seal on the lids.**

**I do not have a canner, so I place my jars in a pot of water. Once the jars are in the pot, the water level should be about halfway up the outside of the jars. Any more than this and the jars try and float and fall over. I bring the water too a slow boil before spooning in the hot jelly mixture.**

**Spoon the hot jelly mixture into the hot jars, be careful not to get any jelly on the rim of the jar, this could impede an airtight seal when you put on the lids. If you do get some liquid on the rim, simple wipe it off with a damp rag, or paper towel. Fill the jars with the hot jelly mixture, but remember to leave about a 1/4 inch of head space between the jelly and the lid. Once the jelly is in**



the jars I remove them from the hot water bath with a jar lifter or tongs. Immediately place on the lids and screw the rings into place for a tight seal.

Let the sealed jars sit and cool at room temperature. After a while you should hear the lids popping as they suck down. This means you have a good air tight seal. If a jars lid does not suck down, you have not achieved the seal necessary for preservation. Once cooled, the jelly is still good, but you will need to keep these jars in the refrigerator or else they will spoil.

### Use for Mesquite Thorns



Native Americans made cordage from the fibers of the yucca cactus. Once this very strong cordage was made, they could use it too weave baskets, ropes, snares, etc. To separate the individual fibers from the yucca cactus leaf they used a variety of methods. When I was taught this ancient technique, I was advised to use a needle. The needle method worked, but I wanted to stick with what I thought would be a more traditional method so I thought about an alternative. If I was living in the past and did not have a needle, what else could I use? My solution was to use a thorn from the Mesquite Tree. What I found was that the Mesquite Thorn actually worked better than a needle, so from that moment on all of my Yucca baskets were made using a mesquite thorn.

### Sugar Cook Down Method

- The sugar cook down method is a simple, but time-intensive one. For this method, add sugar to raw crushed fruit or raw fruit juice. Place on medium heat and stirr often until the mixture reaches a boiling point. Lower the heat and allow the mixture to reduce to about half its original volume, thus thickening the mixture. The hot mixture is then ready to process into sterile jars.

## Apple Peel Method

- Apple peelings are one of the highest sources of pectin and can be used to thicken jam and jelly. Prepare raw fruit or raw fruit juice and add sugar as indicated by the recipe. Instead of adding pectin to the mixture, peel approximately 10 apples and add the peels and cores to the sugar and fruit or fruit juice mixture. Cook until the mixture thickens. Strain the peelings from the jam or jelly product and can it in clean, sterilized jars. Use the left-over apples to make an apple pie or crisp. Tip: To make straining easier, the apple peels and cores can be tied into a sterile cheesecloth and placed in the cook pot with the fruit and sugar. After the mixture thickens, simply remove the package carefully using tongs.

## Other Thickening Agents

- Corn starch, Agar-Agar or gelatin can be added to prepared fruit and fruit juice with sugar to thicken jam or jelly. Agar-Agar, available at health food stores, is a thickening agent made from seaweed. Follow instructions on the package to add the correct amount of thickener. Lemon juice added to fruits low in pectin will also help them gel when cooking. Simply squeeze the juice of one lemon (preferable) or add two tablespoons of processed lemon juice to a batch of jam or jelly.

## Adding High Pectin Fruits

- Adding fruits high in pectin to fruits or fruit juices low in pectin will help thicken jam and have the added benefit of increasing its flavor. Wash the fruit (with the skin on as the fruit's skin has the highest ratio of pectin) and add it to the batch of jam or jelly at the start of the cooking process. As the jam or jelly simmers, the high pectin fruit will help the mixture thicken. Fruits high in pectin are apples, cranberries, blackberries, gooseberries, plums, grapes and quince. These fruits can be added to those low in pectin, such as blueberries, cherries, peaches, pears, apricots, rhubarb and strawberries.

Read more: [http://www.ehow.com/list\\_6312062\\_alternatives-pectin.html#ixzz2zkG9z4tj](http://www.ehow.com/list_6312062_alternatives-pectin.html#ixzz2zkG9z4tj)

## Canoe For Sale

"A premium Golden 1994 aluminum canoe, 13' 6", with wood seats, and with the hull recently painted in a 'birch bark' pattern by Tim Ewert, MN canoe maker. It is an excellent one or two man canoe, with a wide beam, so it is stable. I have used it for river and lake jaunts, fishing, and beaver trapping. Priced at \$600.00, firm, to be picked up in Troup, Texas. If interested contact Paul Jones at

**[anglerpwj@yahoo.com](mailto:anglerpwj@yahoo.com)**





## Great Links:

[www.redriverbrigade.com](http://www.redriverbrigade.com) - Our awesome website under construction.

<http://user.xmission.com/~drudy/amm/moreamm.html> - you should recognize this site.

[www.turkeyfootllc.com](http://www.turkeyfootllc.com) - They have great dried food and other wares of high quality. I have ordered from them in the past and been very impressed with their products and service.

[www.powderhornsandmore.com](http://www.powderhornsandmore.com) - I have bought many powder horns from here to do scrimshaw work and final finishing for many folks. John is a class act, sends beautiful horns and his customer service is excellent. He won't send a product he doesn't want hanging from his shoulder.

[http://woodtrekker.blogspot.com/2013/09/living-off-land-delusions-and.html#disqus\\_thread](http://woodtrekker.blogspot.com/2013/09/living-off-land-delusions-and.html#disqus_thread) - This site lists caloric needs from a hunter-gatherer standpoint for long-term survival in the woods, and lists them for specific animals and specific plants. It might be of good use for folks doing their 3-days-hungry. It is very useful data.

<http://www.historicproperties.com/> - We are your online resource for buying and selling historic real estate. From projects to completed renovations, residential to commercial, west coast to east coast and now even outside the U.S.A., Federal to Eclectic; you can search our database of properties for sale. If you have a property to sell, you can list it for sale using the List a Home form and view it online within three business days.

<http://www.oldlogcabins.com/> - *Old Log Cabins* is dedicated to preserving the spirit of the American pioneer by offering original antique hand-hewn log cabins, structures and materials to our customers. We specialize in locating, documenting, and restoring these historic log cabins, barns and outbuildings. These uniquely American buildings were hand crafted by our ancestors in the 18th and 19th centuries, and their original integrity and character cannot be duplicated.

<http://www.smilingfoxforge.com/index.asp> - We at Smiling Fox Forge strive to bring you the highest quality 18th century reproductions you can buy. Therefore they are neither inexpensive nor cheap! We have all discovered "**Real Quality**" must be paid for.

<http://www.naturemoms.com/homemade-vinegar.html> - How to make homemade vinegar.



## Upcoming Events

Brothers,

As a reminder from the Capitaine:

Requirement #4 (spending one full week, etc...) can only be met at one of these three (3) annual events:



<b>AMM National Rendezvous</b>	<b>Montana</b>	<b>June 28th - July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014</b>
<b>AMM Eastern Territorial Rendezvous</b>	<b>Illinois</b>	<b>October 4th - October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014</b>
<b>AMM Western Territorial Rendezvous</b>	<b>Colorado</b>	<b>October 22nd - October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014</b>

Local party camps, or even brigade level camps, do not qualify. Details will be in T&LR and Moc Mails as we move into the year and I will re-print them here.

### Detailed Info:

**AMM Eastern Territorial** 4-12 Oct Four miles west of Morris, Illinois on the Illinois River. Booshways: Todd Daggett (815) 735-6664, Jim Alexander (815) 697-2708 or (618) 225-2658. Horses welcome (and riders), river access for canoes, squirrel hunting allowed, fresh meat will be provided, woods walk shoot, whiskey/beer tent, flint knapping demo, beaver skinning demo, brain tanning demo, fly fishing demo.

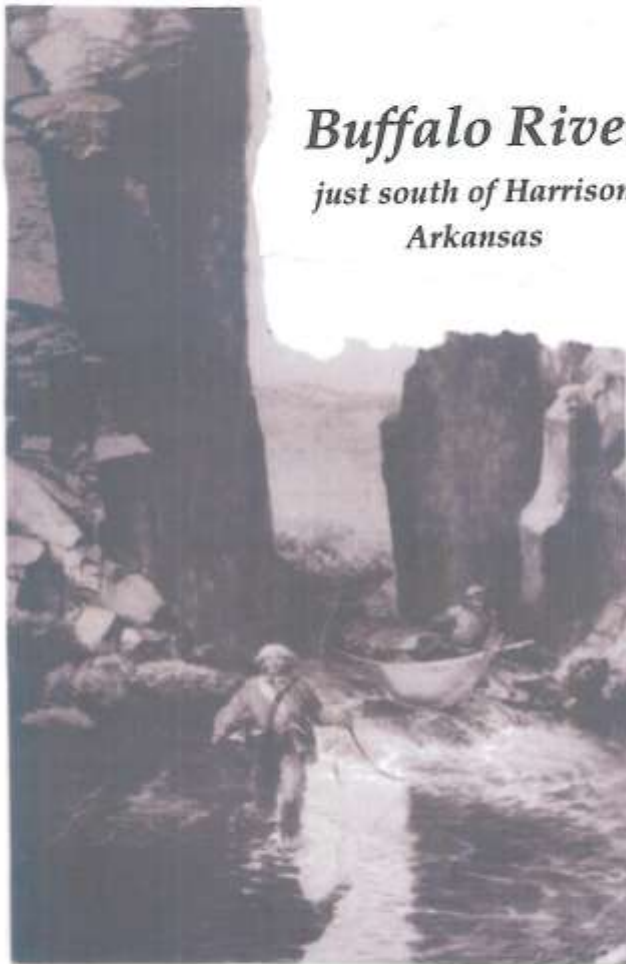
**AMM Western Territorial** 22-28 Oct Hosted by the Jim Baker Party with Booshways: William Bailey (970) 216-3743 and Jim Sebastian (303) 910-4099 at Bent's Old Fort, Lahunta, CO. There is a planned 2 day horse ride into the fort on Tues and Thurs.

**AMM National Rendezvous** 28 June to 5 July Hosted by the Montana Brigade with Booshways: Tom Roberts ([TROBERTS135@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TROBERTS135@GMAIL.COM)) (406) 842-4001 and Glenn Goldthwait ([MTFORGE@3RIVERS.NET](mailto:MTFORGE@3RIVERS.NET)) (406) 842-7948: to be held in the Pioneer Mountains of Southwest Montana. **This is the year for PILGRIMS! Please bring your pilgrim or prospect to share our camp.** The site is on Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in the Andrus Creek Drainage. Plenty of wood, water and grass. Directions: From Dillon go south on I-15 to Clark Canyon Reservoir (exit 44), then west 19 miles on highway 324, then W-NW 19 miles on bloody Dick Road (becomes FS-181) then right 15 miles on Selway Creek Road (FS-919) then right on FS-7382 to parking. Watch for AMM signs.

## Upcoming Events

### *Five Day Float on the Nation's First Scenic River*

*May 14th thru 18th, 2014*



### *Buffalo River just south of Harrison, Arkansas*

We will begin our travels at Midday on Wednesday, May 14th at Steel Creek Access Point\Camp Grounds. A class on how to construct a Buffalo Boat will begin at noon for any interested members and the boats should be completed by that evening for trial float. Should anyone wish to make the trip in the Buffalo Boat they will be permitted to do so.

From Steel Creek to Mt. Hersey Camp ground is 42 miles. Traveling one of the Nation's most beautiful River. This portion of the river consists of gravel bars that surrounded by willows, fast moving series class 1 and class 2 rapids, the highest waterfall in mid-America and lined with 500 foot-tall cliff walls. If the weather and water are in favor, the float might continue to Woolum Camp ground for a total of 50 miles. All travelers are responsible for their own food, canoes and floatation vests. The float will end on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 at noon. Wednesday's dinner of meat, corn and biscuits will be provided.

Those interested in additional information needs to contact Bruce Day at [legacy.day@cox.net](mailto:legacy.day@cox.net). This float will be for the completion of AMM Requirements Number 8 and 12



# 2014 AMM EASTERN TERRITORIAL RENDEZVOUS OCTOBER 4-12



## Contact Information

Todd Daggett

Ph: (815)735-6664

Jim Alexander

Ph: (618)225-2658

Or email TDaggett to

[kjdaggett@gmail.com](mailto:kjdaggett@gmail.com)

## Directions

From Morris, IL located at  
crossroads of I80 & Rt.47.

~ take Rt. 47 south approx. 3 mi.,  
head west on Dupont Rd. for 6 mi.,  
take Gonnam Rd. north 1mi. to site.  
(look for signs)

**The IL, WI, MN Brigade would like to invite everyone to our *Grand Encampment*.  
October 4-12, 2014**

This Rendezvous will be held 10 miles southwest of Morris, IL on the historic Illinois River. The Illinois River was a major trade route during the fur trade, as early as the 1680s. The site is just 32 miles upstream of the *Fort St. Louis* site, set up by LaSalle in 1682 as a strategic military stronghold and fur trading post. Interestingly, LaSalle was only able to secure a five year contract from King Louis XIV to trade furs with the natives and only for buffalo hides.

The privately owned rendezvous site is on approximately 800 acres of hardwood forest, grassy meadows and marshlands. This part of the Illinois country is mentioned in Pierre DeLiette's Memoirs in 1687 as being "*some of the most beautiful he's seen since the St. Lawrence River*", sorry Michigan.

- College on Period Fishing, courtesy of Paul Jones
- Various Stages of Brain Tanning throughout the week
- Beaver Skinning College, courtesy of Tom Morlock / Tom Larson
- Flint Knapping College
- Canoe in- pickup/drop off up to 6 mi. can be arranged

- Squirrel hunting & fishing available with proper licenses (call for cost)
- Horses Absolutely Welcome (Yes, riders allowed also)
- Whiskey and Ale tent for those who may need to quench their thirst
- Fresh venison and/or buffalo meat available at the whiskey tent (donations accepted)
- OPEN to the public – Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Figure there shouldn't be too many wounded from the shoots or bloodshot eyes from the ale tent this early.
- Numerous SHOOTS going on throughout the week. Better brush up on “ALL” those skills boys, you're going to need them.



We will have plenty of firewood and good drinking water, all we need are bodies. We all have busy lives and the economy is in the crapper. Over the last few weeks I have talked to a lot of brothers who have not recently been out on the ground for one reason or another. Well now is the time! Call your buddies you use to run with, blow the dust off your gear (or not), hire a sitter, borrow your neighbors car, whatever it takes- we would love to see YOU in Illinois in October.

For those of you that use a navigation device in travel, the Daggett Property borders the rendezvous site. If you plug in the address above this should get you within gunshot of the gate and the rest of you... well, look for the signs.

As always an event like this will have some upcoming costs. Anyone that has items they would like to donate for the auction or for shoot prizes (assuming some survive the shoots) please send c/o: Todd Daggett @ 2465 N. Gonnam Rd. Morris, IL. 60450

For more information please contact:

Todd Daggett	Or	Jim Alexander
Ph: (815)735-6664		Ph: (618)225-2658
<a href="mailto:kjdaggett@gmail.com">kjdaggett@gmail.com</a>		

*See you all in October!*

*Your brother,*

*Todd*

# RED RIVER BRIGADE HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING EVENTS FOR 2014

## **Booshway - Cuz COMPLETED**

April: 25-27

Number of Brothers: no real limit **BROTHERS ATTENDED: Lucky and Cuz**

Pandale on Cuz's property before the summer heat shoot pigs, snakes, lizards and any non game animals we can eat. Bring lots of water!

**EXCELLENT WEEKEND! HUNTED SOME GOATS, DID SOME FISHING AND ENJOYED THE PECOS RIVER.**

## **Booshway - Lucky**

June: 13-15

Number of Brothers: 6-7 Brothers plus Rob

Comanche, Texas on the property of prospect Rob Evans. Deer scout, fishing, rabbit and squirrel and Hawg hunting!

## **Booshway - Many Rifles**

July: 4-6 or 11-13 July or even August

Number of Brothers: no real limit

Paul Laster could arrange another fishing trip on the Guadalupe or anyone with a place to fish/swim to stay cool.

## **Booshway - Sunkasapa**

Sep: 19-21 Sep or 12-14 Sept

Number of Brothers: no real limit, but # out hunting may be limited at one time to allow safe shooting-rotate out

Rabbit and squirrel hunt: Comanche, Shiner, Naugameullers, Kraigs, any other locations available

One days squirrel ration per man in Revolutionary War was 13 squirrels! Are we that good of hunters and shooters?

## **Booshway- Lucky**

Nov: 7-9 Nov

Number of Brothers: 6-7 plus Rob with possible restriction of number who can hunt at once to allow safe shooting-rotate out

Deer hunt at Rob Evans' place in Comanche

## **Booshway - Black Powder Jim**

Jan 15: Any weekend

Number of Brothers: no real limit

Trapping in Shiner or coyote trapping in Comanche at Evans' place. He wants coyotes trapped hard.

**Some of the dates have to be finalized. Please contact the Booshway for details. As the events are worked out I will put it in the Trace and e-mail out to The Trace e-mail list.**