

Hurst & Horn

SOLSTITIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE KINGDOM OF ATLANTIA ROYAL FORESTRY GUILD

q' b SOLSTITIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE KINGDOM OF ATLANTIA ROYAL FORESTRY GUILD
etia. Duo alu uluru q' ocate unio
ulimito rotodendo dunt simlaet
tonos es. se ubantes acriter ioly
tu g'cau' no ges se q'hdet ad pleni
d' eis euntes ai idmuntis ornant et
honestis tamen non vultunt cepia
re d'ni cu' inelamentis talu' non
lit q' t'ao mentis; au' fenatores se
ho loquentes q' boies inuio p' nara

suu pacis inceptice cotu' amoum
laus pro illo tempestive betar- ca
igatur procaendum sapienter
ne q's inuata sua d'ariatur amuio
ad est adyabolo amus opera sunt
mundana r' vere qui cum mudo e
cum deo non est..

- Rechate p. 2
- Spring Moot recap p. 3
- Gifts for the Royals p. 4
- Medieval Surveying p. 6
- The Forester's Tale Challenge p. 10
- Making a fire-making kit bag p. 15
- A first foray into savory pies p. 18
- Steirbach Spring campout p. 21
- Upcoming events p. 23
- Contact information p. 24

Rechate

Missive from the Warden

Greetings, my fellow foresters,

My name is Morgot Morgan, and I have been a member of the guild for almost 6 years. I am proud of the growth of the guild over that time and of all the new officers, as well as the members of all ranks, that have stepped up and made this possible.

On the topic of the growth of the guild, I would like to mention the in-development Junior Forester program. Warden Emeritus Finne Breth has been working with other officers to better define youth involvement; they are the future of the guild, after all. I encourage members to think about age-appropriate ways to introduce forestry skills to interested teens (and their families). Ultimately, I would like to see day or weekend events where junior foresters can learn or demonstrate the skills on which the guild focuses.

The weather is getting warmer and the days are getting longer. While I encourage everyone to spend more time outdoors, in the forests

and fields, I also wanted to take a moment to remind everyone to hydrate and protect themselves from the sun and insects.

Dehydration and heatstroke are authentic to most any period, but they are not things that we want to recreate!

While guild officers continue to work to help the guild grow and develop, I also encourage members to bring their ideas to me. Please, feel free to reach out! I'm always excited to learn what members would like to see or do.

I look forward to the days ahead and new adventures!

In your service,
High Warden Morgot Morgan



Spring Moot Recap

BY ELIAS DE BIRTON,
INTERIM CHRONICLER

The Spring Moot was held over Zoom and livestreamed in the Kingdom of Atlantia Royal Forestry Guild Facebook group on March 26, 2023.

Aleksánder Tomašović and Finnian Mac Lochlainn swore their oaths to the Guild and are now full members.

High Warden Finnebreth Wodeward discussed changes to the leadership structure in the guild, reviewing the current officer roles.

Finley Blackthorn accepted the position of High Sheriff.

The need for more regional Wardens was discussed; Morgot Morgan stepped down and Will of Liddesdale accepted the position of Warden of the North.

The current High Warden will become part of a council, joined by wardens emeriti to share the responsibility of the position.

Finnebreth Wodeward stepped down, becoming Warden Emeritus and joining this council, and Morgot Morgan accepted the position of High Warden.

Reports were then heard from officers.

Preceptor Elias (also serving as interim Chronicler) discussed the need for a deputy Chronicler. He reviewed the new twice-a-year schedule for publication of the guild newsletter, the Hurst and Horn, and encouraged members to contribute to the relaunched Kingdom A&S newsletter, The Oak. He discussed the Forester's Tale Challenge and Summer University; Eirik and Finley expressed interest in teaching in-person.

Warden of the South Eirik Grálokk reported attending events and handing out material, as well as reaching out to the Cooks' Guild to collaborate on an outdoor cooking event.

High Sheriff Finley expressed excitement about the position and a desire to work with Eirik to start organizing garb walks.

Warden Emeritus Conraed æt Rauenesdale reported displaying his forester kit at a local demo and hopes to find sites for trekking and camping.

Warden Emeritus Finnebreth reported working on gifts for the incoming Royals, to be presented at Spring Coronation. She requested that members attending take part in presenting the gifts in court and hopes that the guild will present gifts to all new Royals. She also reported, as the Keeper of the Forest of Steirbach, the spring campout at Leesylvania State Park.

High Warden Morgot thanked the new members and closed the Spring Equinox Court.

Gifts for the Royals

BY FINNEBRETH WODEWARD,
WARDEN EMERITUS

This Spring, members of the Forestry Guild had the honor of creating gifts for their new Majesties, Afshin Nanaie and Yasamin Farrah, consisting of fire-starting kits in 14th century-style drawstring pouches. Handsewn of wool in

red and black particolor by Finnebreth Wodeward and bearing their household device, the bags were decorated with pewter cast Guild badges made by Elias de Birton and contained flint and steel he purchased and contributed, and char cloth created by Eirik Greylokk to get our new Sovereigns started on this quintessential medieval skill.

Once the gifts were put together, I, Finnebreth



The purses were handmade by Warden Emeritus Finnebreth Wodeward and decorated with pewter guild medallions cast by Preceptor Elias de Birton and tassels made by Mesterin Genefe Wolfelin. They contained flints and firesteels purchased from a sutler and char cloth made by Warden of the South Eirik Graylokk.



Photo by Phaiden O'Laoghaire

traveled to Coronation in northernmost Atlantia and together with fellow Foresters William of Liddesdale and Ahmed Mustafa, waited in the offering line with the other petitioners for an audience with the new King and Queen. Though we were last in a long line our gifts were treated as graciously as the first. The Queen was already very familiar with the Forestry Guild and its activities, having attended the Known World Agriculture and Forestry Symposium back in 2019. Both the King and Queen were very supportive of the Guild and encouraged a greater presence at SCA events.

This is to my knowledge the first time we have



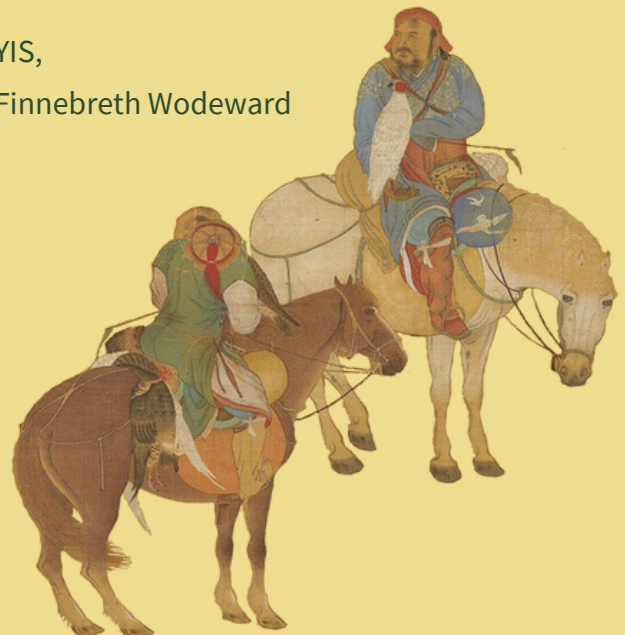
Photo by Phaiden O'Laoghaire

created gifts for incoming sovereigns but it is a positive practice for our relationship with Atlantia as a whole, and I am hopeful that we can continue to do it. We are currently seeking help and contributions for fire kits for TRH Ragnarr and Mary, as well as future reigns.

Many thanks to our Guild Steward Asta Knarrabringa, who is currently serving as Court Secretary for TRM Afshin and Yasamin, and who was very helpful in making sure we knew what we needed to know and were where we needed to be.

Let us remember that we serve the green at the pleasure of those who reign over it, and it's no hardship to please them and remind them of our worth in turn.

YIS,
Finnebreth Wodeward



Falconers attend Kublai Khan on a hunt. Detail from "Khubilain Khan Hunting", attributed to Liu Guandao, c. 1280; National Palace Museum, Taipei

The Unique Skills and Work of the Medieval Surveyor

BY KŘIŠŤAN VĚSTONICE OF MORAVIA

Introduction

One important element of SCA arts and sciences that may not be intuitively known or understood is the role of a surveyor and the surveyor's value to medieval society.

Surveyors existed in the Middle Ages; they were guild members given legal sanction as approved agents for their work by the King or through the military [1]. Medieval surveyors were literate and understood complex mathematics – normally the result of a long and rigorous skilled-labor apprenticeship tenure with a guild.

Unlike fine arts, entertainment, or practical craftsmanship, surveying is a skill that does not produce a product of beauty or functionality that can be appreciated in its final form. Surveying is rather like mathematics or astronomy – a tool that increases our ability to create order and improves our understanding of the world around us.

This article aims to increase our awareness of the roles, functions, and value of the surveyor's craft. In doing so, it is hoped that our lives in the Middle Ages – and our collective sense of place in it – may be more deeply and colorfully enriched.

Greek Mathematics Meet Roman Technology

The revival of interest in Euclidean mathematics was a direct result of the "... Renaissance in education and scientific knowledge [2]... providing the necessary intellectual foundation for the development of [medieval] surveying" [3] At the time, the medieval human concept of an earth-centric universe combined with Euclidean geometry provided accurate earth measurement; but without calculus, was lacking when projected into space [e.g., for maritime navigation] [4].

Medieval surveyors used crude but effective Roman tools for their work [5]. In the hands of a capable surveyor with a firm grasp of mathematics, these tools were precise and accurate when measured against future scientific standards. There were limitations, however. Roman surveying instruments were restricted in range to the vision of the naked eye, and the equipment was unwieldy and vulnerable to the caprices of weather [6].



A depiction of surveying a river on fol. 293v of "Siensa de destrax" (Science of measuring), c. 1405 [12]

Medieval surveying was – quite simply – grueling mental and physical work, frequently in difficult weather conditions. To accomplish the work normally required a large team of workhands, each with a specific duty to aid the surveyor.

Tax Assessment for the King

“The principal task of the surveyor in the medieval economy was assessing and recording the customary obligations and rights of tenants of the manor, not the technical business of measuring the size of tracts, or making their boundaries. [The surveyor] kept

the rolls and records of rights to land, of agricultural production, of the number of trees in the forest, and of the rents, fees, fines, or days of work due from each tenant to his or her lord” [7]. In England and throughout central Europe this tax assessment was called *taille* (Tah-LAY), or simply “aid” conducted on behalf of, and under the sanction of, the King [8].

The scope, therefore, of the medieval surveyor was mathematical, legal, and judicial [9]. In addition, the surveyor was required to be well versed in geology, fish and wildlife ecology, crop and timber production, animal husbandry, and topography and land measurement [10]. In *taille* assessment, the mathematical and technical aspects of surveying were of secondary importance to the general span of knowledge required for accurate taxation.



The king, presiding over a general council, gives commands on surveying and demarcation [13] on fol. 23v and 25 of "Siensa de destrax" [12].

Public Works

In addition to legal authority for taille assessments, medieval surveyors also possessed technical expertise to support a variety of public works which benefitted public commerce, the military, and the concerns of the Crown.

- Surveying works for harbors and wharves, canals and aqueducts, and all-weather stone roads supported commercial and military needs.
- Plumbed city walls and fortifications supported military defense.
- Mapping and boundary surveys supported the sovereign interests of the Crown.

Of special note were road and city design surveys.

In laying the course for a road, the surveyor had to understand topography and carry on a fine balance between the cost of expensive road materials and construction against the shortest viable distance between two points. Horse and oxen-drawn commerce required a gentle gradient. As well, a steep road gradient risked washing out in heavy rains. The surveyor had to work with the terrain to lay out a road that could efficiently carry hundreds of years of traffic.

Finally, the medieval surveyor supported the interests of organized religion. The urban layout of cities significantly changed in the mid 1300's from a random form to a configuration which conveyed Christian symbolism. City plots and streets were straightened and paralleled through accurate surveying, providing a Euclidean aesthetic designed to reflect order, beauty, and truth – pleasing God as He looked down from Heaven [11].



A surveyor in prayer on fol. 14 of "Siensa de destrax" [12]. Similar images appear multiple times in the manuscript.

Value to Royalty and to the People

Using Greek mathematics and Roman technology, the role and work of a surveyor spans a significant part of medieval life. Kings, Barons, and Lords relied on trusted taille assessors to assure effective yet equitable taxation from their subjects. Surveying support to public works promoted efficient commerce for economic growth and welfare to the populace; and it maximized the effectiveness of the King's instruments of war. The surveyor's work also reproduced mathematical order in city design that reflected medieval Christian aesthetic values designed to please God.

The author hopes that our lives and personas of the Middle Ages are enriched by a consideration of how surveying as an art and science touches nearly everything we do, and improves our medieval world.



Křišťan Věstonice - spoken: "Khrish TAHN Vest oh NEET seh", is a surveyor from Moravia (southern Czechia) in 1435. He

conducts taille aid assessments on behalf of the Crown; however, his primary surveying work is determining precise elevation measurements used to drain marshes and swamps, thereby securing viable farmland. Křišťan is currently a subject in the Barony of Ponte Alto [14].

Notes and References

1. Bosshardt, William and Lopus, Jane S. (2013). Business in the Middle Ages: What Was the Role of Guilds? *Social Education*, 77(2), 64-67.
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3. Hughes, Sarah S. (n.d.) 16th Century Surveyors. *Backsight Magazine*, published by Surveyors Historical Society. Retrieved November 7, 2022 from http://www.surveyhistory.org/16th_century_surveyors1.htm
4. Hughes, Sarah S. (n.d.) Roman Surveying. *Backsight Magazine*, published by Surveyors Historical Society. Retrieved November 7, 2022 from http://www.surveyhistory.org/roman_surveying1.htm
5. A future article is planned which will discuss these Roman surveying tools and their use.
6. Ibid. Roman Surveying.
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8. Encyclopaedia Britannica. (1998).
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10. A future article is planned which will discuss Medieval land measure and the taille tax system.
11. Lilley, Keith, D. (2003). *Cities of God? Medieval urban forms and their Christian symbolism*. London: Royal Geographical Society.
12. Carpentras, Bibliothèque inguimbertaine, Ms. 327. https://bvmm.irht.cnrs.fr/consult/consult.php?REPRODUCTION_ID=15710 CC BY-NC 3.0
13. Portet, Pierre. (2004). *Bertrand Boysset, la vie et les œuvres techniques d'un arpenteur médiéval (v.1355-v.1416)*, Paris: Editions Le Manuscrit.
14. Křišťan has submitted his device (displayed to the left) through the College of Heraldry of Atlantia. Final SCA approval for the device is currently pending.

The Forester's Tale Challenge

BY ELIAS DE BIRTON, FORESTER

*Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote,
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote*

...

*So priketh hem Natúre in hir corages,
Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages*

The Canterbury Tales: General Prologue
lines 1-2, 11-12

During the month of April, guild members (and other interested folks!) were invited to

participate in a Canterbury Tales-themed challenge. There were three ways to participate:

1. Walk 90 miles (the length of the pilgrimage route from Southwark, in London, to Canterbury) over the course of April (or at least try to walk more than normal!).
2. Take a photo in garb on a pathway through a natural (or not obviously modern) landscape.
3. Create an item your persona might carry on a pilgrimage or other long journey, or write a story or song they might perform for their fellow travelers to pass the time.



Part of the 1637 Norden and Kip map of Kent. The pilgrimage route from London to Canterbury, based on the map from "The Pilgrims' Way: To Canterbury from Winchester and London" (published by Cicerone) and the stages from One Step Then Another (www.onestepthenanother.com/pilgrimsway/pilgrims-way-stages-london-to-canterbury/) and Books and Travel (<https://www.booksandtravel.page/pilgrims-way/>), is indicated.



Badges made for participants, featuring Spike kitted out for an adventure!

While inspired by the Canterbury Tales, participation was not limited to those with English personas or personas that might have gone on pilgrimage; folks with lots of different interests got involved!

The following photos and articles were submitted by participants; thank you to everyone who joined in!



The Knight's yeoman from William Caxton's illustrated second edition of The Canterbury Tales, 1476: The British Library, G.11586, f. 5r

Final reported walking totals

- Aelfwynn of Whitby - 74.6 miles
- Alberic Maqi Droata - 98 miles
- Aleksandr Tomasovic - 90.5 miles
- Alyna of the Ilex - 77 miles
- Elias de Birton - 105 miles
- Ella de Caleys - 142 miles
- Finnebreth Wodeward - 81.9 miles
- Kris Bär - 100 miles
- Melkorka Farkona - 94.9 miles
- Nest verch Tangwistel - 164.3 miles
- Will of Liddesdale - 94.3 miles



Jakob Leotson, a Norse traveler, and his two children looking for the promised shelter in the distance. The young tend to have sharper eyes.



Aelfwynn of Whitby spent the month spinning and plying yarn to be knit into hiking socks (which she completed in May).

Adriana Michaels stops by a stream in the greenwood.



Will of Liddesdale patrols his bailiwick within the Forest of Ettrick, near Selkirk on the Scottish Border.

Marginalia from a mid-15th century copy of The Canterbury Tales: The British Royal Library, Harley MS 1758, f. 102r





Aelfwynn of Whitby rests at an overlook near Harper's Ferry with the Highland Glen Saunterers.



Nest verch Tangwistel portrays a 14th century Welsh woman who is filling in for her husband as an agister in the chase of Sir Howell Coetmore in the royal forest of Snowdon in north eastern Wales.

Matthew of Summerdale pauses by a creek.



*Pilgrims on the road to Canterbury, at the beginning of the prologue of the Siege of Thebes, c. 1457–1460:
The British Library, Royal MS 18 D II, f. 148r*





Aleksáedr Tomašovič takes a walk off the beaten path, equipped with a sturdy walking stick.

Alyna of the Ilex made pilgrim bags to carry on the journey.



A Yeman hadde he and servántz namo
At that tyme, for hym liste ride soo;
And he was clad in cote and hood of grene.
A sheef of pecock arwes bright and kene,
Under his belt he bar ful thriftily-
Wel koude he dresse his takel yemanly;
His arwes drouped noght with fetheres lowe-
And in his hand he baar a myghty bowe.
A not-heed hadde he, with a broun viságe.
Of woodecraft wel koude he al the uságe.
Upon his arm he baar a gay bracer,
And by his syde a swerd and a bokeler,
And on that oother syde a gay daggere,
Harneised wel and sharp as point of spere;
A Cristophere on his brest of silver sheene.
An horn he bar, the bawdryk was of grene.
A forster was he, soothly as I gesse.

*The Canterbury Tales: General Prologue
lines 101-17*



The Quest for the Perfect Bag for My Fire Making Kit

BY WILL OF LIDDESDALE, FORESTER

On joining the Forestry Guild I had only been in SCA for a short time and had not yet come up with a suitable persona for myself, though I had flirted with several ideas. As I explored various medieval histories, I came across a small reference to William Wallace employing archers recruited from among the foresters of Ettrick Forest in the borderlands of Scotland when he fought the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297. Robert Bruce would likewise use archers from Ettrick Forest for his battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Having visited this region several times, I decided my persona would be that of a Lowland Scottish Borderer turned archer for William Wallace and Robert the Bruce.

From what little I've discovered so far, the Scottish archer looked much like his English or Welsh counterpart, and I began to assemble my clothing and kit accordingly. Not finding any information to the contrary, I made the reasonable assumption that a wise forester would probably have carried on his person the means to make a fire if separated from home or camp, much as he would have carried a knife. Now I just needed to gather

the items for my fire making kit that would be appropriate to my chosen period, location, and social status.

I already owned several steel strikers of various styles so selected a small plain oval circle, large enough to hold two fingers, which could easily be made by a village blacksmith. The striker, a flint chard, and some tinder were placed loose within a leather bag measuring about 5 by 7 ½ inches [Figure 1, upper left]. I tied it to my belt using a piece of leather lacing.



Figure 1. Bags of different shapes have their own strengths and weaknesses

For my char cloth I found a ring box about 2 ½ inches in diameter and three inches tall on Amazon [Figure 2, center]. I cut the height down to about two inches though it still took up a large portion of the bag. However, on my first outing I found the bag annoying as it bounced around so next I tried a small elk skin bag measuring about 5 by 6 inches which had loops so it hung more evenly from my belt [Figure 1, upper right]. I liked the size and the way it stayed securely against the belt, but my char box was still too large, so next I tried a larger 6 by 7 inches bag made of

pigskin that I'd made about 20 years ago [Figure 1, lower left]. By this time, I'd determined that a loose flint was not going to work as I risked some serious cuts to my fingers when trying to find the flint or the striker in my bag, so I put both into a small leather pouch. However, the larger bag had loads of room and easily carried both the char box and loads of tinder, though it was also much heavier.

At this time the Forester's Tale Challenge came along so I decided to make a new



Figure 2. The second bag would not accommodate a 2"x 2 1/2" diameter char box, and the third was heavy.

drawstring bag with a flap, following a centuries-old pattern for traditional Scottish sporrans [Figure 3]. It was a relatively easy matter of cutting out two pieces of deerskin and quickly sewing them into a bag, punching a few holes around the top opening and threading a strip of deerskin lacing

through them, then attaching a flap which I will probably tie down in some manner later. Initially, I was going to suspend the bag from my belt by a small leather loop, not unlike the traditional sporrans, but decided to use a more substantial loop sewed to the back so that the bag wouldn't bounce around as much [Figure 4].

Inside the new bag is a small leather bag containing my striker and flint so that my fingers are safe from razor like cuts, and another small leather bag containing enough tinder for two to three fires [Figure 3]. In my pack will be another larger leather bag with more tinder to replenish my belt bag. I replaced the large char box for a small wooden box with a sliding lid. The larger char box will also go into my pack.

As I don't believe the wooden box with sliding lid is anywhere close to appropriate for the medieval period, I'll use it only until I find something better, perhaps made of wood or horn.



Figure 3. The final bag and it's contents



Figure 4. A sturdy belt loop for carrying the kit

A first foray into savory pies

BY ISOBEL OF CARNEWYTH, FORESTER

Inspired by Preceptor Elias' Canterbury Tales Challenge for the Guild, The Forester's Tale Challenge, I decided to pursue meat pies. Chaucer's mention of meat pies ranges from referencing the wealth of The Franklin to the likelihood of the Cook giving everyone food poisoning through stale meat pies and other dishes. Meat or hand pies can be an easy method of bringing food for consumption on the road since the dough encloses the fillings and generally protects them from spoilage in the near term.

Option 3 of the challenge gives the prompt of an "item your persona might carry on a pilgrimage or other long journey" and while this may be a stretch, I do hope you, dear reader, will allow the indulgence since exploring these savory pies has been on my curiosity list for some time.

Savory pies can be found in many cultures, and my alternate persona, Doña Isabel de Tarragona hails from 12th/13th c Iberia. Seafood 'Empandas' first appear in a Catalan cookbook from c. late 15th c, *Llibre del Coch* by Ruperto de Nola, reflecting the

widespread presence of bread enclosed savory fillings far beyond Chaucer's England.

Modern empanadas are commonly found with beef and onions and many contemporary Spanish recipes heavily feature bell peppers or paprika. My Nana, born in Valencia, was known for her empanadas but unfortunately I did not have a family recipe to reference. I instead wanted to try to create a filling that would have been more likely in both Chaucer's and my alternate persona's time periods.

I started by looking at known meat pie recipes from source compilations such as *Gode Cookery* (www.godecookery.com/), *The Re-enactor's Cookbook* by M. Allyson Szabo, and *The Medieval Cookbook* by Maggie Black. Pairing meat with currants was common, and mushrooms were frequent as were alliums and herbs. I then looked to *The Compleat Anachronist* "A Brief Overview of Early Spanish Cuisine" by the Madrone Culinary Guild, edited by Eden Rain, and *124 recetas de la Cocina Medieval Española* by Pedro Ponce Palomares for verification on ingredients likely to be used in Spanish cuisine of the time period.

Being completely new to these types of recipes, I was relieved to find a starting point in a modern recipe from Ecuador, Layla

Pujol's Mushroom cheese empanadas (<https://www.laylita.com/recipes/mushroom-cheese-empanadas/>). The selling point being that she incorporates raisins (aka currants in Britain). With such an unusual flavor combination, I was grateful to have a reference.

In the end, I played it safe in quantities of various ingredients since I was uncertain how they would blend. They worked

marvelously and there is little I would change for next time. I leveraged mostly ingredients I had on hand, including the Goya empanadas prepared dough I had frozen just waiting for an opportunity such as this. Next time I may be brave enough to attempt that portion from scratch as well.

The basic recipe involved chopping two large portobello mushroom caps (~8 oz) and sauteeing in 2 tbsp of butter with 2 medium



Basic ingredients for the mushroom filling.

chopped shallots and 2 chopped cloves of garlic for around 10 minutes in a cast iron skillet. I then added ¼ cup raisins, 1 tsp balsamic vinegar, and 1 tsp honey ginger balsamic vinegar for another 3 minutes. I also added a bit of salt, white and black fresh ground pepper, ground cumin, and a small amount of dried thyme and fresh diced rosemary and oregano. The mixture was then cooled in the fridge overnight.

The next day, after the frozen prepared dough had thawed in the fridge, I split an egg into white and yolk. Each 5" round was brushed with a coating of egg white on the rim to help with sealing. A thin layer of mozzarella, a heaping tablespoon of the mushroom mixture, and about a tsp of goat cheese were then placed in the middle before folding the dough over and using a twist and curl crimping method to seal the edges with the egg white. The egg yolk was brushed on the tops of the empanadas to give them a golden finish. The rest of the recipe proceeded as the original, with 30 minutes cooling in the fridge to prevent leaking and then 20 minutes baking at 400 F.

Originally, I was going to make a cilantro mojo sauce, but in the end decided to taste test them with a dijon mustard, mustard being a popular ingredient in several medieval Spanish recipes, versus a cilantro

chutney I happened to have on hand. The empanadas were so delicious warm that neither sauce was needed, but they were versatile enough that either one complimented them sufficiently.

Now, finally to the forestry bit and Option 2 of the Challenge. I field tested my new savory hand pies by going to inspect several of the trees I have planted in my personal



Fresh out of the oven!

forest the last few years. The birch trees depicted here have embraced their new location and should grow to be a valuable part of my local ecosystem. While not a terribly long jaunt, the empanadas passed the test for portability and proved their value to a pilgrim or outdoors-person of any era or locale.

More photos from the experiment will be forthcoming at my SCA focused blog, <https://carnewythapotheca.wordpress.com>



Field tested and approved!

Spring Steirbach Campout

BY WILL OF LIDDESDALE, FORESTER

Over the weekend of 12-14 May 2023 the Forest of Steirbach and other locals gathered at Leesylvania State Park near Woodbridge, Virginia to practice their primitive camping skills. The weather did not look particularly promising with quite a bit of rain in the forecast, but the Forestry Guild still had a respectable turnout. Elias de Birton, Will of Liddesdale, and applicant Křišťan Věstonice of Moravia arrived on the grounds on the evening of 12 May, and enjoyed a meal and socializing around the fire that first evening. The expected nighttime thunderstorm failed to arrive, so the early arrivals were pleased to remain dry throughout the night and enjoyed a hearty



Saturday morning at camp

breakfast over an open fire made with flint and steel the next morning.

Early Saturday morning Baron Wulff Nuremberger and Baroness Genefe Wölfelin of Stierbach arrived with their children, providing the camp with a pavilion to serve as a gathering place in case of the expected inclement weather. Shortly afterwards Þorgrímr Kráka and Rúna Skógadóttir and their children arrived, with Finnebreth Wodeward and Domino arriving later in the afternoon.

There were a few occasional sprinkles during the morning but a steady rain began in the early afternoon so the plan to hold some training sessions on primitive woodcraft was abandoned in favor of the adults playing period games and socializing under the pavilion, while the youngsters played in the tents. However, Elias and Will had erected several trail tarps in a variety of configurations that morning which everyone took time to

Þorgrímr provides some fire safety reminders



Finnebreth and Rúna talk by the fire

examine, and Genefe, Rúna, Finnebreth and Elias braved the rain for a short walk in the woods and along the river.

Despite the rain, plenty of delicious food was prepared over the fire



The rain slowed in the late afternoon, and a cooking fire was made using flint and steel by lighting some kindling that had been set aside and protected from the rain. Many attendees cooked over the fire (and took the opportunity of working near flames to dry out a bit!). Evening socializing around the fire went late into the night.

Sunday, being Mother's Day, everyone broke camp quickly after breakfast and returned home. Another campout is being planned for the fall so those who need to demonstrate skills as part of completing the requirements

for the ranks of Underforester or Forester will have another opportunity to do so.

The adult attendees around the fire on Sunday evening, slightly soggy but in good spirits!



Upcoming Events

Summer Moot will be held, if guild members have business, virtually in early July.

Various officers are planning to be at the following events and may be available for oaths or skill displays:

Kings Assessment: July 8, 2023 in Afton, VA

Warrior Games: July 15, 2023 in Harleyville, SC

Pennsic War: July 28- Aug 13, 2023 in Slippery Rock, PA.

Sacred Stone Baronial Birthday: September 1-4, 2023 in Boonville, SC

Stierbach Baronial Birthday: Sept 9, 2023 in Spotsylvania, VA.

Silver Chalice: Sept 23, 2023 in Harleyville, SC.

Fall Coronation Oct 6-9, 2023 in La Plata, MD.

War of the Wings (Annual Moot): Oct 17- 22, 2023 in Boonville, NC.

Holiday Faire: Nov 18, 2023 in Fredericksburg, VA.

See <https://atlantia.sca.org/calendar/> for information on these and other events.

Contact Information

Guild websites:

<https://karfg.atlantia.sca.org>

[https://www.wiki.atlantia.sca.org/index.php?](https://www.wiki.atlantia.sca.org/index.php?title=Kingdom_of_Atlantia_Royal_Forestry_Guild)

[title=Kingdom_of_Atlantia_Royal_Forestry_Guild](https://www.wiki.atlantia.sca.org/index.php?title=Kingdom_of_Atlantia_Royal_Forestry_Guild)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AtlantiaRoyalForestryGuild>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvryzA24YqXKsbiamMcsZGg>



The Atlantia Forestry Guild is devoted to research, recreation, and education of forestry and outdoors skills regarding no trace camping, protecting the green spaces, self-reliance, wood craft, camp craft, bush craft, overland travel, inland water travel, outdoor cooking, survival, and other outdoor and primitive skills all in period fashion. It is the purpose of guild to research, recreate, educate and demonstrate historical tools, methods, equipment and techniques for living, camping, traveling and cooking, in the outdoors or in wilderness locations.

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For article submissions or questions about the newsletter or guild, please contact us at atlantiaforesters@gmail.com

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