

ATLANTIA'S FORESTRY GUILD // SUMMER 2024 // VOL. 4 ISSUE 1

Hurst & Horn

SOLSTITIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE KINGDOM OF ATLANTIA ROYAL FORESTRY GUILD



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“Prince With a Falcon” India, Mughal Empire, circa 1600-1605. IACMA A-83-1-4

Rechate

Missive from the Deputy of Science

Greetings foresters,

I write to you today in a new role, that as Deputy of Science for the Kingdom of Atlantia. As one of your former Chroniclers, I am still an active member of our Guild as well as the [Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Guild of Atlantia](#). In my new capacity, I will be working closely with the Kingdom Minister of Arts and Sciences to help promote the Sciences however I can. Sciences are self-defined and so if you feel your A&S work fits under that category, I am here to support you!

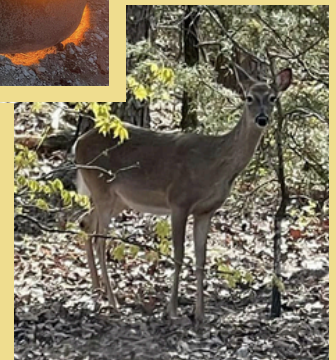
How are you spending your summer? Are you practicing forestry on your own property? Camping? Foraging? Diving into a tall stack of books for research? Enjoying the night stars and hoping to see fireflies? Those are all on my own list and I hope your curiosity drives you towards discovery and awe this summer.

Although Pennsic anchors many of our summers, War of the Wings in the fall is typically the big guild event of the year. The

summer can be a great time to start preparing a display or class to share with our guildmates and Kingdom. It would be wonderful to fill a Forestry track again during the camping event.

My proverbial door is always open whether you want to brainstorm display ideas, get some help with a wiki page, or just want to chat. Especially about Science!

Yours in Service,
Forester Isobel of Carnewyth



Spring adventures in VA, TN, and AR.

Guild display at Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival

BY ELIAS DE BIRTON, FORESTER

This spring, several members of the Forestry Guild collaborated on a display for the annual Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival (which was combined with the Tir-y-Don Baronial Birthday and Investiture this year). The goal of the display (in addition to showing off the work of our talented members, of course!) was to demonstrate some of the arts and sciences that fall within the guild's focus, and to hopefully show folks that we aren't solely dedicated to

walking long distances just to sleep on the ground (even if some of us do enjoy doing that, as well!). Some of what was displayed could be considered "traditional" A&S with wild-gathered materials or a connection to historic foresters, while other elements were a bit more "bushcraft-y".

The display included fibers dyed with foraged dyestuffs, such as mushrooms, lichen, walnut hulls, and weeds, cordage made from bark fibers, pit-fired ceramics made from wild clay, and items inspired by Chaucer's description of the yeoman forester in the General Prologue of the Canterbury Tales.



Between a few of us, the guild managed to fill an eight foot table nicely!

Forester Isobel and myself answered questions and talked to interested folks about the guild. There were also some opportunities for hands-on learning incorporated into the display. Folks who stopped by could try making two ply reverse-wrap cordage from raffia fibers (not an appropriate material for many popular personas, but a natural fiber that can be easily worked when dry) or striking sparks with flint and steel. Since bringing a tinder bundle to flame is frowned upon in most indoor venues, videos and photos showing guild members lighting fires with flint and steel played on a virtual picture frame (powered by a lawnmower battery - even when displaying, we aim for self-sufficiency!).

For a full list of the display components and links to documentation/additional information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/KASF-forestry> or use the QR code below!



Above: Elias demonstrating how to strike sparks with different styles of firesteels

Right: A pair of Spikes, ready for adventure!

Photos by Isobel of Carnewyth





Above: Cordage made from the inner bark of tulip poplar and Rose of Sharon, made by Elias and Eirik respectively, with instructions and an invitation to ask for a lesson

Right: Elias, ready to chat and/or teach, with demo materials illustrating a method for processing wild clay.



Left: Medieval hoods by Elias (left) and Isobel (right), flanking samples of wool and linen dyed by Isobel with foraged dyestuffs

Photos by Isobel of Carnewyth

Gifts from the Guild

BY ELIAS DE BIRTON, FORESTER

One of initiatives Warden Emeritus Finnebreth began during her time leading the guild was the practice of giving gifts at Coronation. This gives us an opportunity to make sure the guild is known to Their Majesties, and also a chance for members to establish a record of service to the guild (an option for fulfilling one of the requirements to become an Underforester) while showing off their talents! Gifts from the guild have been presented at the last three coronations, and work is currently underway on gifts for Prince Randall de Gloucester and Princess Iul'iana Krasnaia (to be given at their coronation this fall).

The Forest of Stierbach has been fortunate to receive a great deal of support from the Baronage, so when a new Baron and Baroness were invested, it seemed appropriate for the Forest to give them a gift (or, as I jokingly referred to it, "pay taxes").

The Stierbach populace badge is a bull, and for a prior Baronial Birthday, I had made and displayed small pit-fired clay cows (inspired by a Mycenaean piece on display at the VMFA). That display opportunity had been organized by Cynthia Anne of Silver Lakes, who seemed to

really enjoy them, and who was going to be stepping up as the Baroness of Stierbach.

With that in mind, I knew I wanted to make something similar as a gift from the Forest. I also wanted to keep with the tradition of giving functional gifts, though, as I feel that is also a key part of the guild's identity. I don't have the ability to glaze (and therefore seal) ceramics, so things like cups and bowls and the like were not an option.

With all that in mind, I made some small clay cow statues, but I put candle cups on their backs to turn them into candleholders! I harvested the clay from the creek at the back of my property, wet-processed it to remove impurities, and then mixed back in some of the sand that was removed during processing to act as temper.



Cow candleholders made from wild clay and pit-fired. The variation in color was produced by the firing process.

After the candleholders were shaped and very dry, I fired them in a pit that I dug with firewood that I gathered.

The candleholders were presented to the new Baron and Baroness on behalf of the Forest of Stierbach at Defending the Gate by Foresters Isobel, Ahmed, and myself. As more local forests become established, I encourage folks to consider “paying taxes” to their local baronage in appreciation of their support!



Presentation box for the candleholders, along with beeswax and LED candles

My Kingdom for a (pack) horse: some thoughts on carrying gear

BY ELIAS DE BIRTON, FORESTER

When it comes to carrying the components of a trekking kit, I think author Joseph Ruckman summarizes the situation we find ourselves in perfectly in his book "Recreating the American Longhunter: 1740 - 1790":

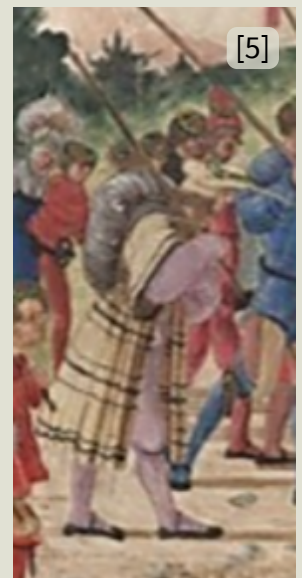
“Returning to my original point about foot travel, “trekking” on foot ... was something done only under the most pressing need, whereas we modern types do it for recreation ... For the modern trekker, what you carry on your back and how you carry it is really academic: the best compromise with history is that whatever you pack should be based on what was available at your chosen time and place, and appropriate for your persona.”

Because there was no such thing as recreational backcountry camping for the vast majority (if not all) of the times and cultures represented in the SCA, there are no perfectly historical methods for carrying a recreational backcountry camping kit. Folks have always travelled, but most did not set off into the woods with the express intent of spending the night sleeping on the ground.



One technique for carrying gear that is favored by some modern bushcrafters is wrapping items (such as a blanket, spare clothing, cookpot, etc.) in a tarp and lashing the bundle to a wooden packframe, often constructed from branches. Such packframes have a long history; Ötzi the Iceman is thought to have carried a hide bag lashed to a frame consisting of a U-shaped hazel rod and two narrow wooden boards (only these wooden components have survived) [1]. External frame packs do not seem to appear often in medieval European artwork, however, and those that do turn up seem to be relatively heavy affairs carried by peddlers, such as the firewood seller in the *Cris de Paris* [2] or the Shop-keeper from *The Dance of Death* by Hans Holbein the Younger [3].

Tied bundles carried on one's back appear slightly more frequently in depictions of travelers, even if I still wouldn't call it a common occurrence. These



bundles are sometimes carried by a strap worn horizontally across the chest and where the upper arm and shoulder meet [4], or by straps over the shoulders [5]. Some of these bundles seem to have a degree of structure that suggests some sort of packframe, but I have not seen one depicted.

The stability provided by a frame is quite helpful when trekking, however, so building one with tools and techniques that your persona would have been familiar with, while acknowledging the lack of documentation, may be a worthwhile “compromise with history”.

- 1) 2016. "The Iceman's equipment." South Tyrol Museum of Archeology. www.iceman.it/en/equipment/.
- 2) Hans Holbein the Younger. The Shop-keeper (from The Dance of Death), 1526. Woodcut, 6.7 x 5 cm. New York, The Met. www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/365211
- 3) 1500-1550. *Cris de Paris*. BnF, département Arsenal, RESERVE EST-264, plate 11. gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k1520576s/f27.item
- 4) 1400-1410. *Romance of Alexander, Alexander and Dindimus, Li livres du Graunt Caam*. Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Bodl. 264, fol. 1r. digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/objects/ae9f6cca-ae5c-4149-8fe4-95e6eca1f73c/
- 5) Albrecht Altdorfer. Baggage Train (from the Triumphal Procession of Emperor Maximilian I), 1512-1515. Watercolor, 45 x 93 cm. Vienna, the Albertina Museum. [sammlungenonline.albertina.at/?query=search=/record/objectnumbersearch=\[25261\]&showtype=record](http://sammlungenonline.albertina.at/?query=search=/record/objectnumbersearch=[25261]&showtype=record)



Kit carried (mostly rolled in a ground cloth and tied to a packframe) by the author on a trek in November 2022

Fire making class at Ruby Joust

The fire making class at Ruby Joust was small, but a lot of fun! Both Tristan and Alevina successfully struck sparks, caught an ember on charcloth, and brought a tinder bundle to flame. Photos were taken by Finnebreth Wodeward.

Top: Discussing the principle behind creating a spark by “shaving” a tiny piece of metal off of a fire steel with a spark, hard stone

Bottom: Class materials, including various styles of firesteel, flint and quartz shards, and various tins and tinder bundle materials



Upcoming Events

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

Bardic Madness: June 28-30, 2024 in Matthews, NC

Pennsic War: July 26- Aug 11, 2024 in Slippery Rock, PA.

Sacred Stone Baronial Birthday: September 9-8, 2024 in Boonville, NC

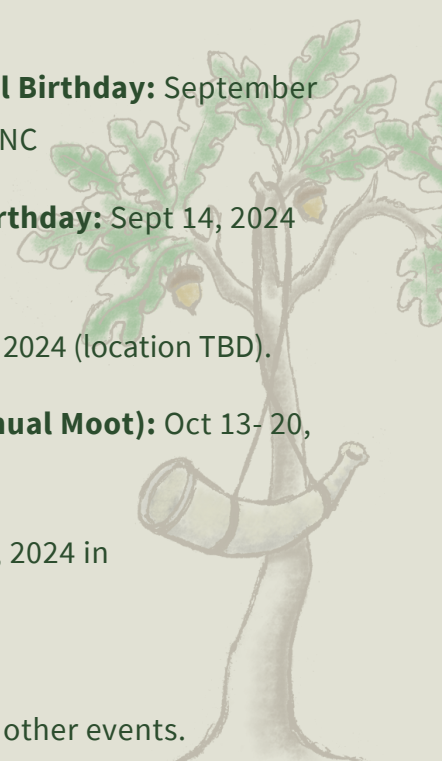
Stierbach Baronial Birthday: Sept 14, 2024 in Culpepper, VA.

Fall Coronation: Oct 5, 2024 (location TBD).

War of the Wings (Annual Moot): Oct 13- 20, 2024 in Boonville, NC.

Holiday Faire: Nov 16, 2024 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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Layout by Isobel of Carnewyth using Canva