

With His Own Two Hands

By Paul Moore

Many Oklahoma sportsmen and women increase their enjoyment of our great outdoors by using gear that they have had a hand in making themselves. Items and activities like loading their own shotgun shells or making their own knives. Keeping alive the memories of a great hunt or fishing trip by taking photographs and displaying them at home or office or using the feathers from a pheasant hunt to make

an enjoyable center piece to grace a Thanksgiving table.

One Sooner sportsman who adds meaning to his trips afield is Scott Andrews of Ardmore. Scott is an avid deer and turkey hunter. He also makes his own wing bone turkey yelper from birds he has harvested.

Six years ago he went to a local chapter banquet for the National Wild Turkey Federation. A wing bone turkey call made by

one of the other attendees was given as a gift at the banquet. Scott was able to get a close look at the yelper and fell in love with this type of call. He picked the hunter's brain who donated the gift and learned all he could about how to make a wing bone call. The next season, Scott and a buddy took birds they had harvested to the hunter they had met at the banquet and he made each of them a call.

According to Scott, "Making a call takes a bit of trial and error at first but can be mastered fairly quick." Basically, he starts with the three bones found in the wings of a wild turkey. There are three different sizes of bones in each wing and all three are used.

"There is a great deal of personal satisfaction in making something you can use in the field, and especially from parts of game you have harvested," says Andrews. "You can also get as fancy as you want with the decorating end of the whole process."

For more information on how to make your own turkey call log on to www.nwtf.org/tips_adventures or www.customcalls.com/makeawingbonecall1.htm.



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SARON TAYLOR

It is really special to me to be sitting under a tree with a call that I have made myself. It always brings back good memories from hunts past and the gratification of using parts from birds I have harvested is an added bonus, Andrews said.