

# EMPO NEWS

January 2022

empousinfo@gmail.com

www.empo.us



Members George Mueller, PA (Left) & Justin Haas, OH (Right)

Photo by Laurel Mueller

## Winter Rifle Frolic Fast Approaching

The annual Endless Mountains Winter Rifle Frolic is right around the corner. The event will be held Saturday, February 12, 2022 at the American Legion Post 510 in Laceyville, PA. Online registration and waivers may be completed at [www.empo.us](http://www.empo.us) Registration will be held at 9am and competitions will begin at 10am and conclude at 2pm. An awards ceremony will be held immediately following the close of the events. The Winter Rifle Frolic provides a day of primitive activity with lots of shooting, tomahawk throwing, mountain man novelty target shoot, and a long distance shot. Flintlock or percussion weapons with round balls only (no inlines). Primitive attire is not

required but encouraged. All competitions have an entry fee, and may be entered as many times as the participant wishes. The event is free to spectators. Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle will be held. Food will be available for purchase from the Legion in the afternoon.

**Monthly meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the American Legion Post 510 at 6pm, when possible.**

**Virtual meetings are held via Zoom when necessary. Check out [www.empo.us](http://www.empo.us) for details prior to each meeting.**

## Annual Scholarship Available Soon

Each year the Endless Mountains Primitive Outdoorsmen offer a scholarship to a local graduating high school senior who is pursuing some form of higher education. The scholarship application will be available on our website beginning February 14th and must be submitted no later than May 1st. **Continued on page 2.**

## Other Events

With each publication of this quarterly newsletter, it is our intention to include a section dedicated to listing events that our members might be interested in attending.

If you have an event you wish to include, please email detailed information to [empousinfo@gmail.com](mailto:empousinfo@gmail.com) **Continued on Page 5.**

## Membership

As a reminder, membership dues for each year are to be paid on or before September 30th. New Membership cards will be issued to all members in mid-February. To check the status of your membership please contact us via phone or email. A membership application/renewal form can be found on **Page 5.**

## Consider Supporting EMPO

Did you know that EMPO is now a federally registered not for profit entity, 501(c)(3)? That means your donation (not your dues) is 100% tax deductible!

The Endless Mountains Primitive Outdoorsmen are now offering tiered sponsorships. Donors of \$1,000 or more will be deemed Flintlock Sponsors and receive special recognition and an accompanying certificate. Donors of \$500 or more will be deemed Powder Horn Sponsors and receive special recognition and an accompanying certificate. Donors of \$100 or more will be deemed Tomahawk Sponsors and receive special recognition and an accompanying certificate. All donations will be used to enhance EMPO and help to support local outreach education and scholarships.

## 2022 Events

The club plans to host all three events this year. We will continue to monitor COVID guidelines and conditions with a positive outlook.

**Continued on Page 4.**



## How It All Started

What began as a fundraiser for the Oldest House in Laceyville, PA has transitioned into a new non-profit organization which hosts three annual events that are attended by hundreds each year. In 2008, Robin Robinson hosted his first small scale show featuring his personal collection as an opportunity to raise funds for the Oldest House. Each year his show continued to grow as others joined him for a glimpse at the past. Eventually the show expanded to the yard of the Oldest House and even welcomed a couple primitive campers (see photo below).

In 2012, the event outgrew the venue and the decision was made to seek another location for 2013. That is when Robin decided to move the event to the American Legion Post 510. After the 2013 Rendezvous other individuals with similar passions began to meet and discuss forming a club to continue growth in a more formal capacity. The Endless Mountains Primitive Outdoorsmen was formed in 2015 guided by the mission to educate, recreate, and preserve the customs and conditions of traditional weapons, crafts and artisans of early America.

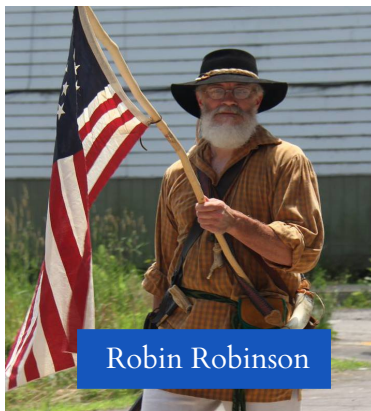
Robin said, "I was inspired by my good friend, Donny Arrowood and the organization that he belongs to (Lancaster County Longrifles)." Robin also noted that he enjoys how we offer a bit of everything for every

-one. He recognized that there was interest for an organization like ours, but he did not realize that the interest in our area would be so great. The Endless Mountains Primitive Outdoorsmen is now in the process of planning our 14th Rendezvous Muzzleloader Shoot Artisan Show. The club has grown from an idea to an organization with just over 200 members.

When looking through his scrapbook of photos and newspaper articles he reflected on past events. Robin noted, "It is hard to believe how far we have come in such a short time." Robin hopes to see the organization continue to grow.

Robin was the first president of EMPO and served as such for a number of years until personal reasons required that he step down. He currently serves on the board of directors and works closely to coordinate each of the events that the club hosts.

Robin also wished to express his gratitude to the American Legion for their unwavering support of EMPO as well as all of the members that belong to the club, "whether you are an active or inactive member, a board member or a general member you are part of the community that helps to grow our organization."



Robin Robinson

## Featured Artisan Alan Superko

In 2010, Alan harvested some saplings that he thought would make some nice walking sticks, which sparked his search for a hobby that he could work on over the winter.

As he worked on the walking sticks, which were plain at the time, Alan thought that it would be interesting to try carving some and that maybe he could sell a few. He made a phone call to his uncle, Bob Superko, who had built hundreds of muzzleloaders, pipe tomahawks, and accoutrements since the 1970s. Alan reached out for some pointers on carving and Bob agreed and said that he would love to visit and share some projects that he had completed.

When Alan visited, Bob showed him a few pipe tomahawks that he completed for a show. Al was in awe after admiring them and taking some photos. He inquired about methods and techniques used to create such nice pieces. Bob provided lots of pointers and suggested that Al give it a try and to reach out if he had any questions. That prompted Alan to purchase a kit and give it a try. After assembling the kit, and some engraving and inlay work, he returned to Bob's for some critiquing. After reviewing his work, Bob claimed that Al had a lot of potential. That set his new hobby into motion.

Al ended up purchasing more materials and building a half dozen pipe tomahawks of different styles and designs. In 2012, a coworker put him in touch with Robin Robinson about an event where he might be able to sell his goods. Once Robin saw Al's work, the invitation was open to attend his event at the Oldest House in Laceyville.

After selling a few tomahawks, and receiving high praise for his work, Alan (and his son) were hooked!

Since then he has built a large number of pipe tomahawks and all things muzzleloader. His pieces have homes locally, in other states, and in several other countries.

Robin Robinson, founder and board member (Left) and member Bret Hoyt (Right) chatting at the first campsite.

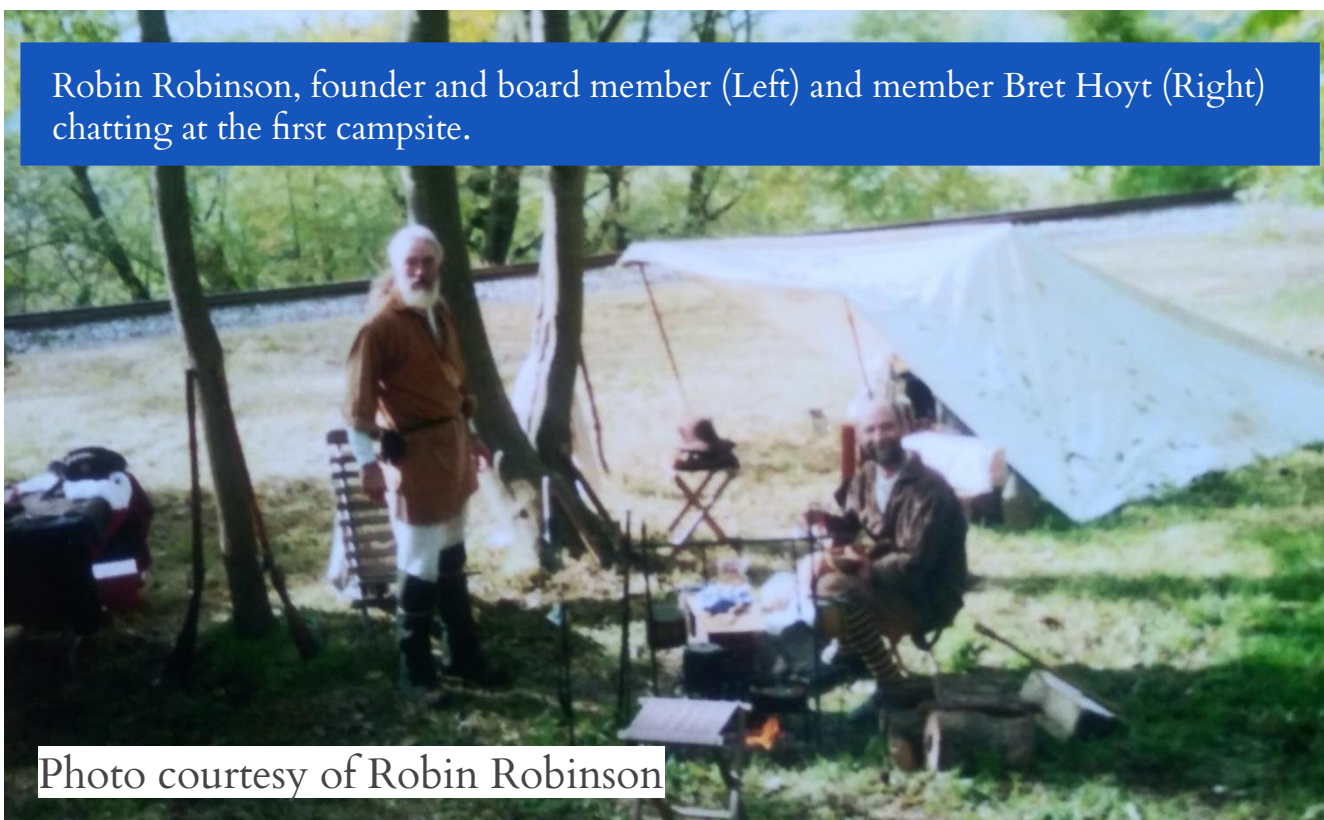


Photo courtesy of Robin Robinson



Photo by Cody Johnson

## Partnering with Historic Sites

Each year since its inception, EMPO has made a contribution to area historical institutions from its net earnings at its events' entry donations. "Area history museums and historic homes and sites are partners with EMPO in keeping the history of this region alive," notes EMPO President Al Superko. "It's only right that we contribute a little bit, when we can, to help them out."

Some of the area sites which have received donations in the past include The Oldest House, built in the 1780s and located in Laceyville; French Azilum near Wysox; the Wyalusing Museum in Wyalusing; and the Wyoming County Historical Society, headquartered in Tunkhannock.

The Oldest House is the oldest stick built home in the counties of Wyoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Bradford. Open Friday-Sunday each summer, the House showcases various exhibits about life and work throughout its 250+ year history, including a period clothing exhibit on the top floor. Used as a family home from the 1780s through the 1960s, the House has also served as a stop on the Susquehanna River and a church/meeting house; it housed members of the Lacey family, for whom Laceyville is named, for almost 100 years. Open Friday-Sunday from 1-4 pm all summer. For more information, see the website: [the-oldest-house.com](http://the-oldest-house.com)

French Azilum is the site of a purpose-built colony which existed from 1793-1803 and housed noble and aristocratic refugees from the French Revolution. It had originally been hoped that Marie Antoinette herself might escape the guillotine and settle along the banks of the Susquehanna. A short informative film in the museum cabin as well as a self-guided tour of the site and its outbuildings, including a working Blacksmith Shop and historic barn with timbers from the 1700s, culminates in a guided tour of the LaPorte House, built by the son of one of Azilum's original settlers. Open all summer on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11-4 pm, Azilum also hosts special events like Family Fun Day, Vino & Van Gogh, Themed Teas, and a Civil War Weekend. For more information, see the website: [thefrenchazilum.com](http://thefrenchazilum.com).

The Wyalusing Museum contains a wealth of artefacts, manuscripts and photographs of the history of Wyalusing and its immediate surrounding area. Located along the Susquehanna River, which was the 'highway' before road, canal and then train travel became possible in the late 19th century, Wyalusing was a major business and economic center on the main route from Towanda to Tunkhannock and points in 'the Valley' and what would become Wilkes-Barre. Some of the area's most comprehensive collections of Original Peoples' stone tools are housed at the Museum, which is open June through October, Saturday and Sunday, 12-4 pm. For more information see the website: [wyalusingmuseum.com](http://wyalusingmuseum.com).

The Wyoming County Historical Society is both a repository and a resource for nearly all types of history of the area. With extensive microfiche records of newspapers and other materials dating back to the 18th century, as well as a genealogical library and general information, the Society is the place to start for research into Wyoming County's past. For more information, see the website: [pawchs.org](http://pawchs.org).

## Annual Scholarship

**Continued from page 1.** Since 2018 EMPO has been proud to offer its annual scholarship. Past recipients of the EMPO Scholarship include: Current secretary Nick Superko (Wyalusing High School 2018), Tyler Peterson (Tunkhannock High School 2019), Colton Miller (Wyalusing High School 2020), and Catherine Brown (Wyalusing High School 2021). In addition to being available for download on our website the scholarship application will also be available through the high school guidance offices in the following school districts beginning February 15: Elk Lake, Lackawanna Trail, Lake Lehman, Northeast Bradford, Sullivan County, Towanda, Tunkhannock, and Wyalusing. The scholarship is made possible through gracious donations and fundraising at our June Black Powder Scholarship Shoot.

## 2022 Events

Continued from Page 1. The first event that EMPO hosts each year is the *Endless Mountains Winter Rifle*, which takes place the second Saturday in February each year.

The second event will be the *Endless Mountains Black Powder Scholarship Shoot*. The event takes place the first Sunday in June. This year's event is Sunday, June 5th. Registration will open in advance on our website or in person at 9am the day of the event. Competitions will begin at 10am and conclude at 2pm. An awards ceremony will follow the conclusion of the competitions.

The proceeds from the scholarship shoot are used, in combination with donations, to offer our annual scholarship of \$1,000.

The third event 2022 will be the *Endless Mountains Rendezvous Muzzleloader Shoot and Artisan Show*. The event takes place the weekend after Labor Day. This year's event is September 10th and 11th. If you are interested in being a camper or vendor please download the form on our website and register by August 10th.

## EMPO Officers

Alan Superko Jr. – President

Henry Rahm – Vice President

Nicholas Superko – Secretary

Roxy Gilbert-Wells – Treasurer

Alan Superko Sr. – Quartermaster

## Contact Us

*All events are held at the American Legion Post 510 in Laceyville, PA.*

Mailing Address: 241 Doolittle Hill Road, Laceyville, PA 18623

Phone: 570-721-5209

Email: [empousinfo@gmail.com](mailto:empousinfo@gmail.com)

Website: [www.empo.us](http://www.empo.us)

Find us on Facebook and Instagram

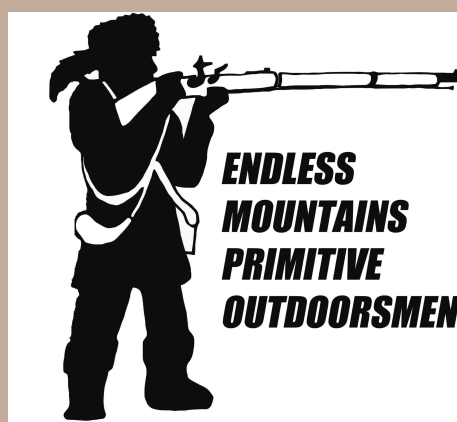
## Member Submissions

With each publication of this Newsletter, a section will be devoted to member submissions, (pending editor approval). These may include photos, creations, recipes, etc.



Member Levi Bonnice (above) with his double muzzleloader doe harvest. He took them within minutes of each other after they stuck around so he could reload.

New Member Chris Teetsell (Below) with his muzzleloader buck that he harvested with a gun made by member gunmaker Dave Williams.



## Awarded Grants

EMPO is pleased to report that it has been awarded a Publicity & Advertising Grant from the Wyoming County Room Tax and the Endless Mountains Visitors' Bureau. This is the third consecutive year that EMPO has been granted funding for advertising the club and its activities.

The grant is geared towards Wyoming County based organizations which draw people to the county from more than 50 miles away; EMPO definitely belongs in that category, as our Winter Frolic, Spring Shoot and most certainly our Muzzleloader Rendezvous welcome visitors from New England as well as the near Midwest and the Del-Mar-Va area.

EMPO has been recognized several times by visitors and participants in our events as one of the friendliest and best-run organizations of its kind in the region, educating and demonstrating living history from the era of the Pennsylvania Frontier (1740-1840). \$4500 was requested for 2022, and should be received by mid February.

The money will be spent on national, regional and local print ads in magazines and newspapers, as well as on brochures and flyers informing the public about EMPO and its annual events. Two years ago, large, reusable banners for EMPO and its events were also purchased with money from this grant.

EMPO uses promotional tools such as brochures to liaise with area hostelrys and restaurants. This provides a structured, informative and engaging resource to visitors which cross-promotes EMPO and its events alongside these hotels, B&Bs and eateries.

Special Thank you to our marketing and grant lead Deborah Courville.



Photo by Nick Superko

# Membership

Interested in becoming a member of the Endless Mountains Primitive Outdoorsmen? Application is available on the Website [www.empo.us](http://www.empo.us) or return this

## Membership Application & Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Sex: Male ( ) Female ( )

Home Address:

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Family: Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Child \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_

Child \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_

Preferred Communication?

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership (\_\_\_) Renewal (\_\_\_)

Membership fees:

_____ Individual Adult	\$10
_____ 3 Year Individual Adult	\$25
_____ Family (4 members)	\$15
_____ 3 Year Family	\$40
_____ Youth (ages 13-18)	\$5
_____ Child (age 12 and under)	Free

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to EMPO*

Return form and payment to:

EMPO % Nick Superko

241 Doolittle Hill Rd

Laceyville, PA 18623

# Related Events

**THE 18TH CENTURY  
ARTISAN SHOW**

**Feb. 4 & 5, 2022**  
**Country Cupboard**  
**Lewisburg, PA**

Fri.-9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sat.-9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Admission \$5

**Gunmakers Fair  
at Kempton**

**July 29, 30, & 31, 2022**

Open to the Public

Friday, July 29 and Saturday, July 30, 9am to 5pm

Sunday, July 31, 9am to 3pm

Admission \$5.00 per person

15 and under are free

Held at the **Kempton Community Center**  
83 Community Center Drive, Kempton, PA

Only 3.5 miles past Dixon's Muzzleloading Shop  
where this event was formerly held for 37 years  
(See map on back)

Featuring Seminars, Gunmakers, Artisans, Horners,  
Living History Reenactors and Vendors of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Muzzleloading Culture

YES, WE WILL BE CONTINUING THE  
RIFLE AND ACCOUTERMENTS JUDGING AND AWARDS.

Visit our website and Facebook page for more details

<https://gunmakersfair.wixsite.com/gunfair> <https://www.facebook.com/GunmakersFairKempton>

Presented by: