

Sporting Wood Creation's African Shooting Sticks

Elisabeth and Jim Morando's Sporting Wood Creations makes a variety of items using exotic woods and animal hides and parts. For some years they've produced a variation on the age-old "African shooting sticks" so familiar to safari veterans.

Without question, African shooting sticks are the best aid to accurate shooting ever devised by man. In Africa they're made from three six-foot lengths of stiff but light wood, with one end bound in a Gordian knot of tire-tube strips. Total cost: \$0.00. Emulating them here is a problem, because no American wood is both light enough and sufficiently stiff, and available in a uniform diameters for six feet. Anyone who has returned from Africa and tried to make a set from three lumberyard dowels knows the problem.

Jim has experimented with various woods, improving the design with each generation until now he is close enough to perfect to rate a GRAY'S BEST. The newest iteration is collapsible—essentially a set of short sticks with three screw-on leg extensions—but the short set can be used alone from a sitting position. The tops are encased in Cape buffalo hide to protect your stock and dampen sound. The shafts are bloodwood, a red, straight-grained, solid (but relatively light) and stiff (even at about $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch diameter) wood from South America. It would be nice if they came equipped with a tracker to carry them, but at \$349 you can't have everything. www.sportingwoodcreations.com

