



Neil Cost

1. Neil Cost on turkey calls...(02:33)

<Video begins with N. Cost walking out of his house>

Narrator: Neil Cost grew up in Oklahoma, hunted small game for the family table, and shot his first wild turkey when he was seven years old. He was raised with Comanche Indians.

<Video shows N. Cost inside his shop>

N. Cost: They learned to call animals, you know, with their natural voices. Some of the older Indians, and I'm talking about the ones up in the eighties and nineties, they told me that-that you could make a-a call with a piece of rock or slate, you know, and a deer rib bone that would make a sound just like a turkey that should be a call.

<Video shows N. Cost carving a turkey call>

Narrator: Neil made his first box call when he was twelve years old and he's still making them six decades later.

<Video shows N. Cost arranging a number of box calls in a row>

N. Cost: Every turkey call should have three distinct sounds. *<N. Cost imitates the noise as he uses the call to reproduce it>* Eee, yack yack yack yack, wol wol wol wol. So that's what I have to look for, [see].

<Video shows large piles of lumber>

N. Cost: It's actually a musical instrument.

Narrator: And as any violin maker will tell you, the better the wood, the sweeter the sound.

N. Cost: This is the piece of cedar right here that I'm lookin' at. *<N. Cost approaches one of the piles>* If I had to suggest to anybody, how to start making turkey calls. I would say take two years to learn about wood.

<Video shows N. Cost chiseling at a call box>

If you just take a block of wood-take away everything-it don't sound like a turkey. <He laughs>

<Video shows N. Cost and another person at a wood planar>

Slow, and one smooth motion we're talkin'.

Narrator: Neil has always shared his knowledge and patience with other call makers.

Man 1: I don't know if anybody'll ever make a better turkey call than he does. But, you know, I just hope someday I-I can make a good call. He's-he's just a legend, you know.

<Video shows a plaque with Neil D. Cost written on it>

Man 2: Neil is probably one of the best known box call makers in the world. He tunes his own calls by hand and we know when we go to the woods and we wanna talk turkey, that that gobbler's gonna listen.

<Video blacks out momentarily and then shows N. Cost displaying turkey spurs>

N. Cost: I gotta couple of pretty nice birds. That one was a real nice bird there, probably as good as I've ever gotten and he had [an inch] and three quarters spurs.

<Video shows a plaque displaying turkey beards>

Man 2: <Dubbed over N. Cost speaking> Neil has hunted turkeys so long, the sound that he has in his head is so perfect, that he tries to reach that perfect sound.

N. Cost: You hear that old gobbler up there right at daylight, you know, soundin' off back over there. Make the chills run up your back <laughs>.

<Video shows close up of N. Cost>

I like the one on one, just you and you're out there and that turkey's out there and you can't make him do nothin' he don't wanna do.

<Video shows N. Cost placing a call box in a vise>

And I don't think anybody can make an absolute perfect turkey call. I mean, you know, absolutely duplicate the sound of the turkey; I don't think you can do it.

<Video shows N. Cost holding a finished box>

But you can come close enough to where you can fool a turkey.

<Video shows a portrait of two wild turkeys>

And I hope somebody will be able to use my calls for a lot of years to come. Still be takin' them birds down.