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|  **Based in London and New York, October Films is one of the UK's most respected and longest established factual television production companies. Since 1989 our productions have received over 100 international awards. We produce a wide range of programming, from factual entertainment shows to high-quality history and science programming, from hard-hitting current affairs to factual drama.** **ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE OF A LIFETIME? COULD YOU SURVIVE IN THE WILD, TAKING ON NATURE’S ULTIMATE TESTS? IF YOU’RE 18+ AND WANT THE CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY IN AFRICA,****PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW AND SEND IT BACK ALONG WITH TWO RECENT PHOTOS.****ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE FORM PLEASE RETURN IT TO:** **CASTING@OCTOBERFILMS.CO.UK****APPLY TODAY!** |
| **PLEASE NOTE: By submitting this Application Form, you are voluntarily applying to be considered as a contributor to a television and/or other audiovisual programme (the “Programme”), and in doing so you agree to the Terms and Conditions set out below. To be eligible to take part in Programme, you must have citizenship in the United States of America; you must fill out this entire application form (the “Application Form”) with two recent photos attached.****October Films (“we”, “us”, “our”) makes no guarantee that you will be considered for the Programme, or that you will be further contacted by us in connection with the Programme or otherwise. If after submitting the Application Form you are offered the opportunity to take part, you will be required to enter into our standard form of contract and undertake disclosures including (but not limited to) criminal record checks.** |

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| **HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE PROGRAM?** |
| I was approached by Didi Mae Hand. |
| **WHERE DO YOU LIVE?** |
| Seven Hills, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio in the United States |
| **AVAILABILITY**Do you have any major commitments between May and September 2015? Please note, you will only be needed for 8 weeks.  |
| Since I run a Wilderness Survival/Self-Reliance training school for the past 18 years I do have classes scheduled however if need be I can have my instructors and staff teach the classes. |
| **HAVE YOU EVER FEATURED/APPEARED ON TV BEFORE OR BEEN APPROACHED BY A TELEVISION PRODUCTION COMPANY?**If so, please state the name of the production, the company and date of broadcast (if applicable). |
| I’ve been approached at least 8 times by various television show producers however none of the shows materialized. |
| **IF YOU HAVE ANY ONLINE CLIPS OR VIDEOS OF YOURSELF ONLINE, PLEASE CUT N PAST THE URL(S) BELOW:** |
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| **PHOTOS**Please insert two recent photos below *or* send them separately in JPG format and the Casting Team will add them for you.  |
| TomTom_NM  |

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| **CONTACT INFORMATION** |
| **FULL NAME:** | **Tom Laskowski** | **TODAY’S DATE:** | **3/10/15** |
| **GENDER** |  **Male** |
| **JOB TITLE:** |  **Director of Midwest Native Skills Inst.** |
| **Marital Status:**  | **Married** |
| **PARTNERS NAME:** | **Cheryl Laskowski** |
| **YOUR AGE:** | **58** |
| **AVAILABILITY SUMMER 2015? (APPROX 8 WEEKS)** |  **Yes, can be arranged** |
| **NB: YOU MUST BE OVER 18** |
| **ADDRESS:** | **1721 E. Sprague Rd. Seven Hills, Ohio 44131 USA** |
| **EMAIL ADDRESS:** | **Tom@SurvivalSchool.com** |
| **CONTACT NUMBER:** | **1-888-886-5592** |
| **SKYPE NAME:** | **(If you already have an account)** |
| **TWITTER NAME:** | **(If you have an account)**  |
| **INSTAGRAM NAME:** | **(If you have an account)** |

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| **TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF** |
| Tom is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University (*1978 – BS Electrical Engineering*) and achieved an MBA from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1982. Tom worked as an electrical engineer from 1978 to 1997.Throughout his life Tom has been interested in the outdoors. During college he became fascinated with the skills that allowed frontiersmen like Simon Kenton and Daniel Boone to be able to live off the land for months at a time using only their skills and knowledge to obtain what was needed to survive. In the late 80’s and 1990’s while working as an engineer, Tom used his vacation time to travel the country to seek out people who were considered “experts” in specific aspects of wilderness survival. Some of these teaches include:* Tom Brown Jr. (internationally renowned author and tracker expert – Apache traditions)
* Errette Callahan (national recognized flint knapper, pottery and bowyer)
* Daniel Firehawk (Native American survival historian – Cherokee traditions)
* Charles Worsham (Primitive Fire maker, Tracker and Awareness/Invisibility)
* Del Hall (survival expert)
* Barry Keegan (fire making and primitive skills expert)
* Robert Berg (primitive weapons expert)
* Ray Reitze (Master Maine Guide,& survival expert – Mic Mak / Cree traditions

Tom augmented this formal training with field experience; testing and applying each new skill in the wild. In 1997, Tom left the corporate world to follow his dream of sharing his knowledge with others by starting a wilderness survival school. His goal was to provide comprehensive wilderness training through small classes with individual instruction, all at affordable prices. Midwest Native Skills Institute was born.To this day a majority of Tom’s experience comes from practical applications i.e. going out into the wilderness with a knife and blanket in every season throughout the year and putting his skills to the test, refining them, and testing the refined versions again and again. Tom agrees that theory is a good foundation, but practical application is the true test of survival knowledge. Tom believes that “if the instructor does not “own” the skills they should not be teaching them”.Tom is also a highly sought-after survival expert by the media. Below are a listing of some of his appearances:* Guest appearances on several Cleveland radio stations (*WRUW, WGAR,* etc.)
* Regularly scheduled television guest on FOX8 and has been featured as a survival expert on their popular "*That's Life*" program discussing outdoor wilderness skills and other survival topics
* Fox 8 News’ “Disaster Preparedness” Special Report
* Guest appearances on "*The Big Wild*" syndicated radio show
* Consultant on the third season of the hit CBS television series *“Survivor”*
* Contributor and Fire expert for a *Field and Stream’s* Survival Guide
* "Specialty Skills" instructor at southern Ohio’s *World Survival Institute*
* *Invited guesst instructor at Wintercount Primitive Skills Gathering (Phoenix, AZ), Falling Leaves Rendezvous (GA),and Rabbitstick Gathering (Rexberg, ID)*
* Invited “Shadow Scout” teaching assistant with Tom Brown’s “*Scout*” classes
* Survival Expert guest on ESPN radio show “BHK Outdoors” (107.9 FM)

On a professional level Tom has developed a new design in knife sharpeners and developed the “Right Angle Survival Tool” which resulted from his field experience in using survival and wilderness equipment.To insure his students have access to a practical, high quality, carbon steel knife Tom personally designed the Aniolek, a 3.5” blade, general purpose sheath knife and the Aniol, an 11” “Big Chopper” Survival Knife.Both knives are use 01 tool steel and are made by custom knife maker LT Wright of Blind Horse Knives in Steubenville, Ohio.MNSI, in conjunction with Journey Productions, is also producing a series of Wilderness Survival Instructional videos including two of the most comprehensive fire-making videos available, **Fire Volume#1 – Primitive Fire Making** and the exceedingly popular***"40+ Ways to Make Fire Without Matches,****"* that includes making a fire from ice, soda cans, and even Jell-O! Other videos in the series are **Fin, Feather and Fur – Field Dressing Small Game** and an upcoming **Shelter Video** which will integrate an analysis of the heat transfer mechanisms and incorporate that knowledge into practical shelter designs. |

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| **WHERE do you live and what is IT like?** |
| I live in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio but spend a great deal of my time (when not teaching classes on survival) in the woods in a variety of places across the United States. When I’m in the north woods of Maine in the winter besides the obvious of being cold (-30F) its quiet and peaceful. At night the stars, shooting stars and constellations provide entertainment that rivals the best cable TV channel. When in the deserts of the western United States you realize how hostile an environment can be IF you’re not prepared for it. There you need to keep your guard up since a rattlesnake of scorpion that decided to make a home in your shoe one night can turn your dream trip into a nightmare.When I’m in the woodlands of Ohio and Pennsylvania I’m amazed that everything a person needs to survive, or better yet “thrive”, is provided by nature. All you need is the skills and the knowledge on how to use those raw materials to create the basics of survival…Shelter, Fire, Water, Food. |

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| **What are people’s first reactions of you and are they correct? If not, how long does it take for them to change their minds?** |
| Most of the people that I meet know about the survival school and the success it has (we were chosen by American Survival Guide as one of the Top 5 Survival Schools in the USA in 2014 (Nov 2014 issue) so at first people look at me as “the survival expert from MNSI” and are quiet, doing little talking and a lot of listening. It takes only an hour or so of talking to me one-on-one to learn that I’m a down to earth person that truly wants to pass on “the old ways of wilderness survival” to them. They see that I really care about them learning the skills and discovering within them the self-confidence and thrill it is to start a fire by rubbing 2 sticks together or navigating by the stars. |

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| **Where have YOU travelled, what was it like?** |
| I’ve travel throughout the United States, Canada, Alaska and have been down to the British Virgin Islands. Each place I went had its own “personality”. I always tried to get off the “beaten path” to see the place I’m traveling in as the “locals” see it and not as a tourist passing through, eating at the same fast food chains that I have in my home town. |

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| **ARE YOU COMPETITIVE or a team player?** Please give examples. |
| BothI am very competitive when I need to match my skills against someone else, however I work great win a team since a team can produce greater results than a single person. I still smile when I think of the years in school when I played basketball and our team, by working together, ran circles around our competitors.The way I approach survival it’s not a team sport. You need to rely on yourself since if your plan is to rely on a team of people, those people may have their own agenda or might not be there when you need their skills. I prefer to have all of the basic skills I need to get me through most any situation I find myself in.With that said, survival can be a team oriented event with some people having a speciality but everyone having all of the basics. This way there is no “dead-weight” and people can help and fill in when needed. |

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| **Do you see yourself as AN extreme adventurer who can take on anything?** |
| Yes I am an extreme adventurer (I’ve sky dived, earned my private pilots licenses, I am a certified scuba diver, own and drive my own 900 HP drag racing car for ¼ mile drag racing, and take motorcycle trips across the country by myself) but I’m too smart to answer “yes I can take on anything”. What I can say is that I like to gain the skills I need for a certain situation and if I feel my skills can meet the challenge I will take on that situation. Anything less than that is reckless and your failure or success is reliant upon luck rather than skill. **One thing that works in my favour is my engineering background. I look at a situation and analyse it both from the scientific as well as the survival / primitive skills point of view.** |

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| **WHAT SURVIVAL SKILLS DO YOU HAVE??** |
| I’ve been running a survival school for 18 years so I have about all of the survival skills one would need to survive and thrive in the United States. They include Fire Builds, Shelter, Traps, Trapping, Tracking, Food Preservation, Navigation, Awareness, Water procurement and purification, Weather forecasting, Bow Making, Flint knapping, Cordage Making, North America Edible and Medicinal plants, Primitive Cooking, Weapons such as the Atlatl etc. |

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| **WHY DO YOU THINK YOU COULD SURVIVE IN THE WILD? BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.** |
| I’ve done it…I try to go out at least once every season with only a knife and a blanket and live it the woods for a week or so. It’s a good way to keep up my survival skills. I feel if I cannot do the things I teach, I should not be teaching anymore. I’m in good physical condition but survival in the wilderness is not about being in top physical condition, its about knowing what to do and how to do it with the materials at hand. Sure, being in top physical shape will help but its not the main thing that will keep you alive. |

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| **wHat would you say is your biggest character flaw? why?** |
| I like to have people “like me”.That often leads me to cut myself short…for example when pricing my classes I really try to keep the prices affordable for most people who want to learn the skills. Many have told me I should raise my prices …but if I do so some of the people who really want to learn these skills will not be able to afford the classes. Needless to say I’m not a wealthy man in terms of finances but I am making a living at doing what I love. |
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| **ARE YOU A LEADER OR FOLLOWER? EXLPAIN HOW AND WHY?** |
| I’m definitely a leader…unless there is someone who is more qualified than me, then I’ll back-off a little….as long as that person TRULY is more qualified for that particular task or situation.To portray yourself as a leader if you’re not the best person to lead just makes you a stupid person. |
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| **HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANY HAIRY MOMENTS IN THE WILD (WITH ANIMALS, ETC.)?** |
|  If I did I wouldn’t be a very good survival instructor since part of survival is being prepared for whatever situation you encounter. |
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| **do you have any fears / phobias?** |
| No, no fears or phobias |
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| **what do you think is the biggest challenge of living wild?** |
| The first 3-5 days is the most challenging of a survival situation. That’s when you’re making fire for the first time, making shelter, finding and purifying water, making traps to catch food etc. This all takes a lot of work and a lot of energy. After you get all of those basics done it’s a simple matter of just improving what you already made. |
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| **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** |
| **Do you have a valid and up to date PASSPORT?**(If selected you will be invited to join the team in Africa, hence a passport is needed) | Yes |
| **Do you have any pending court cases, unspent convictions or a criminal record?**(Please note this will not necessarily affect your application but must be included) | No |
| **Do you have any medical conditions, allergies, disabilities or requirements? Are you currently on any medication?** **If so, please list meds and reason for use.**(Please provide details including dates of diagnosis/treatment) | NoSynthroid of my thyroid and meds to keep my blood pressure normal. |

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| IMPORTANT INFORMATION  |
| By submitting this Application Form, you warrant and undertake that you have answered all of the questions on the Application Form fully, honestly and accurately, and confirm that you have not misled or attempted to mislead us in any way as to your identity, experience or health or in any way. You agree to keep us informed of any change to these circumstances or the information and/or data set out in the Application Form. If you are found to have (or we reasonably believe that you have) knowingly supplied inaccurate, misleading or false information, you understand that you may be immediately disqualified from taking part in the Programme. If any of the information given in the Application Form is found to be false, we will be entitled in our sole discretion to exclude you from the contributor selection process or from appearing in the Programme.If you are selected as a potential contributor to the Programme, you will be required to enter into an agreement with us which shall include our standard terms for engagement of contributors. If you fail to do so, this will result in you forfeiting all rights as a contributor without further notice.You understand that if your application is considered for the next stage of the selection process, we will ask you for further information including further information about whether you have ever been cautioned, charged or convicted of a criminal offence, have any criminal prosecutions pending or have ever been arrested or been the subject of an official police caution. We may ask you for the details of any such occurrences, and may carry out criminal records checks or other background checks and you authorize us to carry out the same in order to verify any of the information supplied and you agree to provide us with any assistance or further information necessary to do so.You understand that, even if you are selected as a contributor, we have no obligation to produce the Programme and if the Programme is made there will be no obligation on us or any broadcaster to broadcast it. We reserve the right at all times in our absolute discretion to change, extend, cancel or curtail the application process, including without limitation, the structure, content and dates as we see fit.For the avoidance of doubt, we have no obligation whatsoever to return any materials (including without limitation photographs) submitted by you as part of this application, and we are in no way obligated to use any such materials in connection with the Programme. We will not be liable or refund any costs and/or expenses incurred by you or any third party as a result of submitting and/or making an application to appear in the Programme, including without limitation costs of internet access, fees, any telephone calls made/received, travel costs, accommodation, incidental costs, charges, fees, expenses or taxes.Due to the number of applications we usually receive, we cannot reply to every applicant regarding our decision. All decisions taken by us concerning selection of the contributors are final and you agree not to challenge or appeal against those decisions. **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE USE OF YOUR DATA/INFORMATION**Personal data and sensitive personal data which you supply to us herein will be retained by us and by submitting the Application Form you agree that we may hold and process your information and share your information with relevant parties in connection with the Programme. Your personal information will be kept securely and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.If you are not selected as a potential contributor then your application and your information will be deleted after a reasonable amount of time.  |

**END OF APPLICATION FORM**

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO APPLY.**