



PRODUCT NEWS



Designed, engineered, and manufactured by George Lesche, the Raptor has proven itself to be a very tough digging tool. With an overall length of 14-1/2" and fabricated from 4130 chrome molly virgin steel, this heat-treated and tempered digging tool is designed to give a lifetime of service! Angled for leverage and cupped to increase the amount of soil it can move, the Raptor, is a great tool for surface hunting, as well as working those relic-bearing layers in a Civil War hut site!

The Raptor: A New Digger From Predator Tools

By Ed Fedory

There's an awful lot of digging tools out there on the market. Tools designed for competition hunting... water hunting... prospecting... multi-pur-

pose tools... general-purpose tools... all-purpose tools. I guess that's why the introduction of a *new* digging tool might get lost in the onslaught. To be

noticed in the throng, a new tool must be built to withstand punishment and be innovative— it's got to be tougher than nails, and take the abuse I'm going to put it through. I don't want a tool that's just "good enough." When I put my cash on the counter, I demand a tool that's going to last more than one relic hunting season. A digging tool that will last a lifetime is pretty much what I'm looking for, I figure. George Lesche's new Predator Tool, the Raptor, meets all of my requirements for a great digging tool!

Built to the rugged standards of all Predator Tools, the Raptor, is 14-1/2" in overall length, and has an 8" blade that is 3-3/8" wide at its widest point. The blade design is unique... it is *angled* for good leverage, and *cupped* to handle a lot more soil than your average digger. The handle is cushioned, not only making it easier on your hands, but also offering a superb grip. Additionally, the Raptor comes with a choice of sheaths, either leather or Cordura, for carrying ease on your belt.

I had the opportunity to field test the Raptor on a recent hunting trip in Virginia. Once we had removed the overburden from the soldiers' winter hut sites and entered the relic-bearing layer of soil, the Raptor was put through its test. The heat-treated and tempered blade easily removed the soil from around delicate artifacts, and with equal ease cut into the walls where our metal detectors indicated a target. During the entire three days of digging, the Raptor never left my side. There were at least a half dozen other Raptors on that field, and I don't think any of

them had an idle moment!

I used the Raptor for my surface hunting, as well, and some of those recovered Minies were deep... no problem for the Raptor! Recoveries were made faster, too, allowing me more time to detect.

There's one aspect of relic hunting that most of us really don't care to discuss. We don't like to admit the fact that on more than one occasion when we reached for our digging tool, we realized that we had left it beside the last place we were digging. Most of us have done this more than once. Of course, if you happen to be searching in an open field with numerous targets, the search for that missing digging tool might prove to be rather simple. However, if you're in the brush and haven't

had a signal run through your headset in the last 15 minutes, the search might last for an extended amount of time. Well, the Raptor's blade is painted *bright orange!* That's going to make my next search for a misplaced digging tool a lot easier. It's nice to know that someone is paying attention to the small details back at Predator Tools.

The Raptor with the cordura sheath runs a modest \$31.95, and if you prefer the leather sheath, it's \$29.95... not a bad deal for a digging tool that will last a lifetime!

For more information on the Raptor and the rest of the line of fine tools designed and engineered by George Lesche at Predator Tools, check out their website at predatortools.com ☐