

***Backtracks, LLC
Presents***

***Woodsmoke
The School of the Woods***

July 8-14-2012

Tetonia, Idaho

Register Now - \$275 (early registration)

The Woodsmoke Classic Camping and Bushcraft Rendezvous – *Including*

- *The Teton Basin Re-Encampment - July 6-8, 2012*
- *The International Classic Camping and Bushcraft Symposium – July 9-11*
- *The University of Woodcraft – July 11-14*

• *Register Early - If you register prior to March 1, you can save \$75 and register at the \$275 early registration rate. After March 1 the fee goes up to \$325. After June 1 the fee goes to the gate fee of \$350.*

Register at BushcraftUSA.com through PayPal now!

Here's How It Will Work – Overview

July 6 Classic Camp set-up.

July 7-8 Teton Basin Re-Encampment – Dedicated to Stewart Edward White, this demonstration camp is open to the public and will represent the *Golden Age of Camping*. This will be a ca. 1920s re-encampment complete with canvas, cast iron, lanterns and brass, old cars, wagons and lots of classic woodcraft demonstrations. Join us in traditional dress and camping gear, and go *Camping In The Old Style*. (Note- Participants must apply to be a demonstrator and re-enactor. Those chosen will receive a reduced rate for the rendezvous. The classic camp will be the center of the event for the entire week).

July 8 Woodsmoke Welcome - Sunday evening. This will be an open-hearth dinner, orientation, and Opening Address.

July 9-11 The International Classic Camping and Bushcraft Symposium – These two fields have a *common ground* – *our classic woodcraft traditions*. Monday thru Wednesday will focus on the presentation of papers, discussions, program models, as well as Bushcraft 101 – hands-on short courses on a variety of neat bushcraft skills and tricks. (*Consider this a Call for Presenters to apply or come prepared to share ideas*).

July 12-14 The University of Woodcraft – an in-depth exploration of the secrets of *Campcraft*, *Trailcraft*, *Woodcraft*, and *Fieldcraft*. You will choose one from over a dozen topics, and work with a mentor for 3 days to create a finished project. Courses will have limited capacities (10-12) and will fill on a first-come-first-served basis. A materials charge, for projects requiring it, will be in addition to the main rendezvous price (\$50 Max).

Woodsmoke ***The School of the Woods***

Projected Schedule

Note: The schedule is currently evolving and growing in size. Please stay tuned for updates. Your input is appreciated as well.

Friday – Camp opens for Re-encampment. This will be a traditional camp set up in the classic style – canvas, cast-iron, brass fittings and all accouterments from the Golden Age of Camping. Friday will be for set-up of camps and getting together as campers of the old-style – Dress appropriately if possible! (A paper on “style-tips” is available). All Woodsmoke attendees are welcome to participate. Read S.E. White’s *The Forest*.

Saturday – Teton Basin Re-Encampment* dedicated to Stewart Edward White. This will be a demonstration encampment in the classic style, that is open to the public. Dress will celebrate the nostalgia related to the time period. However, interpretive focus will be on bringing these skills and technologies into the 21st century as viable alternatives for enjoyable camping experiences today. Bring a skill that you might share with visitors. (* *The term “re-encampment” was coined – we think accidentally – by Libby Kephart – Horace Kephart’s great granddaughter – when she introduced our group of classic camping re-enactors at the Kephart Days celebration in Bryson City, NC, 2010. It has stuck.* George Ellison, author of the “Introduction” to the newest edition of ***Camping and Woodcraft*** – published by the Great Smokey Mountain Association, 2011 – described them as “looking like a group of desperados waiting on a train”).

Sunday – Re-encampment Continues – Camp is open for Woodsmoke Attendees to set-up. There will be a classic camp area and an open camp area for any style of camp accommodation. Some electrical hook-ups are available. There is no restriction on how you choose to camp – make yourself comfortable, but also take the opportunity to practice your skills. The classic camp circle will be where the majority of hands-on training and evening campfires will be conducted. Remember, we embrace people of all colors – from red plaid to camo.

Sunday Evening Opening – There will be an opening barbeque and introductions beginning at 6pm. This will be our kick-off event and orientation to the weeks' activities.

Monday - The International Classic Camping and Bushcraft Symposium – Presentations will range from formal papers to mini-workshops and hands-on classes. Our plan is to explore the variety of skills commonly recognized for their classic style. We want to address our heritage, common ground and contemporary evolution – from Classic Camp to Bushcraft - create a common language, and address why it is “we do what we do.” Read S.E. White’s *Camp and Trail*.

• **AM - Our Frontier Connection – A History and Timeline of Traditional Skills.** In order for us to embrace a common ground, we must first come to an appreciation of a common heritage. We will address the styles and skills - many of which have come to us virtually unchanged through generations of campers – that are common to us all (Read Ellsworth Jaeger’s *Wildwood Wisdom*, pages 1-62). We will dismantle the Woodsman of Yesterday, reassemble him in the classic style, and morph him into the image of the modern Bushcrafter. We will practice many of his basic skills – flint and steel, utensil making, bindcraft, use of the bandana, and more.

• **PM - Life Under Canvas – A Heritage of Camping Traditions.** We all agree, there is nothing more inviting to the lover of woods-loafing than the traditional canvas camp – from igniting the initial campfires’ embers, to the golden glow of lamptime, to the enjoyment of sitting around an open fire or cherry-red camp stove. We will take a tour of camp and address the many styles available – the fixed camp, the open-front shelter, mobile camps for canoeists, horse-packers and traditional trampers, and the versatile tarp shelter. We will practice pitching and striking, making fasteners, hearth and stove management, simple lighting systems and much more.

Dinner – Keynote Address – Mors Kochanski, author of *Northern Bushcraft and Bush Arts*

Tuesday – The International Classic Camping and Bushcraft Symposium continues -

AM – Tools of the Trade – The Royal Flush of woodland tools – The axe is the King of tools, the saw is the queen, and the knife is the Jack-of-all-Trades. There are many tools that can be considered your Ace-in-the Hole – awls, froes, augers...And the 10 are those tools that flesh out the tool kit of basic tools common to most woodcraft traditions. You will be provided a suggested tool list to make the week a better experience since you can use and get familiar with your

own tool box (read any of Bernard Mason's *Jr. Woodsman* series, Roy Underhill's *Working Wood With Wedge and Edge* or Eric Sloane's *Museum of Early American Tools*). We'll work on a variety of edged-tool skills including wood projects, tool fabrication, and care, maintenance and selection.

PM – Open-Hearth Cooking and Crafts – No camp is complete without a functioning camp kitchen. When Nessmuk said we go to the woods “to smooth it” not rough it, he had to be talking about the way we eat. The camp hearth can be looked at through technologies that range from the most advanced and complex to the simplest of utensilless cuisine. We will divide into cooking patrols and try our hands at a wide range of hearth tools available to the classic camper. We will create woodcraft tools, tin can utensils, master the art of cast iron and open baker cooking, and much more. We will explore trail foods as well as fixed camp menus.

Dinner – Keynote Address – Larry Dean Olsen, author of *Outdoor Survival Skills*

Wednesday - The International Classic Camping and Bushcraft Symposium continues –

AM – From Woodcraft to Bushcraft – Today we will address the skills we now call Bushcraft skills. We will look at the appropriateness of returning classic style to the pantheon of contemporary methods. How does woodcraft fit into a Leave-No-Trace world? Can we justify the open fire, harvesting green vegetation....actually interacting with the natural world. Aldo Leopold described woodcraft as “a working knowledge of the land.” Fieldcraft is what many call “woodslore”... the lore of the woods. We hope to expand this ideal to the many other environments where Bushcraft is currently practiced. Become a participant in your own backyard. Get to know your home turf. This exploration will give you a place and a way to start (Read James Turner's *From Woodcraft to LNT*).

PM - Classic Style for the 21st Century – Modern Bushcraft has evolved from a long history of traditional skills. Many of our renaissance skills – kuksa carving, axe/saw/knife skills, natural fiber gear, portable wood stoves, and general crafting - have many times come to us without a sense of contextual style. Our discussion and skills practice will develop an awareness of the sheer vastness of classic camping literature and the many authors we must thank for cataloging the information we now pursue. These mentors of the old ways are the ones who have not been adequately recognized – we intend to reverse that trend. Turner describes what he calls the “Traditional Wilderness Ethic,” contrasts it with what he calls the “Modern Wilderness Ethic,” but leaves us plenty of room for the development of a Post-Modern Ethic that is not bound to wilderness. Bushcraft's selection of what is appropriate and inappropriate gear and practice reflects this traditional ethic. Why have these technologies – tarps and hammocks, bushcookers, cutting edges, survival scarves, etc. – crept into the modern Bushcraft ethic? Are there techniques that maintain the traditional ideal

but can be updated and included on grounds of their practical application – fire starters, knots, handmade gear – but also establish a context for their inclusion?

“In the school of the woods, there is no graduation day”.
Horace Kephart, 1917

Note: None of the workshops will be strictly instructional. Our hope is that you come not only to learn, but to share as well. Our staff has the ability to check their egos at the door and are always open to new ideas that they can add to their own bag of tricks. It’s like opening a copy of *Backwoodsman* magazine or going on-line to *BushcraftUSA*; not everything in an issue has direct application; a lot of it is stuff you already know; but then there are those golden gems that just blow you away and make you look at everything in a whole new way. That’s the kind of experience we hope to create here at Woodsmoke, along with lots of hands-on practice and meeting new friends.

Dinner – Introduction to The University of Woodcraft - Participants will meet with their instructors for the next 3 days and get an overview of their selected project.

Thursday - The University of Woodcraft - Choose your top 3 of the 12 courses offered. Participants will be placed in a workshop in order of registration preference – the sooner you register the better your chances of getting your first choice.

Woodcraft

- Scandinavian Stacked Handle Knives and Sheaths
- Understanding Wood – Spoons, Kuksa’s, Craft Tools
- Brain-Tanning Deer Hides

Fieldcraft

- Tracking, Trapping, Processing Game
- Plant Lore – Edible, Medicinal, Constructive
- Navigation – Prehistoric, Historic, Modern methods

Campcraft

- Wood Stove Making
- Camp Clothing – Capotes, Mittens, Hats
- Open Hearth Camp Cooking

Trailcraft

- Trapper Nelson Pack making- Frames and bags
- Canoe Equipment – Paddles, wannigans, tumps
- Dirtbagger’s Deluxe – Scratch Kit making

Dinner – Keynote Address –

Friday - The University of Woodcraft continues –

Note: Special focus will also be available for those who would like to work on the BushcraftUSA Bushclass Certification Program – Basic, Intermediate, Advanced and Master levels. If you are new to this, check out the BushcraftUSA Forum section, and click on Bushclass USA. The Bushclass Index lists all of the requirements, lessons and evaluations for the program. You can also work on the curriculum found in *Camping In The Old Style* – The Master Woodsman Training Program.

If you have suggestions for the event, or University of Woodcraft classes you would like to see us offer, please contact us.

Dinner – Closing Campfire Celebration

Saturday – Final Day

AM – Wrap-up projects

PM – Close camp – Strike camps and head out.

Kids Camp – Woodsmoke is a family friendly event. We are currently planning an agenda of activities especially for kids. All Backtracks events make it possible for kids to gain a high quality start to their pursuit of traditional skills. Backtracks has created an advancement program kids and families can work on even after the event.

It has been said that the old books were really books written for adults but disguised as books for kids. What they don't know is that many of us who are adults today were these kids, and our interests today are very much shaped by the experiences we had as kids. Our hope is to establish a solid foundation for the next generation to build on.