

Kamp Kephart '15

The Classic Camping Skills Workshop Series

Dedicated to the spirit of Horace Kephart, the "Dean of American Campers" ...author of *Our Southern Highlanders* and *Camping and Woodcraft*.

The Golden Age of Camping (1880's-1920's) was a time when camping meant sleeping under canvas and cooking over an open fire. These courses are offered within that context. Participants will spend the day in a recreated campsite of the 1920s. Here in the woodsmoke, surrounded by the outdoor gear of a by-gone day, these traditional skills may be practiced in their proper setting.

"This instinct for a free life in the open is as natural and wholesome as the gratification of hunger and thirst and love. It is Nature's recall to the simple mode of existence that she intended for us."

- Horace Kephart



Horace Kephart

The Schiele Museum of Natural History

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www.schielemuseum.org

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The Camp Tool Box

February 21

A homemade wooden tool box was a regular fixture in the long-term camps of the early twentieth century. Here, outers stashed the necessary tools needed for campcrafting projects, gear maintenance and repair. Participants will hand craft a wooden tool box in the traditional manner using the hand tools and techniques common to the period.

The Woodcraft Whistle

February 22

A whistle was an important part of the traditional camper/hunter/fisherman’s “everyday carry”. Signaling for rescue or camp routine were simple skills taught from childhood. After an examination of the commercial signal whistles available during the classic period, participants will craft their own woodcraft models of cane, wood and antler...along with an adjustable leather neck lanyard.

The Edge

March 14

A strong, keen edge is essential in the pursuit of the woodcraft way. Participants will explore the ins and outs of creating and maintaining a sharp camp tool edge. Simple, tried and true knife and axe sharpening techniques will be taught using traditional methods and devices. Participants will also create their own period appropriate sharpening/honing tools for use in camp.

Quick Fire/Sure Fire

March 15

The experienced camper builds his fires with confidence and ease. Inspired by the Scout and Campfire Club of America competitions of old, we’ll take on the One Billet Boil-up challenge, exploring the techniques necessary for the “quick fire”. We will then put together the camper’s own Fire Bag Kit, complete with hand crafted metal match safe and all the natural tinders, kindlings and fire starting aids necessary for the “sure fire”. Knife, axe and firecraft skills all come together in this advanced/basics course.

The Camper’s Journal

April 4

Document your camp life in a record book of your own making. We will first examine the variety of diaries, journals, and notebooks in use during the Golden Age of Camping. Participants will then craft a hand-sewn, leather-bound, multi-signature, camper’s journal suitable for camp and trail use.

Brigand’s Kitchen

April 5

Inspired by the master naturalist John Burroughs, participants will do a little campfire blacksmithing to manufacture a double brace of lightweight “cooking irons”. With these versatile tools (plus a pot, a pan and the proper skills), the trailside chef can roast, toast, broil, boil and fry up a meal in any sylvan setting.

The Camp Sideboard

May 2

A handcrafted wooden kitchen sideboard adds a touch of utilitarian class to any camp grub box—making your work easier and your food safer. Using both repurposed and wildcrafted materials, participants will shape and finish several projects chosen from the traditional inventory of flat camp treenware--dough boards, cutting boards, serving boards, bread and cheese boards.

A Movable Feast

May 3

Welcome to the Golden Age of the Picnic! We’ll explore the foods, the tools and the techniques of eating alfresco in the classic style—from the hike lunch to the grand spread. Early 20th century records of picnic foods and culture give us great insight into the camp foods, recipes and menus of the day. After examining a selection of period picnic gear, participants will manufacture their own unique set of rustic wood-and-steel utensils suitable for any outdoor eating adventure.

Well-Greased and Dressed

October 3

All outdoor leather gear (from boots, to belts, to pack straps and tool sheaths) needs a good application of protective treatment from time to time. Both commercial and homemade leather dressings were available during the era of Classic Camping. We’ll look at them all, and then process two different varieties of our own using historically correct formulas and campfire appropriate techniques.

The Woodsman’s Bag

October 4

The traditional woodsman’s bag connects us to our frontier heritage in a way that few articles of outdoor gear can. In the early days of the Classic Camping era, woods runners like George Washington Sears retained this piece of kit as a handy means of packing the essentials. In this course we will craft a hand-sewn leather bag with a buckled, adjustable shoulder strap.

Registration:

Please complete and mail to:
Steve Watts, Schiele Museum
1500 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, NC 28054

Check the desired course(s) above in spaces provided. You may register for any or all courses.

Cost: \$55 for Museum members per course/
\$60 Nonmembers per course
\$20 deposit per course required for registration (non-refundable).

Registration begins immediately. Applications received on or before February 1, 2015 receive top priority. You will be notified of your registration status by February 14, 2015.

All courses begin at 9 AM and end at 4 PM. Lunch is provided as a part of each course. On-site camping and rustic lodging are available as well.

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Are you a Museum Member? Yes ___ No ___ Membership # _____

Total number of workshops checked _____

Total amount enclosed: Number of workshops X \$20 = _____

*A payment-in-full-option is available for those who wish to avoid carryover balances:

Total amount enclosed: Number of workshops X \$60 (\$55 Museum members) = _____

Make all checks payable to “Schiele Museum” with “Kamp Kephart on the memo line.