

# Kamp Kephart '16

## 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.

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*"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

*"To attend one of these workshops would be akin to attending a workshop conducted by Horace Kephart, Ernest Thompson Seton or Dan Beard a century ago."*

- Brent Payne, *The Woods Life*



Horace Kephart

## The Schiele Museum of Natural History

1500 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia, NC

704.866.6908

[schielemuseum.org](http://schielemuseum.org)

 [facebook.com/schielemuseum](https://facebook.com/schielemuseum)

**Nessmuk's Kit Bag**

**February 27**

Kit bags were designed to carry the small tools and daily essentials of life in camp and on the trail. Sometime referred to as "duty" or "dilly" or "ditty" bags, they were as individual as the outers who packed them. We'll examine the nautical and terrestrial history of these bags and then manufacture a hand sewn leather version of our own inspired by the one carried by the grand master woodsman George Washington Sears.

**The Aleut Pack Harness**

**February 28**

In 1910, the great explorer/adventurer Belmore Browne led an expedition to Mt. McKinley using his own modification of a Native Aleutian Islander pack strap. This harness featured strength, simplicity and the versatility necessary to secure and carry a variety of bundles, duffels and packs of different sizes and shapes. We will modify Browne's design further and create a hand sewn and riveted leather version of our own.

**Well-Greased and Dressed**

**March 12**

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, an then process our own using a historically correct formula and campfire appropriate techniques.

**Frontier Fire: The Master Course**

**March 13**

It's Daniel Carter Beard meets Daniel Boone. Flint and steel fire making is a historically important outdoor skill that connects the Classic Camper to the American frontiersmen of old. In this course we will explore the full range of flint and steel fire making in the 18th century style as it relates to early 20th century camp practices. Topics include the gathering, processing and use of both manmade and natural plant tinders, a survey of flint-and-steel-age fire tools and techniques along with new information and insights offered here for the first time.

**Camp Mauls and Mallets**

**April 9**

Camp mauls and mallets are the go-to implements when setting up or striking the old style canvas camp. They are an important part of the in-camp tool box inventory—used for a wide variety of woodcrafting tasks. Participants will manufacture both self and compound versions of these classic tools using the traditional tried and true methods of the greenwood mechanic.

**Pegged, Guyed and Anchored**

**April 10**

Camp geometry and engineering come alive as we explore the lines, pegs and posts of the well anchored camp. First, we will examine the styles of tent pegs and guy fasteners commercially available to the early 20th century camper. Participants will manufacture both wildwood and steel tent pegs and line tightening devices in a variety of traditional styles. This course also includes the fashioning of special use tent anchors and the tying of all the knots and hitches required for a property taught pitch.

**Wirecraft**

**May 7**

With a few simple hand tools and a homemade jig or two, the campers of old were able to manufacture a wide variety of camp gizmos and gadgets utilizing the cast off steel and copper wire of early industrial America. Participants will craft a wide range of useful camp and trail items—from hooks and hangers to buckles and braces.

**A Nordic Needle Case**

**May 8**

The traditional outdoor men and women of the Far North never went far afield without a sewing kit as a part of their essential gear. The Inuit considered it second only to the knife in importance. A failed, torn or worn shelter cloth, pack or item of clothing could mean the difference between comfort and misery or life and death. A reliable means of carrying needle and thread at the ready was the answer. In this course we will manufacture and equip a traditional piece of Nordic outdoor gear—an antler, bone and leather needle case in the Saami-style.

**The Camp Trencher**

**October 1**

Wooden trenchers and plates added rustic elegance to the classic camp tables of old. First, we will examine the commercial, homemade and expedient versions and uses of the trencher from the tables of the frontier farm to the camps of the Golden Age. Participants will them manufacture their own version using traditional hand tools and self-made plank vices.

**The Woodsman's Bag**

**October 2**

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 Nessmuk and Beard retained this piece of kit as a handy means of packing the essentials. In this course we will craft a hand-sewn leather shoulder bag inspired by these woody bags of old.



**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: \$60 for Museum members per course/  
\$65 Nonmembers per course  
\$25 deposit per course required for registration (non-refundable).

Registration begins immediately. Applications received on or before February 6, 2016 receive top priority. You will be notified of your registration status by February 15, 2016.

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 \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total amount enclosed: Number of workshops X \$65 (\$60 Museum members) = \_\_\_\_\_

*Make all checks payable to "Schiele Museum" with "Kamp Kephart on the memo line.*