

Cutting Edge Bushcraft

Course Fee: \$ 65

Material Fee: \$ 35

Date:4/10/2016

Most of us have a kitchen drawer full of knives at home, a knife or two hidden in the array of devices in a Leatherman multi- tool, and maybe a box of ol' grandad's huntin' knives in an attic. In fact, from letter openers to butter knives to filet knives, most of us have quite a selection of knives at our disposal, but many people don't know what each knife is made to do or how to take care of it's cutting edge.

Knowing how to select, use and maintain a knife is fundamental to being a competent outdoors person. This is especially true in the northwoods of Wisconsin where most projects and outdoor activities take place within the confines of a forest ecosystem. This class will teach you all you need to know to walk into the woods with a simple fixed blade knife and be able to provide for yourself the goods needed to make life possible, everything from a birch bark basket to a log cabin (assuming you have 5 years).

You'll learn the basics of knife construction and design and what to look for in a good bush knife so you will have the confidence to select an appropriate knife amidst the galaxy of junk which passes for knives these days.

You'll also learn how to:

- Fell, limb, section, peel and spit small trees
- Carve detailed work like deadfall triggers and pot hooks
- Create feather sticks as kindling for fire lighting
- Use your knife to create sparks for flint and steel fire lighting
- Make wooden animal calls

Finally, since we say a dull knife is a dangerous knife, you'll learn how to sharpen and take care of that blade.

This is a field course, so dress appropriately for the weather and wear shoes/boots that can handle outdoor recess. Fees includes a day of hands on instruction, a knife and sheath, materials for sharpening your knife and any other materials we'll be using throughout the day. We will be learning how to

bake bread over a fire at lunch time, but plan on bringing a lunch, any other snacks you might want throughout the day and a water bottle or two. No experience necessary, must be at least 8 years old to participate.