

Case Study #1

The Classic Camping Revival: Can We Justify Teaching Traditional Camping Skills Today?

*Camping out may well be classed as one of the liberal arts,
so wide is its application. Warren Miller, 1918*

In 2012 Steve Watts conducted an interview with Joe Flowers about his work in the field of Classic Camping. It was done at the celebration of Horace Kephart's birthday in Kephart's adopted state of North Carolina. Kephart was known as the Dean of American Camping. His book – *Camping and Woodcraft* – is one of the oldest books on the subject of camping and has never been out of print since it was first published in 1906.

The revival of classic style is all around us – traditional winter camping, traditional canoeing, the traditional elk camp and of course the explosion in the international study of Bushcraft. With this renaissance comes the notion that gear selection affects program outcomes as well as the nature of how we camp for recreation. Watch Steve Watt's interview, look over the information contained in *Case Study #1* and *Sections One and Seven* in *Camping In The Old Style* and answer the *Text* and *Context* questions below. Be ready to talk about this seminal issue in class.

Case Study Resources

- *Defining The Ballpark*
- *The Pathfinders*
- *The Modern Woodsman* - woodtrekker.blogspot.com
- Primitivus Interviews David Wescott
- *Defining the Big 4*
- *Defining Classic Camping*
- *Classic Camping: Steve Watts gives a brief overview.*
- *The Literature of Traditional Camping*
- *Contemporary Ways We Use Camping As A Pedagogy*

*** Text Questions to Consider:**

1. Are the skills of Traditional Camping a viable alternative to the skills related to Emerging Technologies?
(see Case Study #4 for a definition of Emerging Technologies)
2. Can Traditional Camping skills be used as a contemporary pedagogy for teaching in the out-of-doors? How?
3. List the 5 categories of literature identified in this case study.
4. List the main points covered in the Steve Watts interview.

5. Why do you think we are experiencing a revival of interest in Classic Camping style?



* Context Questions:

Define:

- Campcraft
- Woodcraft
- Fieldcraft
- Trailcraft
- Traditional Camping
- Classic Camping
- Bushcraft
- Friluftsliv

Really Test Yourself: Extra Credit

1. What do the titles listed as the categories of literature refer to?
2. The Pathfinders are divided by category of source material. What are the categories and how do they affect life outdoors?
3. Define and create a context for:
 - Woodsmanship
 - The Campaign
 - Tramping
 - Woodlore

READ/View: Make sure you watch this 12 minute video.

Classic Camping: Steve Watts gives a brief overview.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPCKIDZzSoI>

Optional -

Primitivus Interviews David Wescott.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mt3_1_KIENk 13 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7r916dd6nY> 11 minutes

Read The Woodtrekker Modern Woodsman Blogs.

Other Resources:

Elders Of The Tribe:

- Lars Falt
- Mors Kochanski
- Ray Mears
- Tim Smith
- Horace Kephart
- T.H. Holding
- Warren H. Miller
- Richard Proenneke
- Calvin Rutstrum
- Paul Provencher
- Heberton Evans/Keewaydin Camps