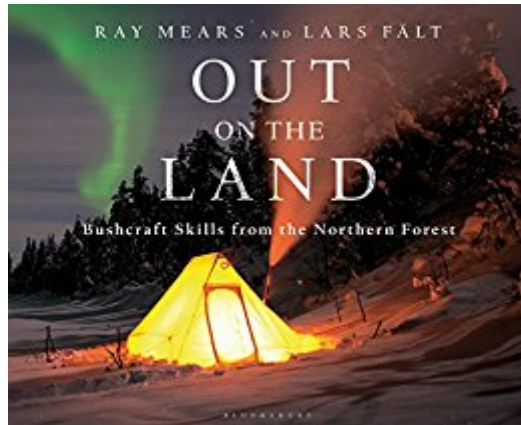




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Out On The Land: Bushcraft Skills From The Northern Forest



Synopsis

'Fifty years into my life journey I realise that, while I love remote wild places and the peoples I meet there, it is in forests that I find the greatest joy. Of all the forests that I have explored, it is the great circumpolar Boreal forest of the North that calls to me most. Here is a landscape where bush knowledge really counts and where experience counts even more ... This book has been thirty years in the making.' Out on the Land is an absorbing exploration of, and tribute to, the circumpolar Boreal forest of the North: its landscape, its people, their cultures and skills, the wilderness that embodies it, and its immense beauty. The book is vast in scope and covers every aspect of being in the wilderness in both winter and summer (clothing, kit, skills, cooking, survival), revealing the age-old traditions and techniques, and how to carry them out yourself. It also includes case studies of early explorers, as well as modern-day adventurers who found themselves stranded in the forest and forced to work out a way to survive. So much more than a bushcraft manual, this book goes deeper, to the traditions and cultures that gave us these skills, as well as focusing on the detail itself. Ray and Lars's practical advice is wound around a deep love for the forest, respect and admiration for the people who live there and sheer enjoyment of the stunning scenery.

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Customer Reviews

This book begins with a fine essay with photos about the contemporary life of First Nations people living in the North Woods around the globe. The chapter makes the point that 'survival' tests for us are daily life skills by which these people live and thrive. Ray Mears and Lars Falt offer up-to-date information on both summer and winter camping skills and a good selection of associated tools and products. Even some basic food products and recipes are included. Generally fine step-by-step how to do it color photographs lift this work above earlier and very fine camping/wilderness guides from the past. I have owned, read and applied parts of those fine guides from the likes of 'Nessmuk' and Horace Kephart up through the 1970's and 1980's authors who have earned their own ardent followers. The color photos here are the best I have seen on knot tying. I never did take to even the best-illustrated drawings because it was difficult to tell one rope from another and which loop went over and which bight went under. These clear photos, yes even using red and blue rope, are the best I have seen. The section on the finer points of straight knife and crooked knife and of belt axe use are superlative examples of technique as transmitted in words and photos. I have never seen better step-by-step instruction on cutting, techniques for blade control, which muscles to use for what cuts...this is OUTSTANDING information for beginners and for those of us who probably have 'never got it right.' Mears and Falt love the 'Boreal Forest' but, aside from extreme winter outdoor living, about 80 percent of the content here is highly usable for any outdoorsman. Suggestions for matching clothing and clothing materials to summer and winter climates are generally applicable. First aid and emergency medical advice in the wild is 'decent' if not encyclopedic. Navigation by map and compass are clearly covered since the authors have military and training experience...plus modern ideas of GPS systems and products are addressed. Knife and axe and saw suggestions skew toward fine Finnish, Norwegian, Canadian and Swedish makers...but they are among the best choices for any of us 'Outers' who want to go into the woods today. Sufficient attention is also given to the mechanical needs/maintenance needs of snowmobiles in the wild since they are being increasingly used for winter access to outdoor living in the Far North. Canoe travelers in Minnesota's Boundary Waters, back country skiers and snowmobilers, mobile big game hunters in the North will benefit hugely from this up-to-date treatment of a 'pioneering' subject.

This is a magnificent book, beautifully photographed and nicely written. I would suggest this as an heirloom quality book for those who love the boreal forest, bushcraft, and traditional backwoods

skills. I'm very pleased with it.

What a great read! I thoroughly enjoyed it!

Awesome

Many years of experience are shared in this book and it is full of product recommendations and guidance on their use to make living outdoors, especially in the super cold forests, possible.

I have found few books that deal with survival in the Boreal forest Northwoods. This book by Ray Mears and Lars Falt has everything you can imagine to not only survive but thrive in the harsh Northwoods. This book and Mors Kochanski's Basic Safe Travel And Boreal Survival handbook have everything you would ever need if you live like I do in a Boreal Forest area that has harsh winters. Well worth the price for all of the information that you gain from it. All you have left is to go out and get actual dirt time practicing the skills in this book so that you are very well informed if your survival depends on the skills you have learned. The most important thing in a survival situation is your mind and the skills you have learned. Too many people think it is about what gear you have and thinking that way will put you in grave danger. Well done Ray and Lars!!!!

This is not really a comprehensive book and more like a collection of (long) articles stitched together. It has nice pictures and some of the articles are good, some not so good. Tone is a bit pompous sometimes. If you want to own every bit of information regarding the subject of living out and "bushcraft" this is probably worth having (and I don't regret buying it) as it is a huge compilation of that covers many things. Unfortunately it is not the definitive book on subject I hoped it would be. I have bought both the book and the Kindle version. The book is huge, heavy and not very practical. I would recommend the electronic version (from or any other suitable provider) over it as it is easier to handle and consult quickly. The electronic conversion is for most parts good except often pictures description land on the next page. Of course electronic version is not optimal. A small collection of paperback books would probably have been the optimal solution. The huge full color book seems designed to appeal mostly to armchair outdoorsmen.

As with all of Mr. Mear's books, I can't say enough good things.

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