



## Participating in Nature: Wilderness Survival and Primitive Living Skills

By Thomas J. Elpel

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### **Participating in Nature: Wilderness Survival and Primitive Living Skills** By Thomas J. Elpel

Get in touch with your wild side! Primitive living is a way of learning about nature by participating in it. Instead of merely camping in the wilderness or passing through it, you can become part of the process. You learn about nature by using it to meet your needs for shelter, fire, water, and food. You set aside the trappings of modern culture and step directly into nature with little or nothing, to experience nature on its own terms.

*Participating in Nature: Wilderness Survival and Primitive Living Skills* provides a direct, hands-on experience of the world around you. With this book you have the opportunity to discover the thrill of staying warm and comfortable without even a blanket! Learn how to design and build shelters that are uniquely appropriate to the available resources, weather conditions, and your goals while you are there.

Experience the magic of starting a fire by "rubbing two sticks together" using the bowdrill or handdrill, and learn to make your own flint & steel fire kit for convenient fire-starting in any weather.

Learn about Giardia and develop confidence drinking out of backcountry streams. Learn practical water purification strategies to use when conditions require it. Learn how to catch a fish by hand and cook it without a pan!

Discover innovative "primitive gourmet" cooking methods, such as making ashcakes, sourdough, and wild strawberry ashcake pies. Learn how to cook bread in a stone oven, gather and process wild clay to make your own pots, and cook a stir fry on a slab of bark.

Learn about edible wild plants and wild food economics, including starchy roots, wild fruits, harvesting and winnowing seeds, pine nuts where you wouldn't expect them, plus tapping maples, box elders, and birches for syrup.

Experience the thrill of quietly stalking up on an animal, or developing trust-stalking skills to allow it to accept your presence. Make your own "quickie bow,"

arrows, and bone arrowheads. Learn how to process sinews and hide glue, butcher a roadkill deer, tan its hide, and make your own clothing.

Make rugged, all-terrain sandals out of old tires and transform a wool blanket into an instant coat. Create warm felted mittens from raw wool. Learn how to pack your gear as a bedroll or make a primitive packframe.

*Participating in Nature* includes dozens of innovative skills and an incredible 350 pictures and illustrations plus a thoughtful philosophy. Tom does extensive experiential research. He places an emphasis on publishing new information that is not found in any other source.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

As a survival instructor and naturalist for one of the largest state parks in the US, I was very impressed by *Participating in Nature*. Elpel has some wonderful insights not only into primitive technologies, but also on people's roles in ecosystems, the human race's responsibility for our environment, and applications of primitive technologies in current times. This is more than an anthropological review or a crafts book. Elpel shares personal insights that inspire others to live with nature. --David Alloway, author of *Desert Survival Skills*

I just received and read from cover to cover *Participating In Nature*. Just wanted to let you know that I loved it and used some of the info from it on my last course. Just thought I'd let you know because I get tired of reading inaccurate information about bushcraft/wilderness living, and so your book was a breath of fresh air.  
--Jeff Butler, Northwoods Survival, Canada

Two weeks ago I received your book *Participating in Nature*. I have already read it four times and each time I find something new. This book is a wonderful guide to living the type of life I would like to live. I don't mean that I am interested in living through stoneage technology but I am interested in becoming more knowledgeable about nature and my interaction with it. I find the use of story intertwined with skills puts things in context and makes for a richer learning experience and one that is easy to remember. --Michael M., Japan

#### From the Publisher

#### A Positive Relationship with Nature

Our culture teaches us that we are separate from nature. We spend most of our lives in houses surrounded by manicured lawns, living in towns or cities where recreational activities are based on human-centered sports. Nature is something we go to a park to see, or we watch a show about it on TV.

Those of us in the field of environmental education try to preach a different message, telling people that "all life is interconnected" and that "we really are part of nature". But in the next breath we tell them to stay on the trails and to practice "no-trace" camping. We tell them to look at nature and photograph it, but not to touch it. We tell them our modern way of life is destroying nature, and that we need to stop mucking up the planet. In other words, we tell them we are part of nature--the bad part!

Here at HOPS Press, LLC we advocate a positive interactive relationship with the natural world. We want people to get involved in nature, to be a part of the process on many levels:

Through *Participating in Nature*: Thomas J. Elpel's Field Guide to Primitive Living Skills and the Art of Nothing Wilderness Survival Video Series, you can experience an intimate connection with nature as you rediscover the skills our ancestors used to survive for tens of thousands of years. Instead of merely camping in the wilderness or passing through it, you will become part of the process as you learn about nature by using it to meet your needs for shelter, fire, water and food. Learn to set aside the trappings of modern culture and step directly into nature with little or nothing, to experience nature on its own terms.

With Tom's book *Botany in a Day: The Patterns Method of Plant Identification*, you can connect with the

wonderful diversity of plants and flowers all around you in a way that you may have never imagined. Instead of seeing the green world as little more than pretty wallpaper, you will learn to know the individual plants, wildflowers and weeds as if they have been your life-long friends. Our book Shanleya's Quest: A Botany Adventure for Kids Ages 9-99 utilizes the same patterns method of identifying plants as Botany in a Day, but in a metaphorical story form where children of all ages can join young Shanleya on her journey to learn the plant traditions of her people.

In Living Homes: Integrated Design & Construction you will learn how to make your home part of nature, as well as how to make nature part of your home. Learn the secrets to building low-cost, high-efficiency homes with stone masonry, log-building and strawbale construction methods. With this book and Tom's Slipform Stone Masonry DVD/VHS Video you will be able to build your quality, earth-friendly Dream home on a budget, even while the "experts" say it isn't cost effective.

Finally, in Direct Pointing to Real Wealth: Thomas J. Elpel's Field Guide to Money, you will learn to see the economy as an ecosystem where money is a token that represents calories of energy. Learn the basic rules of this economic ecosystem and you will be empowered to use your resources to more effectively achieve your desired quality of life, while making the world a better place to be. You will be able help convert an economy that harms planetary biodiversity into an economy that helps restore it.

#### From the Author

Have you ever dreamed of being able to walk out into the woods to survive with nothing but the clothes you have on? You are not alone. In a society that is very disconnected from the natural world, many individuals find themselves wondering about what lies beyond the pavement. We know that our ancestors lived by their bare hands and wits alone, but how did they do it? How would you do it? What would it be like to be so connected with the natural world that you could just leave everything behind and walk away into the woods? It is easier than you might expect.

You might think you would need to take a lot of classes and learn a gazillion skills to survive, but the real secret is in knowing how not to need very many skills at all. For example, if you've made a bowdrill fire set with a steel knife, you may wonder how to make a set without a knife. So how do you make a good enough stone knife to work wood as nicely as your steel knife? You don't. By breaking sticks and abrading them on rocks you can make a completely serviceable bowdrill set without the need for a fancy knife at all. In Participating in Nature and the Art of Nothing Wilderness Survival Video Series, as well as in our classes at Hollowtop Outdoor Primitive School, LLC, you can learn the skills to reconnect with the natural world in a truly unique way, becoming as comfortable in the woods as you are in your own home.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Anne Hernandez:

What do you consider book? It is just for students because they are still students or that for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that query above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby for each other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great and important the book Participating in Nature: Wilderness Survival and Primitive Living Skills. All type of book would you see on many sources. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

**Kevin Roark:**

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world may share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the guides. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write for their book. One of them is this *Participating in Nature: Wilderness Survival and Primitive Living Skills*.

**Stephanie Armstrong:**

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the extra time or they will get wide range of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not just a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to you of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is usually *Participating in Nature: Wilderness Survival and Primitive Living Skills*.

**Theresa Collins:**

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