

# JOHN RHYDER'S **WOODCRAFT** BOOK REVIEW

*I have had the pleasure of knowing John Rhyder for a number of years now, he has been a teacher, contributor to this very magazine, and also a friend, and more than this his reputation for skills and knowledge far exceeds these. So when I heard he was producing a book I could not wait to get my hands on a copy.*



**By Danny Reid**  
The Bushcraft Journal

John Rhyder has a long career working in the outdoors and the world of bushcraft and wilderness living skills, he is a naturalist and coupled with this he is also an expert tracker scoring 100% on a specialist evaluation in Track and sign (which is the highest level possible). John also scored 100% in trailing on a standard evaluation; this is a professional level (or level 4) within CyberTracker. John is the only evaluator in the UK (you have to be at the specialist level before you can even start to train for this), also the only level 4 in trailing (there is only one other level 4 trailer in Northern Europe) thus the highest qualified tracker in Northern Europe in the CyberTracker system. You will also find John teaching at his Bushcraft and wilderness living skills school Woodcraft in the south of England. Prior to this, he worked for Ray Mears as chief instructor at his Woodlore School, and on top of all this, he's spent most of his life in arboriculture, conservation and habitat management.

It is very fair to say that John is one of those guys with the experience to back up everything he teaches or writes about, which can be a rare thing these days.

Upon first opening the heavy full book, it is clear from the get-go John wants to keep things in order and start at the very beginning with the harvesting and felling of your material.

**WOODCRAFT**

JOHN RHYDER

A practical  
celebration of the tree

This highlights the understanding John has for our woodlands and the varying species in them as the details out everything from choice to how and where to put the cuts so the tree falls where you want it to. He also shows common mistakes the novice will need to learn to avoid.

Woodcraft then moves through the varying chapters which are a great progression to your skillset and understanding, with everything from Choosing and maintaining tools, using the tools correctly and carving, Bowmaking, the understanding of using barks roots and withies, fire, making glues, dyes, inks and charcoal, looking at foliage features and varying fungi, all the way to the use of ropes and knots.

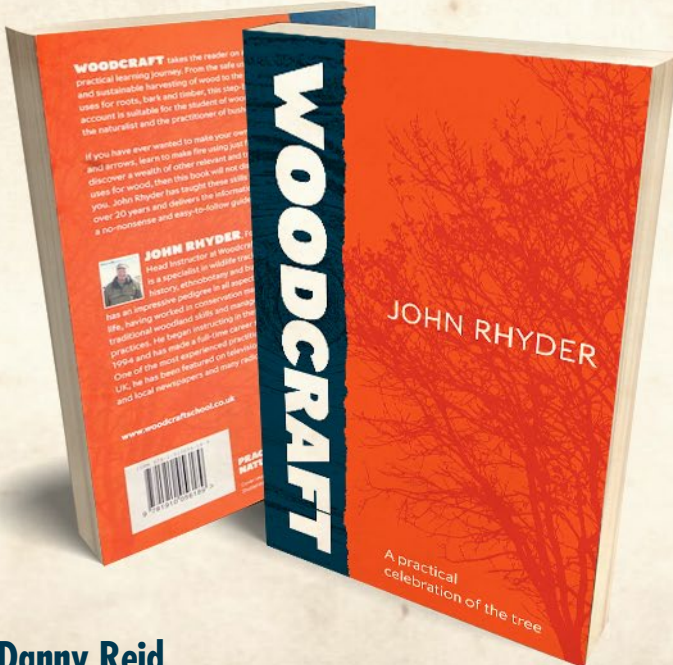
I really wanted to at this point discuss each and every chapter within the pages of this book and give you a breakdown of every subject in detail, but I don't think it is fair to spoil it by telling all here, as there is literally so much in there that I want you to explore it for yourself as I did the very first time of reading it.

If you are the kind of person, like me, who would like to increase your knowledge and skillset in bushcraft then this book is most definitely for you. It is very easy to follow with some serious golden nuggets in which only come with years of hands-on experience in there, and through this book, you will definitely enhance your own journey in the natural world.

So, in short, I highly recommend this book from one of the UK's foremost authorities in wilderness living skills and bushcraft.

You can find out more about John Rhyder and his Woodcraft school and also find his book by clicking the link below.

[www.woodcraftschool.co.uk](http://www.woodcraftschool.co.uk)



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