

Tracking Column

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THE WAY OF TRACKING © KYT WALKEN



Interview with Joe Price

Pathfinder Instructor, Morakniv Ambassador, Wetterling Ambassador, Weatherwool advisor.

1. At which age did you learn to track?

I learned to track in my late teens when I looked at taking my marksman skills from the range to the fields. Been able to track and read the signs of small and large game fascinated me and as such became a bigger interest than the sport of hunting did.

2. Does Ireland have a long standing tradition in Tracking?

It would have especially involved around the fieldsports. Fishing and hunting are possibly the largest sports here in Ireland and all that comes with being good at them especially tracking.

3. Tracking and bushcraft: how and why?

Tracking and bushcraft go hand in hand in my opinion. It doesn't always have to be for the sake of survival but knowing how to spot animal tracks may keep you out of a bad situation. For example when hiking in Sweden one summer we stopped to set up camp. We took a minute to check the area but we found signs of Boar. Tracks, scat, ground spores. So we decided to move on and not wait for the owners of the marks to show back up.

4. Standing to your personal experience as a dad, how Tracking can be a valuable skill for the next generations?

Well for present generations it is a great way to engage them in the natural world around us. Something as simple as being able to spot a stump where a squirrel has been feeding or the ground spores and scat of the various animals of the woods such as pine Marten and foxes fascinates the young minds.

Now moving forward into future generations having this awareness of the world around them and the life contained within it and how it moves and interacts with each other can never be a bad thing.

