

FURGOTTEN TIMES OUTDOOR GEAR

Raccoon

This month's animal is the Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). Raccoons are found in all the Maritime provinces except Newfoundland. Raccoons' habitat is hardwood forests, and can often be found near ponds and rivers. They like to frequent farms, and unlike most wildlife, often concentrate in urban areas. Raccoons are quite intelligent and social animals. They sometimes try to live in barns or under porches and can come into close contact with people and pets, and thus can be a spreader of parasites and rabies. They will eat most anything they can find, including berries, sweet corn, garbage, dead animals (carrion) and plants. Female raccoons will mate with one male each winter with a litter of four or so babies being born in April or May. The young kits are weaned at 2 months and are taught how to climb, swim and forage. The kits are sent away from the mother at 1 year old. Raccoons are nocturnal (primarily active at night), and remain in their den (sometimes a hollow tree, stump or burrow) during the day hours. When winter temperatures remain below freezing, Raccoons mainly stay in their dens and live off their body fat, coming out and foraging during milder spells.



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UPCOMING CLASSES

Learn-to-Tan Class:

March 9, 2024, 3:00 PM

Contact us to sign up!

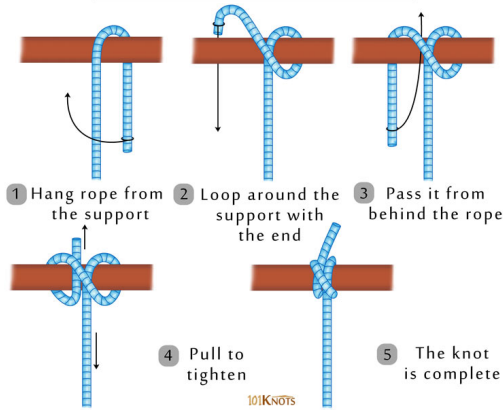
FUN FACTS

- ◆ Raccoons are excellent climbers and can withstand a drop of 35 ft from a tree.
- ◆ Raccoons can run at speeds up to 24 km/h.
- ◆ Wild raccoons live about 3-5 years, with a record of a captive raccoon living 21 years!
- ◆ Raccoons have 4, 5 or 6 black rings on their tail.



Comic by: HazelNut & Arayna

Clove Hitch Tutorial



The clove hitch can be used for:

- To start and finish a lashing such as a square lashing.
- In solo climbing, or rappelling.
- For tying arm slings in first aid
- In hammock hanging systems
- For the master point in a fixed, rock climbing anchor
- hoisting

The Animal Adventures in the Woodland Part 1

Once upon a time there was a beautiful woodland. There was a stream and a pond. On the east side of the woods there was a beautiful meadow. In that meadow there was an old tree stump that had been hollowed out by a raccoon. The raccoon's name was Ronnie the Raccoon. Ronnie the Raccoon loved juicy plump blackberries. But blackberry bushes are thorny. What Ronnie needed was some durable gloves. So Ronnie stole some from the human's next door. He had to travel past the pond to get to the blackberry bush. Suddenly Ronnie the Raccoon heard a weird noise coming from the woods behind.....
 To be continued.....
 by Ember Wolfe

What did the trees wear to the pool party?

Swimming trunks

What falls in winter but never gets hurt?

Snow

What has a mouth but cannot eat?

A river

CONTACT: INFO@FURGOTTENTIMESOUTDOORGEAR.CA
 WEBSITE: WWW.FURGOTTENTIMESOUTDOORGEAR.CA
 902-303-8141

**PEI PLANT
 SPOTLIGHT**



Chaga

(*Inonotus obliquus*)

Chaga is fungus that grows almost exclusively on birch trees in Northern forests. Chaga looks like a black lumpy growth, with a brown corky inner. Chaga is used medicinally and sometimes known as a superfood. It boosts the immune system, is full of vitamins and nutrients, can treat cancer, control blood sugar levels, and reduce inflammation, blood pressure & cholesterol. You can harvest chaga by cutting or chopping it off of the tree, leaving some to keep growing. Winter is the best time to harvest. Break into chunks and dry well. Chaga can be dried and made into a delicious tea, a tincture or made into capsules.