



NCGLNAC Newsletter

*The National Center for Great Lakes
Native American Culture, Inc.*

Volume 9, Number 1

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Issue #29

Walmart Grants \$1,000 to NCGLNAC!

Walmart of Portland has granted NCGLNAC \$1,000 for infrastructure on the nature hiking trail located on the NCGLNAC site in Portland. A considerable amount of trail work was accomplished during the 2008 Fall Friendship Fire in November. The circle trail is now about 6 feet wide as it wanders along the pond, through the immature and mature woodlands, next to the wetlands and back over the pond spillway. Because it is a natural trail, there are some low areas that need bridging to make the trail more accessible during all times of the year. The funds granted by Walmart will be used for that bridging. Funds are still needed for trail and information signage.

Some work days will be organized in the spring to erect the bridging and clear any fallen limbs from the winter. Volunteers are needed for all stages of this development. Dates will be announced by email and the Commercial Review. Please email Kay Neumayr at kay.neumayr@ncglnac.com if you are able to help. A ribbon-cutting is planned for early summer.



Red-tail hawk on trail in December

Photo by Kent Horine

Many, many thanks to Walmart for helping NCGLNAC complete Portland's only nature hiking trail open to the public. Go out, hike, get some exercise and fresh air and enjoy the sights!



Trail along pond in Fall

2009 Lecture Series

NCGLNAC Board Member Sue Templin has another great lecture series planned for 2009. All three lectures are held at 5 p.m. at the Jay County Historical Society. Dates are March 14, April 4 and May 16. All lecture are free and open to the public.

Ron Kennedy (Cree and Cherokee) will start out the season on March 14. He will discuss the different types of flint, how it is formed and where the different types of points are found. He will share how he learned to knap the flint into projectile and knife points and scrapers. Ron's Quebec Cree family came to work on the Erie Canal. His Cherokee family ended up in Indiana after the Civil War when his great great grandfather was captured and imprisoned near Whitestown. Ron has taught flint-knapping for NCGLNAC several times and will be teaching an antler-handled knife class at the 2009 Summer Cultural Arts Classes in August.

2009 NCGLNAC Calendar All Events Held in Portland

***February 28 – Personal Gourd Rattle Class** by Carolyn Rushton at the Jay County Public Library in Portland. 10 – 4 p.m.

March 14 – Lecture by Ron Kennedy at the Jay County Historical Society Museum. 5 p.m.

***April 4 & 5 – Spring Cultural Arts Classes** at the Women’s Building, Jay County Fairgrounds.

April 4 – Lecture by Susan Show-Willi at the Jay County Historical Society Museum. 5 p.m.

April 18 – Academic Conference “Native American Astronomy” at the John Jay Center for Learning. 9 to 4 p.m.

***May 16 – Elm Bark Basket Class** by William Blalock at the Jay County Public Library. 10 – 4.

May 16 – Lecture by Sara Wagar at the Jay County Historical Society Museum. 5 p.m.

June 13 & 14 – 6th Annual Gathering of Great Lakes Nations Pow Wow at the Tri-State Antique Gas Engine and Tractor Association Grounds.

August 3 – 7 – Summer Cultural Arts Classes for Adults (12 and up) at the Women’s Building, Jay County Fairgrounds.

August 3 – 7 – Summer Cultural Arts Classes for Children (6 and up) at the Women’s Building, Jay County Fairgrounds.

October 24 & 25 – Fall Friendship Fire at the Women’s Building, Jay County Fairgrounds.

October 24 – Children’s Class (6 and up) by Boni Nelson at the Jay County Public Library.

** These events are made possible in part by Arts Place, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

The second lecture of the 2009 Series will be by Susan Snow-Willi (Seneca) on April 4. Susan will talk about the Iroquois Confederacy and the Seneca people, their history, traditions and culture. Susan is known for her beautiful Iroquois style raised bead work and her storytelling. She will be teaching an Iroquois raised bead work purse class at the Summer Cultural Arts Classes in August, where we just might coax her to tell another story, too.

The final lecture for the 2009 Series will be by Sara Wagar, elder and former principal chief of the Piqua Shawnee tribe. Sara will talk about the Native point of view of the three major battles in Western Ohio that changed the course of history and the lives of the Native Peoples in that area.

Sara will be teaching a continuation of the Traditional Living Skills Class at the Summer Cultural Arts Classes in August.



NCGLNAC One-Day Cultural Arts Classes

Three one-day cultural arts classes are planned for 2009. The participants in these classes will have the opportunity to learn historic skills and art forms while they complete their projects. *These classes are made possible in part by Arts Place, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

Internationally-known gourd artist Carolyn Rushton will teach a personal gourd rattle class February 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jay County Public Library. Class participants will make and decorate to their choosing their own gourd rattle. The complete information on this class is included as page 7 of this newsletter.

An elm bark basket class will be taught by William Blalock May 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jay County Public Library. A local Portland native, Bill has learned historical skills necessary for the survival of the Native People of this area. Depending on the availability of the slippery elm (or tulip poplar) the participants will learn how to strip the bark from the tree and how to prepare the bark before making their basket. They will also learn how to prepare the willow for lashing the sides and rim. Complete information on this class will be available in the April newsletter and the NCGLNAC website of www.ncglnac.org.

A class for children ages 6 and up will be taught by Boni Nelson October 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jay County Public Library. This is during the Fall Friendship Fire weekend. More information on this class will be in an upcoming newsletter.



2009 Spring Cultural Arts Classes

This year the NCGLNAC Spring Cultural Arts Classes will be held April 4 and 5 at the Women's Building of the Jay County Fairgrounds in Portland. Four classes are planned: Copper Work taught by Boni Nelson, Scrimshaw by George Trendle, Porcupine Quill Decorated Birch Bark Medallions or Hair Barrettes by Robin McBride Scott and Potawatomi Culture and Native American Beliefs by Bob Moody. Complete information is included as an insert in this newsletter and is posted on line at www.ncglnac.org. Please join us and learn more about Great Lakes Native Americans and artistic skills that have not been taught before. *These classes are made possible in part by Arts Place, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.*



Tightening the goatskin in the 2008 gourd drum class

Summer Cultural Arts Classes

The Summer Cultural Arts Classes (to be held August 3 – 7) are not completely finalized yet. The full information will be in the April newsletter and on the NCGLNAC website before then. Some classes planned for those ages 12 and up: cane and cedar flutes, cradleboards, traditional plants and their uses, fingerwoven neck bag, antler-handled flint knives, historical trade silver, dug out canoe, more traditional living skills and drum making.

At last year's membership meeting it was suggested we have an evening for sharing skills. On that note, Monday August 3 will be the night for sharing. Planned so far are men's and women's traditional dance, introduction to beadwork, flute playing, and other skills. We hope to make this a new tradition for our summer classes. If you would like to share, please contact Kay Neumayr at 765-426-3022.

The children's classes for ages 6 and up will include teachings of the culture of the Great Lakes Native Americans. This year the children's classes will be Monday through Friday as they were in 2007. All classes will again be held at the Women's Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds in Portland. We hope to see more people taking advantage of this opportunity to learn and share.



Some turtle effigy pinch pots made at 2008 Fall Friendship Fire

2009 NCGLNAC Conference

Co-Chairs of the 2009 NCGLNAC Academic Conference *Native American Astronomy* are Don Cochran and Robin McBride Scott. The April 18 conference will again be held in the beautifully-renovated John Jay Center for Learning in Portland, which recently received the National Trust's Gold Award for the outstanding restoration of the Weiler Building. The John Jay Center for Learning was also recently honored as Business of the Year at the Jay County Chamber of Commerce annual meeting.

This year's subject was chosen because 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy and NCGLNAC wanted to shed light on this Nation's first astronomers. Don, Robin and their committee are finalizing the event. The registration brochure will be available by the middle of February on the website, by email and by mail.

Six experts in their field have been invited to present their research on ancient, historic and current Native American astronomy and how Native people's traditions and stories are founded in astronomical observations. The six presentations are on the hour and begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. with an hour break for lunch which will be catered on the site. Advance registrations are \$30 for adults and \$20 for students with photo ID.



Kathy Kolacz at 2008 Gathering Living History Camp

Gathering of Great Lakes Nations

Mark your calendars for the 6th Annual NCGLNAC Gathering of Great Lakes Nations Pow Wow on June 13 and 14. The event is always held on the weekend before Father's Day.

In spite of the downturn of the economy there have been a considerable number of inquiries into our Gathering from interested persons as far away as New York. We are hoping for a much larger living history camp, more children's activities, a hawk and atlatl throw, more vendors and more food. Invited drums and singers will be Blue Heron, Manido Nodin, and Craig White's southern drum. Greg Dorin will again be emcee and Jason Dorin arena director. Head veteran dancer is George Dorin. Head dancers are Tim Samaniego and Nita Norcross with junior dancers Ian Winningham and Cherokee Blevins. Participants will again be treated to buffalo stew Saturday evening.

Tell everyone you know about the NCGLNAC Gathering, bring your family, and enjoy this celebration of the Great Lakes Native Peoples.

Haudenosaunee Declaration 1979

Brothers and sisters: We bring to your thought and minds that right-minded human beings seek to promote above all else the life of all things. We direct to your minds that peace is not merely the absence of war, but the constant effort to maintain harmonious existence between all peoples, from individual to individual, and between humans, and the other beings of this planet. We point out to you that a spiritual consciousness is the path to survival of humankind.

Miami University Honors Eugene Brown

On December 12, 2008, NCGLNAC Advisory Board member and tradition bearer Eugene Brown was honored by Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, with the unveiling of the bronze of his sculpture, "A Tribe Named Miami, A Surveyor's Stake, A Town Named Oxford." The beautiful sculpture represents the unity of the Miami Tribe; Oxford, Ohio; and Miami University. It tells of the Miami people through the turtle, crane, cattails and loon as only Eugene can tell a story. Those familiar with Eugene's artwork know that it is always very colorful. What is amazing is that the 6' tall bronze sculpture was cast in color!

Several NCGLNAC members went to Oxford to meet with Eugene and John Teegarden and honor him on his special day: Pat Broom, Mickie Mann, Sue Templin, Ian, Janae and Nancy Winningham, Linda Andrews, Robin McBride Scott, Kay Neumayr, Boni Nelson, Doyle Blooding, and Kathy and Harry Kolacz. Everyone enjoyed lunch with Robert Wicks, Director of the Miami University Art Museum and William Wierzbowski of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Eugene's original sculpture was part of the landmark exhibit at the Miami University Art Museum entitled "How the Miami People Lived" or *myaamiaki iisi meehtohseeniwiciki*. The exhibition described a people from over 200 years ago to the present. Items for the exhibit were on loan from more than a dozen lenders including the National Museum of the American Indian, the Smithsonian Institution, the Cranbrook Institute of Science, the Myaamia Heritage Museum and Archive, the Tippecanoe County Historical Association, private collections and from the artists.

The exhibition took years to put together and is a testimony of the perseverance of the curators and the Miami people.





Eugene Brown and bronze at Miami University

GoodSearch for NCGLNAC

NCGLNAC has been using this internet search engine as a fund-raising tool for some time now. If you are not familiar with GoodSearch, it is powered by Yahoo and works as a search engine for internet uses. Every time GoodSearch is used \$.01 or more is donated to NCGLNAC. At the end of the year, NCGLNAC receives a check for the amount. Some non-profits have been able to raise several thousands for their organization's programs just by asking their members and their friends to use GoodSearch whenever they need to search the internet.

To set up a tab when you click on Internet Explorer, go to Control Panel, Network & Internet Connections, Internet Options and add to the options, <http://goodsearch.com/>, click on save. You will then have a GoodSearch toolbar right next to the Google one. When you use the site, just type in National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture as the charity you are searching for. It is that simple but has the potential to raise funds for NCGLNAC while you make internet searches.

Indiana Humanities Council

The Indiana Humanities Council is sponsoring a conference on teaching human and environmental influences in history on February 27 in Ft. Wayne. The conference "will focus on the incorporation of environmental history in the classroom. Topics include the relationship of Native Americans with the environment over time, the changing landscape of one community over time, and the impact of building the National Road, Indiana State Parks, and suburbs on the Hoosier landscape." Contact Nancy Conner at the Indiana Humanities Council at nconner@indianahumanities.org.

Soaring Eagles Youth Group

Last August Jennifer King brought 5 members of the Soaring Eagles Native American Youth and Family Council from Valparaiso and Ft. Wayne to the Friday children's class taught by Nita Norcross. Jennifer's daughter Bella was born on the Flathead Reservation. Bella has recently been awarded, out of more than 8,000 entries, one of three 2008 Real Girl of the Year Awards sponsored by American Girl. According to American Girl, Bella's amazing spirit is exemplified through her commitment to honoring her heritage through powwow dancing and starting the Soaring Eagles youth group to teach native children about their culture. Way to go Bella!



Fancy Shawl Dancer at 2008 Gathering

Electronic NCGLNAC Newsletter

If you have a computer and email, please help NCGLNAC save on paper, stamps, mailing labels, and ink and sign up to receive the NCGLNAC quarterly Newsletter by email. The electronic version is the same as the paper version, except that the email version is in full color in a PDF format and arrives several days before the paper version. If you receive the electronic version and archive the newsletters in your computer, you never have to look for your NCGLNAC Newsletters. The Adobe Acrobat PDF format greatly shrinks the size of the Newsletter (in kilobytes) which makes it fairly quick to download into your computer. The free Adobe Acrobat program allows you to download, open, read and save the Newsletter to your computer.

To receive the electronic NCGLNAC Newsletter, email Kay Neumayr at kay.neumayr@ncglnac.com to be added to the email list. Thank you for your help.

NCGLNAC Wish List

Many times members and friends of NCGLNAC would like the opportunity to help with some of our continuing programs and events, but aren't sure what is needed. The following are some of our needs:

Sponsorship Opportunities:

- ✓ Gathering Drum sponsors in any amount
- ✓ Gathering Head Dancer sponsors in any amount
- ✓ Gathering Emcee and Arena Director sponsors in any amount
- ✓ Gathering Program advertising at any amount (ads are from \$20 to \$90)

Donation Opportunities:

- ✓ Six small permanent arrow directional signs for the hiking trail @ \$20 each
- ✓ Six permanent hiking trail plant identification-information signs @\$70 each
- ✓ One permanent welcoming sign for the hiking trail @\$150
- ✓ One permanent lockable, roofed kiosk with changeable information @\$700
- ✓ Bottled water, Gatorade and ice for drums and dancers at the Gathering
- ✓ Buffalo stew meat, shaved ham, buns, etc. for participants meal at the Gathering
- ✓ Raffle items for Gathering
- ✓ Partial scholarships for cultural arts classes: 20 for children @ \$10 each and 10 for adult classes @ \$35 each

Volunteer Opportunities:

- ✓ Supervisor and coordinator of work on hiking trail
- ✓ Persons to help with maintenance and bridge construction on hiking trail
- ✓ Helpers for Gathering participant meal
- ✓ Person to coordinate Gathering raffle and 50-50 drawings
- ✓ Persons to help with NCGLNAC booth
- ✓ Persons to help with Gathering set up on Friday June 12 and take down on June 14
- ✓ Persons to help with clean-up of grounds, including restrooms during the Gathering
- ✓ Persons to help with cultural arts classes set and take down in April and August

If you can help, please contact Kay Neumayr at 765-426-3022 or kay.neumayr@ncglnac.com.

NCGLNAC Membership Registration

I wish to become a member of the National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Inc. (NCGLNAC) to support the preservation and sharing of Great Lakes Native American culture through my gifts and membership activities.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

_____ *Please send the NCGLNAC quarterly newsletter by email*

NCGLNAC Membership Year is the Membership Anniversary

Annual Membership Categories

| | |
|---|------|
| Student (Full time to age 25) | \$15 |
| Individual (1 adult) | \$25 |
| Family (2 adults & children to 18 yrs.) | \$40 |
| Grandparent (2 adults & grandchildren to 18 yrs.) | \$50 |

Please list all names

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Otter Circle | \$100 - \$249 |
| Beaver Circle | \$250 - \$499 |
| Crane Circle | \$500 - \$999 |
| Wolf Circle | \$1,000 - \$2,499 |

Those interested in becoming patron members of NCGLNAC at other levels by making special donations are invited to contact Membership Chair Claude Miller at claudemiller@ncglnac.com

Please make checks payable to NCGLNAC, Inc. and send completed form and dues to:

Nick Poepelman
NCGLNAC Treasurer
12502 Maple Grove Road
Minster, OH 45865

Claude Miller, Membership Chair
810-794-4242

claudemiller@ncglnac.com

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR GREAT LAKES
NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE, INC.**

Presents

Gourd Rattle Class

Jay County Public Library

315 North Ship Street, Portland, Indiana

February 28, 2009

Internationally-known, award-winning gourd artist Carolyn Rushton from Glenwood, Indiana will teach a gourd rattle class from 10 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Saturday, February 28 in the Community Room of the Jay County Public Library, 315 North Ship Street, Portland, Indiana.

Carolyn is the only gourd artist to win Best in Show in three states in the same year. Her work is published in eight gourd books. Her gourds are on every continent of the world, except Antarctica.

Class participants will learn how to remove the seeds from the gourd, replacing them with more melodic seeds, clean and then decorate their rattle with wood burned designs, paint, feathers, and leather of their choice. Students will be able to take home their completed gourd rattle at the end of the class session. Class size is limited to **8** participants. Deadline for registration is February 20, 2009. Lunch is on your own or bring a sack lunch.

The class fee of \$47 includes instruction and all materials for completion of the gourd rattle. If you have questions, please contact Kay Neumayr (NCGLNAC Cultural Arts Classes Chair) at 765-426-3022 or kay.neumayr@ncglnac.com. *This event made possible in part by Arts Place, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*

GOURD RATTLE CLASS REGISTRATION FORM
Mail to Kay Neumayr, 4950 N 750E, Attica, IN 47918
To Be Received By the February 20 Deadline
Make Checks Payable to NCGLNAC, Inc.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Registration fee enclosed (\$47 per class participant) \$ _____

Total Registration Enclosed \$ _____

Registration Deadline is February 20
After February 20 Contact Kay Neumayr for Class Availability



About NCGLNAC

The National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Inc. was formed as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 educational organization. The Center is composed of Native and non-Native members whose mission is to continue and preserve traditional Great Lakes Native American art, history and culture by helping pass those traditions on to Native People and by educating the general public about the importance of Great Lakes Native peoples, their art, history and culture.

The Center has no political agenda. Our focus is on education. We have seen far too many of our treasured elders and tradition bearers begin their Spirit Journey without knowing who would carry on in their place. Additionally, we know too many Native people who are displaced from their tribal land-base and separated from their traditional tribal cultures.

Over the past 15 years, the Center's tribal elders, tradition bearers and members have been presenting

at workshops, symposia, university classrooms, conferences, powwows, elementary schools, libraries and other cultural and educational events. We look forward to helping Native peoples, urban cultural centers, universities, public and private elementary and secondary schools, and the general public raise their awareness and understanding of the cultural heritage and history of Great Lakes Native peoples in an inviting, comfortable place with a friendly learning environment.

NCGLNAC now owns nearly 30 acres (generously donated by the Jay County Fair Board) of beautiful, wooded land, complete with grassland, pond and wetlands, located just north of the Jay County Fairgrounds in Portland. The first ethno-botanical hiking trail is nearing completion and was opened to the public in 2008.

If you would like to know more about NCGLNAC or receive membership information, please log on to our website at <http://www.ncglnac.org> or contact us at P.O. Box 1063, Portland, IN 47371.



*National Center for Great Lakes
Native American Culture, Inc.
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Funded in Part By



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