



NCGLNAC Newsletter

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

Volume 8, Number 4

October 2008

Issue #29

Summer Cultural Arts Classes

The 2008 Summer Cultural Arts Classes were held from August 4 thru 8 at the Women's Building of the Jay County Fairgrounds in Portland. We had 68 participants from 10 states...several new participants and many that have come for years. People still want to learn the old ways because the most popular classes were the traditional living skills and braintanning classes.

We saw beautiful sterling silver pieces, fancy-carved antler-handled flint knives, gorgeous Iroquois raised beaded bags, very nice large cedar boxes, beautiful wood burned and painted gourd drums, highly-detailed carved bone pendants and bolos, lots of beautifully-done quill plaiting and woven cattail mats covering a wigwam. The writing class learned journaling and writing techniques for recording family stories. The children's classes were held August 4 thru 7 and it was amazing what the children accomplished each day. The children's classes were good-sized with the Thursday class taught by Nita Norcross totaling 20 participants, including the Soaring Eagle Youth Group and the Wapehani Girl Scout Troop #580.



Nita Norcross' Ojibwe Culture Class

Trail Work Planned

Plans are being made for a work day for the NCGLNAC trail and site. On Saturday, November 1, during the NCGLNAC Fall Friendship Fire, we hope to have many volunteers to help clear out invasive plants and brush and help remove limbs and a tree that fell on the trail during the June 6 storm. We hope some of the Fall Friendship Fire participants will take part in this endeavor as well as some local participants. Our goal is that the trail can be used more easily when some of the damage done by the June storm is removed.

The trail is about a mile long and takes hikers around the pond, next to the wetlands, through the mature woodlands and past some of the borrow pits from clay mining. It is the only nature trail open to the public in the Portland area and one NCGLNAC would like to continue to work on and upgrade so more people can enjoy the beauty and peace that can be found in nature. We hope people of all ages can learn to appreciate the native plants, cranes, geese, frogs, fresh water mussels, deer, raccoons and other wildlife that call the site their home.



Linda Andrews' Gourd Container Class

Photo courtesy of Linda Andrews

NCGLNAC Upcoming Events

- **October 4 & 5 – Jay Heritage Festival.** Jay Historical Society. Demonstrations of Great Lakes Native arts and crafts.
- **November 1 & 2 – Fall Friendship Fire.** Women’s Building, Jay County Fairgrounds.
- **November 1 – Work day.** NCGLNAC trail and site.
- **November 1 – Lecture Series Session 3.** Robin McBride Scott will discuss the fur trade era and its impact on the material culture of the native peoples, Jay Historical Society. 5 p.m.
- **November 1 – Gourd Rattle Class.** Carolyn Rushton at the Jay County Public Library in Portland.
- **April 4 & 5, 2009 – Spring Cultural Arts Classes.**
- **April 18 – NCGLNAC Academic Conference.**
- **May TBA – One day cultural arts class**
- **June 13 & 14 – 6th Annual NCGLNAC Gathering of Great Lakes Nations, Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Grounds.**
- **August 3 – 7 – Summer cultural arts classes.**
- **August 3 – 7 – Summer cultural arts classes for children over the age of 6.**
- **September TBA – One day cultural arts class.**



The year-long 2008/09 NCGLNAC cultural arts classes and the NCGLNAC visiting artist presentations are made possible, in part, by Arts Place, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



POTAWATOMI

The following poem was written by NCGLNAC member Ruth Merrifield of Three Oaks, Michigan. Ruth gifted all of us with this beautiful, heartfelt poem at the Give-Away during the Summer Cultural Arts Classes in August, where we all become one in a family. Ruth’s poem says it all.

A Healing Place

This is a healing place
An all-embracing circle of
Old Friends and
New acquaintances.
Distance traveled to
Share in each other’s presence.

This is a healing place
Where tears and laughter intermingle
Stories are shared
Family concerns and joys
Become community possession,
Validating each other’s presence.

This is a healing place
Where the teachings of the elders
Is offered to help us
Understand the significance
Of the past ways as they
Affect the present and the future
Encouraging each other’s presence.

This is a healing place
A retreat for mind and spirit
As the process of creating is
Experienced in community
Nurturing each other’s presence.

This is a healing place,
And you
My brothers and sisters
Are the healers.

Aho,
Ruth Merrifield
August 2008

NCGLNAC Awarded IAC Grant

NCGLNAC was awarded an Arts Project Support grant in the amount of \$7,425 from the Arts Place, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts to help support our cultural arts classes from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. Grants funds are for marketing expenses of the events and honorariums and some travel reimbursement for our teaching, performing and visiting artists. Thanks to this funding NCGLNAC will be sending visiting artists to the Shanks Elementary School in Portland, Jay Christian School, the "Update Learning" programs for retirees in Muncie and other many venues not yet finalized.



Paula Butcher's Brain tanning Class

2008 Jay Heritage Festival

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 6th Annual Jay County Heritage Festival October 4 and 5 at the Jay County Historical Society Museum grounds in Portland. This wonderful event celebrates Jay County's history. This year's event honors Portland native and musician Jack Imel, who recently retired from the Lawrence Welk show. Old time crafts, demonstrations and foods will be featured both days. NCGLNAC will have a booth where members will demonstrate Great Lakes Native American lifeways such as flintknapping, beading, porcupine quillwork and weaving.

NCGLNAC Hosts Trail of Death Caravan

On the evening of September 22, NCGLNAC was very pleased to host the Potawatomi Trail of Death Commemorative Caravan for dinner as they made their way from Rochester, Indiana to Lawrence,

Kansas. Every five years, since 1988, the caravan participants have retraced the steps of their Potawatomi ancestors when they were removed from Northern Indiana in September 1838. Participants came from Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico and even Hawaii (former NCGLNAC member Susan Campbell).

Ken and Pat Ruhlander, Linda Andrews and Kay Neumayr prepared a feast of venison stew, venison and rice casserole, butternut squash, cornbread, pumpkin bread, strawberries, watermelon, tomatoes and fresh salad greens. Many items for the feast were donated. Helpers were Nancy, Ian and Janae Winningham, Theresa Klassen, Jerry and Trinity Neumayr. Many thanks to Tetia Lee and the Tippecanoe Arts Federation for giving the use of their conference room for the dinner. The evening was enjoyed by all.

Eugene Brown Honored

Miami elder, NCGLNAC advisory board member and long-time tradition bearer at NCGLNAC summer cultural arts classes, Eugene Brown was honored September 18 by Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. The occasion was the grand re-opening of the Miami University Art Museum and dedication of the Art Museum's site for a 6-foot tall bronze of Eugene's beautiful sculpture "A Tribe Named Miami, A Surveyor's Stake, A Town Named Oxford." The wooden sculpture includes a turtle with a sand hill crane and loon on its back with cattails and other wetlands plants. It will be exciting to see the bronze.

Mickie Mann, Linda Andrews, Pat Broom and Kay Neumayr were honored to be Eugene's guests and to represent NCGLNAC at the activities. The events began with a private museum opening for Miami tribal members and guests at 10 a.m., lunch, artist demonstrations by Scott Shoemaker, Dani Tippmann, Katrina Mitten and Cathy Mowry, viewing of Daryl Baldwin, II's new DVD on the Myaamia language revitalization, informational speeches by Julie Olds and others at 2 p.m., followed by the dedication and reception at 4 p.m. A 6 p.m. banquet for tribal members and guests ended the day's events.

The new exhibit *myaamiaki iisi meehtohsee-niwiciki* How the Miami People Live will be open until December 13. The exhibition celebrates the heritage of the Miami Tribe. It is the culmination

of many years work in locating Miami artifacts literally all over the world, in private collections and museums. Items on exhibit range from historical documents like a deerskin map dating from 1774/75, a letter of introduction of Little Turtle (Mihsihkinaahkwa) to George Washington and other historical articles to contemporary works by Jessee Baldwin, Evelyn Bellmyer, Katrina Mitten, Dani Tippmann, Cathy Mowry and others.

The Art Museum is on the campus of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, at 801 South Patterson Avenue (US 27). Hours are Tuesday – Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday noon to 5 p.m.

Contributed by Linda Andrews and Miami University Art Museum



Eugene Brown's sculpture

Photo by Linda Andrews

Gourd Rattle Class Planned

Award-winning gourd artist Carolyn Rushton will teach a personal gourd rattle class from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, November 1 in the Community Room of the Jay County Public Library, 315 North Ship Street in Portland. Participants will learn how to remove the seeds and clean the gourd and then decorate the rattle. They will be able to take home their completed project. *This event is made possible in part by Arts Place, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.*

The class is limited to 8 participants. Deadline for registering is October 25. The registration fee of \$47 includes instruction and all materials. Please contact Kay Neumayr at 765-426-3022 or email at

kay.neumayr@ncglnac.com for a registration form or obtain one as a PDF on the NCGLNAC website www.ncglnac.org under Classes.

Final Lecture in 2008 Series

The final lecture for the 2008 NCGLNAC Lecture Series will be held at 5 p.m. November 1 at the Jay County Historical Society Museum, 903 East Main Street in Portland. All lectures are free and open to the public.

Robin McBride Scott, NCGLNAC board member and tradition bearer and nationally-recognized artist and researcher into river cane weaving, will talk about *"The Impact of the Fur Trade on the Material Culture of the Great Lakes Native Peoples."* Her talk will center on the Fur Trade era and how it affected the lives of the first inhabitants of this large geographic area.

This lecture is included as part of the program for the 2008 Fall Friendship Fire to be held November 1 and 2 in Portland.

2008 Fall Friendship Fire

The 2008 NCGLNAC Fall Friendship Fire celebration will be held at the Women's Building of the Jay County Fairgrounds, the NCGLNAC site and the Jay County Historical Society Museum in Portland, Indiana, November 1 and 2. NCGLNAC board member Ray Lutz from Pittsburgh, PA is again in charge of planning the event. True to the event's name, a fire will be kept all weekend. Please join NCGLNAC members and friends for a relaxing weekend of reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

Saturday's activities include starting the weekend's fire and appointing fire keepers, a guided hike on NCGLNAC's nature trail, learning to do a simple craft by those not hiking the trail, a community-wide work day on the trail, working on unfinished projects from earlier cultural arts classes, Robin McBride Scott's historical lecture, dinner, and roundtable discussions and community with other participants around the fire after dinner. All of these activities are included in the registration fee. Also, from 10 to 4 Carolyn Rushton will teach a personal gourd rattle class at the Jay County Public Library. This class has a separate registration fee that is not included in the Fall

Friendship Fire registration. See column 1 on page 4 of this NCGLNAC Newsletter for more details.

Highlights for Sunday include continuing trail work for those interested, more work on unfinished class projects and informal campfire coffee circle talks. The weekend concludes with Closing Circle at 12 noon and the NCGLNAC board meeting for November (and the last one for 2008) at 1 p.m.

The NCGLNAC Fall Friendship Fire is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the company of friends you have just met and those you have known for many years. It is a relaxing time of great fellowship and the last time many members of the NCGLNAC family will see each other until the Spring Cultural Arts Classes in April.

The registration fee of \$25 for current NCGLNAC members and \$30 for non-members includes all activities and presentations and the Saturday evening meal. Please send your registration to be received by **October 25**. See the Fall Friendship Fire flyer on page 7 of this newsletter for complete details.



Starting the fire at the 2007 Fall Friendship Fire

2009 Spring Cultural Arts Classes

The NCGLNAC Spring Cultural Arts Classes will be held April 4 and 5 at the Women's Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds in Portland.

The Great Lakes Native American Cultural Arts Classes will be one and a half days long, with a total of approximately 10 hours of instruction. There will be four classes including George Trendle teaching scrimshaw and Robin McBride Scott teaching a birch bark medallion or ladies hair barrette. The other two classes are not finalized yet, but will include a discussion/lecture class of an

historical nature. The complete flyer for the 2009 Spring Cultural Arts Classes will be included as part of the NCGLNAC January 2009 Newsletter.



2008 Spring Cultural Arts Classes Field Trip to Anderson Mounds

2009 NCGLNAC Academic Conference

The 2009 NCGLNAC Academic Conference will be held Saturday April 18 at the John Jay Center for Learning in Portland. The subject of the 2009 Conference will be "*Native American Astronomy*." One only needs to study about the ancient earthworks in Indiana, Ohio and other parts of the country, the Sun Dagger in Chaco Canyon, and the medicine wheels of the Great Plains, to name a few, to gain an appreciation of the sophistication of the Native People in the field of astronomy. This conference promises to be an exciting one and a wonderful opportunity to learn more.

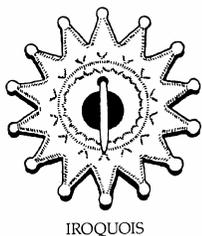
2009 is the International Year of Astronomy and NCGLNAC hopes to facilitate greater appreciation and knowledge of the Native American contribution to astronomy in the past, present and future.

NCGLNAC E-Newsletter

If you have a computer and email, please help NCGLNAC save on paper, stamps, mailing labels, ink and so on 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 email version and archive the newsletters in your computer, you never have to look for your NCGLNAC Newsletters. They are right there in your computer just waiting for you to

read them anytime. The Adobe Acrobat PDF format greatly shrinks the size of the Newsletter (in kilobytes) which makes it fairly quick to download into your computer. For example, this Newsletter is about 25,000 kilobytes but the PDF shrinks it down to less than 300 kilobytes. The free Adobe Acrobat program allows you to download, open, read and save the Newsletter to your computer.

To receive the electronic version of the NCGLNAC Newsletter, email Kay Neumayr at kay.neumayr@ncglnac.com to be added to the email list. The response has been good so far, but we are still sending out over 400 quarterly Newsletters. Please help NCGLNAC spend more of our funds on programs about Great Lakes Native American culture and less on paper, stamps, mailing labels and ink.



IROQUOIS

NCGLNAC Annual Fund

The 2008 Annual Fund Campaign begins with *this* fall issue of the NCGLNAC newsletter. An annual fund drive is held yearly. Funds raised through this campaign help with organizational operating expenses for 2009 program activities and events. This is NCGLNAC's *eighth* programming year and our *fourth* annual fund. In the 2008 calendar year, NCGLNAC sponsored nearly 20 programs and events, including one day cultural arts classes, 2 ½ day classes, a 5 day class, the Gathering Pow Wow, lectures, an academic conference, children's classes and activities, a musical performance and visiting artists at schools, cultural events and elder education programs.

Monies that you as a member or friend of NCGLNAC donate help to provide great Native American events that preserve the arts, culture and history of the Great Lakes Native Americans. A detailed letter and response envelope are included in this newsletter. Celebrate eight years of NCGLNAC program success by make a donation today!

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 23)	\$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 Janice Tierney at janice.tierney@ncglnac.com

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

**Janice Tierney
Membership Chair
NCGLNAC, Inc.
5361 Elmsford Drive
Flint, MI 48532
810-230-0875**

**2008 NCGLNAC FALL FRIENDSHIP FIRE
NOVEMBER 1 AND 2, 2008
Women's Building, Jay County Fairgrounds
Portland, Indiana**

NCGLNAC Board member Ray Lutz from Pittsburgh, PA is again in charge of planning the events and activities at the NCGLNAC 2008 Fall Friendship Fire Celebration, November 1 and 2, 2008. Activities will be held at the Women's Building of the Jay County Fairgrounds, at the NCGLNAC site and the Jay County Historical Society Museum. Please join NCGLNAC members and friends for a relaxing weekend of learning a new craft, finishing previous class projects, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

Highlights for the weekend include a guided hike on NCGLNAC's nature trail, keeping the fire, learning to do a simple craft for those not hiking the trail, a community-wide work day on the trail, working on unfinished projects from earlier cultural arts classes, Robin McBride Scott's historical lecture, dinner, and roundtable discussions and community with other participants around the fire after dinner. Doyle Blooding will again prepare the Saturday evening meal. Sunday morning will include trail work, time to complete projects and informal campfire talks. All these activities are included in the registration fee. NCGLNAC member Carolyn Rushton will be conducting a personal gourd rattle class for ages 12 and up at the Jay County Public Library Saturday, November 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Kay Neumayr at 765-426-3022 or kay.neumayr@ncglnac.com for class registration information.

Registration is between 8 and 9 a.m. Saturday, November 1, followed by opening circle. Lunch on Saturday is on your own. The Saturday evening lecture at the Historical Society will be at 5:00 p.m. The Saturday evening feast will be at 7 p.m. Closing circle will be at 12 noon Sunday. Saturday's events are EDST and Sunday's events are EST. The registration fee of \$25 for NCGLNAC members and \$30 for non-members includes all activities and presentations and the Saturday evening meal. Please send your registration to be received by **October 25**.

Camping is available at the Fairgrounds for \$15 per night (electricity only) or primitive for \$10 per night. RV dump station is available. Please include the camping fee with your registration. Portland's Hoosier Inn (260-726-7113) has rooms for October 31 and November 1 at \$50 for one bed and \$55 for two beds per night plus tax. Super 8 in Portland (260-726-8888) has rooms for \$63 for one person and \$5 for each additional person per night plus tax. Bearcreek Farms (260-997-6822) near Bryant has rooms with two queen beds for \$60 per night. Please make your own motel reservations before **October 25** to receive the **group rate**.

**MAIL THIS COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO
KAY NEUMAYR, 4950 N. 750 EAST, ATTICA, IN 47918
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO NCGLNAC, INC.
Registration Deadline is October 25**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Registration Fee per Person (\$25 member/\$30 non-member) \$ _____

Camping Fee (\$15 electric or \$10 primitive per night) \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION ENCLOSED \$ _____

Questions? Contact Ray Lutz at 412-751-2304 or ray.lutz@ncglnac.com or Kay Neumayr at 765-426-3022 or kay.neumayr@ncglnac.com

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 will be open 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.*

*P.O. Box 1063
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www.ncglnac.org*

Funded in Part By



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED