



NATIONAL CENTER FOR GREAT LAKES NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE, INC.
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: For more information contact Kay Neumayr, NCGLNAC
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Native American Cultural Arts Classes Planned

Portland, Indiana – March 7, 2008. National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Inc. will offer traditional Great Lakes Native American cultural arts classes at the Women's Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, Indiana, April 5 and 6, 2008. The classes explore the arts, crafts, traditions, culture and history of Great Lakes Native Americans through hands-on workshop classes and presentations by Native American tradition bearers, talented artisans and experts on Native American culture. All classes are open to everyone 12 and up.

Four classes will be offered:

Men's Ribbon Shirt. Pat Ferguson will teach class participants how to make a ribbon shirt for men that can be worn at pow wows and other Native American events. She spent 18 years attending powwows with her clothing booth. Pat says she will teach anyone how to make a shirt that wants to learn...no sewing experience is necessary.

Birch Bark Baskets. LouRae Rumble, Kiowa Apache descent. For centuries mukuks (birch bark baskets) were used for storing food, sewing items and beads, picking berries, and other carrying needs. They were even used for carrying water and boiling food.

Ancient Native American Cultures. This class has a Saturday guided tour and a different Sunday session:
Saturday – Field Trip to Ancient Native American Earthworks guided by Professor Don Cochran, Director of the Archaeological Resources Management Service of Ball State University. Beginning around 200 BC the Adena people built over 300 sophisticated earthworks in Indiana. Less than 100 remain and most of those are severely damaged by farming, excavation, etc. In 1988 Don confirmed his theory that the complex of mounds near Anderson were built to be used as an observatory. Don will guide the field trip to 3 earthworks in this area: Windsor Mound, the newly discovered circular enclosure at Yorktown and to Mounds State Park in Anderson. Learn how these earthworks are inter-connected. Students need to dress for any weather. Bring snacks and your cameras. **Sunday – Ancient Indiana Earthworks and Culture Periods.** Amy L. Johnson, research Archaeologist and Archaeology Outreach Coordinator, has worked for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology since 1991. Her main research interests are pre-contact archaeology of the Adena and Hopewell periods, historic cemeteries and public outreach. In this class Amy will discuss examples of earthworks from around our state, culture periods in Indiana and representative artifacts, laws which protect archaeological sites and more. She will bring archaeological outreach documents, such as *Early Peoples of Indiana*, for the class.

Porcupine Quillwork. Boni Nelson, Cherokee descent. Boni is recognized as an expert quill worker, printmaker and artist. The class will begin by covering the basic techniques of Great Lakes porcupine quill decoration: plaiting and zig-zag. Students will choose the project they wish to make such as a small neck knife sheath, neck bag, or scissors case.

Class sizes are limited. Pre-registration is required by March 26, 2008. Class fee is \$50 for NCGLNAC members and \$75 for non-members. In addition, some classes have a small fee for materials and supplies. A limited number of scholarships are available. Contact Linda Andrews at 765-474-1045 or

linda.andrews@ncglnac.com for scholarship information. Contact Kay Neumayr at 765-426-3022 or kay.neumayr@ncglnac.com for general information.

National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. The Center is composed of Native and non-Native members whose mission is to 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 culture. NCGLNAC will locate its future Center on 30 acres of land generously donated by the Jay County Fair Board, Portland, Indiana. The new center will feature a 14,000 square foot building that includes classrooms, an Interpretive Center/Gallery for changing exhibits, Art Gallery, Sales Gallery and artist-in-residence apartments. The grounds will feature outdoor learning and classroom space, rain gardens and ethno botanical trails, restored wetlands, an early 1800's Great Lakes Native American village with Native American gardens, restored prairie and Native plants, fresh water pond, and immature and mature woodlands. The first educational ethno botanical hiking trail is expected to be open to the public later in 2008.

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