



NATIONAL CENTER FOR GREAT LAKES NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE, INC.
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2009 Lecture Series

March 30, 2009 – Portland, Indiana. Learn more about Great Lakes Native American culture and history by attending the three-part lecture series sponsored by National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Inc. (NCGLNAC) and hosted by the Jay County Historical Society. All three lectures begin at 5 p.m. and are free and open to the public. The Jay County Historical Society Museum is located at 903 East Main Street in Portland. 2009 Lecture dates are March 14, April 4 and May 16.

The second lecture of the 2009 Series will be by Susan Snow-Willi (Seneca) on April 4. Susan will talk about the Iroquois Confederacy (Oneida, Seneca, Mohawk, Onondaga, Cayuga and Tuscarora) and the Seneca people, their history, traditions and culture. The Iroquois oral history can be dated to around 1309. First contact with Europeans was in 1535. The Iroquois people were hunters and gatherers, but their mainstay was agriculture with the three sisters—corn, beans and squash. The culture of the people starts with the spiritual connection with mother Turtle (Earth) and each other. The Constitution of the United States is based on the Iroquois Confederacy: government of the people, by the people and for the people. 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.

The final lecture for the 2009 Series will be by Sara Wagar, elder and former principal chief of the Piqua Shawnee tribe, on May 16. 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.

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. NCGLNAC now owns nearly 30 acres (generously donated by the Jay County Fair Board) of beautiful, wooded land, complete with 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.

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