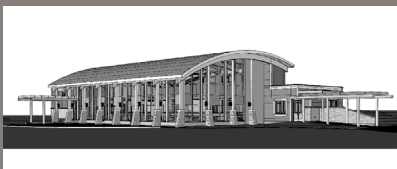




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Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
Kee-Boon-Mein-Kaa
"Celebrating the Huckleberry Harvest"
25th Anniversary Contest Pow-Wow

September 4-5, 2010
Rodgers Lake
55620 Sink Rd
Dowagiac, MI

Grand Entry
Saturday: 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM
Sunday: Noon

HEAD STAFF
Host Drum: Midnight Express, MN
Co-Host: Ribbon Town, IN
Invited Drums:
Southern Straight, MI
War Club, WI
Great Lakes Alliance, MI
Painted Rock, MI

TBA
Master of Ceremonies: TBA
Head Veterans: George Martin, MI
Head Male Dancer: Marcus Winchester, MI
Head Female Dancer: Amanda Pigeon, MI
Honored Elders: Clarence White & Majel DeMarsh
Tom Topash & Angie Francisco
Clarence Dymale & Val Baker
Head Dance Judges: Dave & Punkin Shananaquet, MI
Awards Director: Steve Oldman Sr, MI

Participants also invited to a Sunrise Ceremony and Women's Water Walk
Friday, September 3, 2010 starting at Gage Street Property

American Indian vendors only. Vendor information contact
Teresa Magnusson
Phone: (517) 712-5581 Email: tsmagnus@redpawprinting.com
Other powwow information contact Alycia Johnson
Phone: (517) 578-4373 Email: ajohnson@redpawprinting.com
Camping available for powwow participants first
come first serve starting Thursday noon.
All vendors need to be pre-approved.
No firearms, drugs, alcohol, tribal
politics, or pets in the
powwow area.

Pokagon Band Artist Receives Michigan Heritage Award

John Pigeon tells the story of the time he took his young daughter on an outing to plant squash and corn in a remote field. He remembers his daughter questioning why they went so far off to plant fruit and vegetable seeds that they would never harvest.

"I told her about the animals and living things that would come eat the plants and their fruit," he says. "And how they would spread the seeds far and wide.

"You never know where it's going to lead," he adds. "That's why I do some of what I do."

Pigeon, a Pokagon Band citizen and seventh generation black ash basket maker, plants the seeds of culture, tradition, artistry and community by teaching his craft and making connections all around the Great Lakes region. In February the state of Michigan announced that he received the Michigan Heritage Award, and he'll be honored at a special ceremony at the Great Lakes Folk Festival in Lansing August 14. The award acknowledges his role as a community leader and as a tradition bearer.

"Our people have been making baskets for a thousand years," says Pigeon. "Even without knowing me, my ancestors passed this gift down to me. And I want my grandchildren and their grandchildren to hold onto these things just like I did."

Pigeon teaches basket

making with the goal of helping make people self sufficient. He holds community weaving sessions and hosts art markets, providing a way for artists to sell their work. His respect for the trees as life-giving beings is obvious. His work will be featured in an upcoming exhibit called My

bows and arrows to sustain us with hunting," he says. "That one plant can provide all these things for us is just amazing to me."

He's hopeful that a remedy will be found to the problem plaguing ash trees: the emerald ash borer.

"There's a teaching there: if we don't care for what we have, we'll lose it."

Pigeon's work has taken him all over the country. He has been an artist in residence at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. In 2006 he was a part of a group of sixty master basket makers to be invited to Washington, D.C. for the Smithsonian Institute's Folklife Festival. He remembers sitting under a tent with native artists from as far away as Alaska, Hawaii, Maine and Florida. The master artisans shared ideas and materials, and learned from one another about each groups' heritage and techniques.

"I told my son, 'Look at all this power in one place,'" he recalls. "It reminded me how close we are to the past."

While on that trip, the artists visited the National Archives, and Pigeon and his son looked through archived Potawatomi basket collections. While they saw similar techniques, there were certain differences, too.

"It reminded me of where I came from," he says.

Pigeon plans to continue his teaching and traveling. And who knows where those scattered seeds of tradition and artistry may take root and flourish?



John Pigeon will be honored for his basket making artistry August 14.

Courtesy of Michigan State University Museum, photo by Winnie Wabanimeke.

Ash Makes More Than Baskets.

"There are so many things this tree can do: the ash bark covers lodges, its saplings create the frames for lodges, branches can be made into pipe stems and



The elders gathered at the tribal lodge pavilion July 15 for their annual summer picnic. They feasted on barbecued chicken and ribs, fruit, salads and an array of desserts. Pictured along with Jean Mollett is Father Kevin Covert, left, a Chippewa, the new priest for Sacred Heart and Holy Maternity parishes who was invited to attend the picnic to get to know some of his Pokagon parishioners.