



# NATIONAL LONGHOUSE DRUM BEATS

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF NATIVE SONS & DAUGHTERS PROGRAMS

Blossom/Strawberry Moon  
May/June 2014



Welcome to the 3rd edition of National Longhouse Drum Beats, the national newsletter for Native Sons & Daughters Programs. The purpose of this newsletter is to broadcast news and information, both fun and important, to the membership in all Longhouses across this great program of ours. Be proud in knowing that you belong to a growing program that is coast-to-coast across our great country.

## *The Old Chief Says Goodbye and the New Chief Says Hello*

### **Numway to all of Native Sons and Daughters!**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for allowing me to be your National Chief. I have enjoyed my time as chief and look forward to continuing on as a National Sachem and Elder.

I send a "Big How" to our new National Chief Bryan "Big Wolf" Davis. I wish him all the best on this new venture he has volunteered to take. Please welcome him and give him the same help and assistance you showed to me.

As I look back on my time as National Chief of this great parent-child program, I can honestly say that I have made memories that will last my lifetime! I was given the privilege to meet and get to know some wonderful people. The time this program has allowed me to spend enjoying my children is priceless. That is what the program is all about. Creating and keeping those memories!

Remember, the more you put into this program, the more you will get out of it. Don't just sit on the sidelines, volunteer and take part as much as you can. Help to make and keep this program growing so that your children will one day be able to create memories with their children.

**May the Warm Winds of Heaven blow softly upon your house.**

**May the Great Spirit bless all those who enter there.**

**May your Moccasins make happy tracks in many snows**

**And may the Rainbow always touch your shoulder.**

(A Cherokee Prayer Blessing)

Have a great Summer!

Don "Brave Eagle" Bittala

National Sachem/Elder



### **From the Tee Pee of your new National Chief!**

"Big How" as we say in Jacksonville Florida. I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself, I am Big Wolf (Bryan Davis). I have been in the program in various roles since 2001 with my three daughters in the Tlmucuan Federation. I am extremely honored to serve as your National Chief and I would like to say Thank You to Brave Eagle (Don Bittala) for all of his time and effort that he has put in to this program.

Its great men like Brave Eagle that makes up this program that we all love so very much. We all volunteer our time for, I think the same reason. We want to give back to the program, what it has given to us. For me it's the great relationships that I have with all three of my daughters.

I am very committed to helping you grow your programs. The last couple of years we have discussed different ways to recruit new members. I welcome you to reach out to me with any ideas that you may have to allow us to share what a great program we have with other families and communities.

At the National meeting last month during a discussion on recruitment, we discussed the importance of having a dedicated recruitment officer position at the Local Longhouse level. Locally, we experienced challenges in getting the word out about our program. Six years ago, we added a Recruitment Chief position to our council. This role is dedicated to work on recruitment all year by organizing all recruitment events including membership drives and coordinating new member packets. This position has become one of our most important positions in our Longhouse. I hope this is information you find valuable and if you have questions, please call me. I will be glad to discuss this position with you more. I look forward to working with your Chiefs of your Longhouses to help your Longhouse be more successful. Big How!

Bryan "Big Wolf" Davis  
National Chief





AT THIS TIME OF

# MEMORIAL DAY



**WE HONOR THE VETERANS AND  
FAMILIES OF VETERANS WHO ALL  
HAVE SACRIFICED...  
THAT WE MAY LIVE IN FREEDOM**



REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

# National Longhouse News

## 2014 National Longhouse Annual Meeting

The 2014 National Longhouse Annual Meeting was held at Wild Creek Lodge, May 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, outside of Jacksonville, Florida. Representatives of the National Council of Officers, the National Board of Elders, Great Lakes, Alabama, Florida and California Regions all joined together for the annual gathering to build the future of Native Sons & Daughters Programs across the USA. The event was organized and staged by both National Longhouse and officers; elders and members of the Florida Regional Lodge and the Timucuan Federation of Jacksonville, FL. This privately



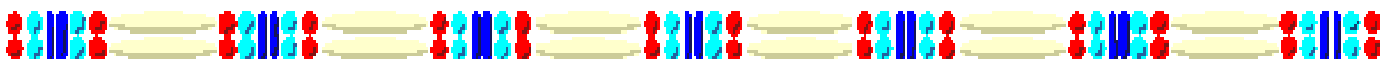
owned (huge) lodge on about 600 acres is most unique and continued to amaze the entire weekend. Only about 20 years old, the interior is sort of modern rustic and filled with trophy animals, Native American artifacts and even a 2-lane bowling alley. The massive grounds have its own marsh with elevated walkway, along with live buffalo, deer, lamas & horses. Approximately 20+ Officers, Elders & Delegates participated. The weekend consisted of several separate events. The meeting of the National Board of Elders occurred on late Friday afternoon. The NL Annual meeting with all officers, elders & delegates occurred during the full day Saturday and concluded

for dinner. This meeting was highlighted by many important discussion including promotional initiatives where a large block of the time was spent discussing and brainstorming how to better address promotion of NSD Programs everywhere, as well as insurance initiatives, regional reports and annual budget. The new National Council of Officer elections & appointments were completed (see separate article). Saturday evening consisted of a ceremonial fire gathering of all those present and additionally invited. The elders of the Timucuan Federation orchestrated the ceremonial circle and fire with special participation by many of those present. Tiger Lily, eldest daughter of National Elder Rainbow Sun performed her impression of the traditional Native American False Face Dance (aka Grass Dance) to chase the bad spirits from the grounds of the council fire. The National Board of Elders were honored with a special new pin marking ceremony. The children of the Timucuan Yuma tribe present were honored by National Elders Gray Horse, Rainbow Sun and Buckeye for their work on a special fundraiser for a local dental clinic for the poor(The Apple Project). The honoring of their Yuma children & parents' Indian names by Elder Buckeye brought out much emotion. New National Chief Big Wolf (Timucuan) led a demonstration of the Broken Arrow Ceremony. The demonstration of the Acorn (Induction) Ceremony was led Kurt "Golden Bear" Gearheart. The evenings were spent with a lot of great fellowship and fun.



Back Row: Mark Nowlin, Clay Parrill, Steve McLaughlin, Kenn Synek, George Skerritt, Mike Ivan, Tom Hankey, Bryan Davis, Bob Tabano.

Middle Row: Jay Hader, Don Bittala, Joe Craciun, Scott Klueppel, Greg Measor. Front Row: Dave Garberson, Keith Armstrong, Dave Pumpelly, Brian Quirk, Ray French.





## Introducing your New National Council of Officers

The 2014-16 National Council of Officers was confirmed on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 at the National Longhouse Annual Meeting. These Great Chiefs have stepped up to fill these important national positions. The new NCO officers and their positions are as follows:



Name	Position
Bryan "Big Wolf" Davis	National Chief
Keith "Red Wolf" Armstrong	Nat'l Assistant Chief
Jay "Flying Eagle" Hader	Nat'l Wampum Bearer
David "Spirit Warrior" Pumpelly	Nat'l Talley Keeper
Don "Brave Eagle" Bittala	National Sachem



These Chiefs will transition into their new positions as they are trained by the outgoing NCO Officers. The outgoing National Chief serves as Sachem insure a smooth transition and to coach the new officers.



## Words Cannot Express our Thanks!

All of National Longhouse joins in heartfelt thanks to outgoing National Chief Don "Brave Eagle" Bittala for his 6 great years of service as National Chief. Don stepped forward in 2008 when no one else was willing to fill this important position during a time when National Longhouse as an organization was still in its early formative years. Don has been instrumental in so many important contributions to National Longhouse and its NSD Programs. At the end of his second term in 2012, Don was awarded National Longhouses highest honor, the Joe Friday Award. Don was extremely deserving of the award at that time and since then his ongoing contributions have continued to benefit all of National Longhouse.

National Longhouse also wishes to give thanks to Kenn "Soaring Eagle" Synek who has served as National Longhouse Wampum Bearer (treasurer) for the past 4 years. Kenn is also the NLL CPA but chose to serve in this volunteer role when asked back in 2010. Kenn has been instrumental in organizing the books to be very streamlined and easy to manage. His diligence with the annual budget has been a blessing. We have been fortunate to have had Kenn serve in this critical position for this amount of time.



## National Board of Elders Welcomes New Elders

The National Board of Elders is proud to announce that 3 new members have been added to the NBE as well as one member has been made permanent. In February 2014, invitations were extended to Brian "Flaming Arrow" Quirk, Timucuan Federation Elder and Joe "Rainbow Sun" Craciun, Crooked River Longhouse Elder to join the NBE. These wise and storied Chiefs have both accepted the invitation and have begun to serve in their positions on the NBE. Also, outgoing National Chief Don "Brave Eagle" Bittala has accepted an invitation to become a permanent member of the NBE as well. In addition, incoming (new) National Chief Bryan "Big Wolf" Davis receives a seat on the NBE as a part of his serving as National Chief. The NBE welcomes these Elders and looks forward to their contributions in preserving the mission and legacy of National Longhouse.





# **NLL Annual Meeting** **May 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**





# Longhouse Special Events

## Tarhe Longhouse – Food Drive Event

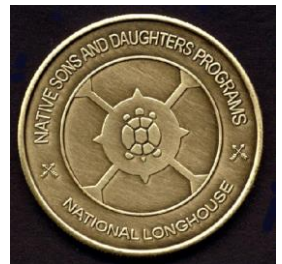
Submitted by Brian “Smiling Bear” Gibbons

In April 2014, the Seminole tribe (with the assistance of the Scioto tribe) from the Tarhe Longhouse hosted our first food drive to benefit People In Need (PIN) of Delaware County (OH). We asked each of the tribes to gather as many goods as they could to support the cause. The tribe that collected the most goods (calculated in lbs.) was rewarded with a pizza party from the Tarhe Longhouse. Sons, daughters and fathers checked their own cupboards, went door to door, called on family/friends and asked local groceries for contributions.

The event was held at the Concord Township Municipal building where PIN set up a display and cars could stop and drop off their donations. Beautiful weather and excited princesses and guides, along with hard work made the day a great success. In all, we were able to gather **968 lbs.** of goods, which equates to almost 2400 meals. Randy Bournique from PIN was very pleased with our initial effort, and looks forward to working with us in the future.



Native Sons &  
Daughters  
Medallions



Exclusive to NSD Programs

<http://www.nsdmedal.com>

# Longhouse Special Events

## Crooked River Longhouse-Native American Nature Hike

Submitted by Adam "Big Eagle" Rawlings

On Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>, members of Crooked River spent the morning hiking with a naturalist at the Cleveland Metro Parks Rocky River Nature Reservation. Parents and children spent the hour learning from the naturalist as we explored the ways the early Native Americans of the area survived using what they found in nature to provide food, clothing, and shelter. We were able to see tools and cordage created from natural materials, a model of a dwelling, and many examples of materials used. A hike on the trails provided an introduction to these materials in the habitat, along with a view of where some of the food sources might be found.

The rain did not dampen our spirits as we hiked to the top of Fort Hill (135 steps – we counted!) to see the 3 sets of mounds that were built by the Native Americans. Time has eroded the mounds significantly, but they are still quite visible and fenced off for ours and future generations to ponder – why were these mounds built? Initially, researchers believed that the hills provided some sort of defense (hence the name "Fort Hill"), but later, others believed that these mounds could have been used in some the rituals of the early woodland tribes. We will never know for sure. We had the opportunity to also learn how the Native Americans used the hides and bones from their hunts of deer, buffalo and even turkey, as tools to live and hunt. We also learned about the Native Americans trading beaver pelts with the French to obtain steel in order to create fire with their flint. Pictured below, the children had the opportunity to wear face paint similar to what the Native Americans would have used created from the dirt and earth around them.



## Share Your Stories in the Drum Beats Newsletter

Does your Longhouse or Tribe have a great story to share? Share the news and pictures of your special events with all of Native Sons & Daughters membership. Send them to [NSDNewsletter@nationallonghouse.org](mailto:NSDNewsletter@nationallonghouse.org)



# Longhouse Special Events

## Timucuan Federation-Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

Submitted by Brian Quirk, Timucuan Elder, FL RAL Chief & NBE Elder

*Bryan "Big Wolf" Davis, incoming National Chief for Native Sons and Daughters programs, announces the great news that the Timucuan Federation has been recognized by Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation as one of the Top 100 fundraisers in the nation. The significance of this award is that Alex's parents, Liz and Jay Scott forwarded the letter of appreciation and the plaque to our organization. The entire essence of our program is for fathers to spend quality time with our sons and daughters building life-long memories. If you are not familiar with the story behind our efforts, here is a little background on the Founder.*

### Alexandra "Alex" Scott

Alexandra "Alex" Scott was born to Liz and Jay Scott in Manchester, Connecticut on January 18, 1996, the second of four children. Shortly before her first birthday, Alex was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a type of childhood cancer.

On her first birthday, the doctors informed Alex's parents that if she beat her cancer it was doubtful that she would ever walk again. Just two weeks later, Alex slightly moved her leg at her parents' request to kick. This was the first indication of who she would turn out to be - a determined, courageous, confident and inspiring child with big dreams and big accomplishments.

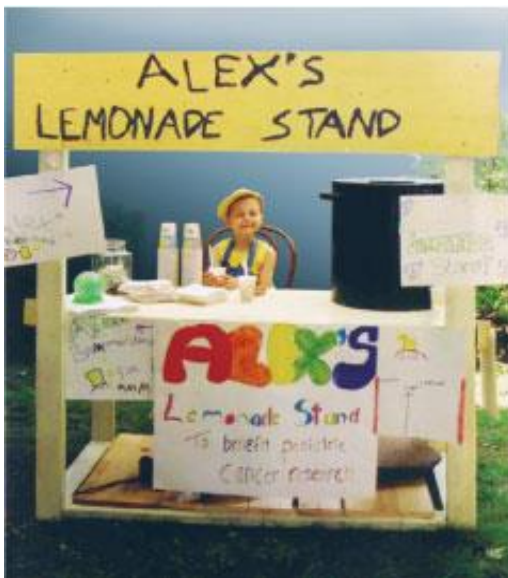
By her second birthday, Alex was crawling and able to stand up with leg braces. She worked hard to gain strength and to learn how to walk. She appeared to be beating the odds, until the shattering discovery within the next year that her tumors had started growing again. In the year 2000, the day after her fourth birthday, Alex received a stem cell transplant and informed her mother, "when I get out of the hospital I want to have a lemonade stand." She said she wanted to give the money to doctors to allow them to "help other kids, like they helped me." True to her word, she held her first lemonade stand later that year with the help of her older brother and raised an amazing \$2,000 for "her hospital."

While bravely battling her own cancer, Alex and her family continued to hold yearly lemonade stands in her front yard to benefit childhood cancer research. News spread of the remarkable sick child dedicated to helping other sick children. People from all over the world, moved by her story, held their own lemonade stands and donated the proceeds to Alex and her cause.

In August of 2004, Alex passed away at the age of 8, knowing that, with the help of others, she had raised more than \$1 million to help find a cure for the disease that took her life. Alex's family - including brother's Patrick, Eddie, and Joey - and supporters around the world are committed to continuing her inspiring legacy through Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.

Each of us has been blessed with the ultimate gift of a child by the Great Spirit. Thanks to all of the dads and children who donated a few hours to assist us in finding a cure for this wicked disease. This year marks the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the Timucuan Federation has participated in this event and we are pleased to announce and proud to say that our total contributions have now surpassed \$100,000 donated to the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.

To see Alex's story and the research being conducted to find a cure for this form of childhood cancer, please visit Alex's website at [www.alexslimonade.org](http://www.alexslimonade.org)





# Longhouse Special Events

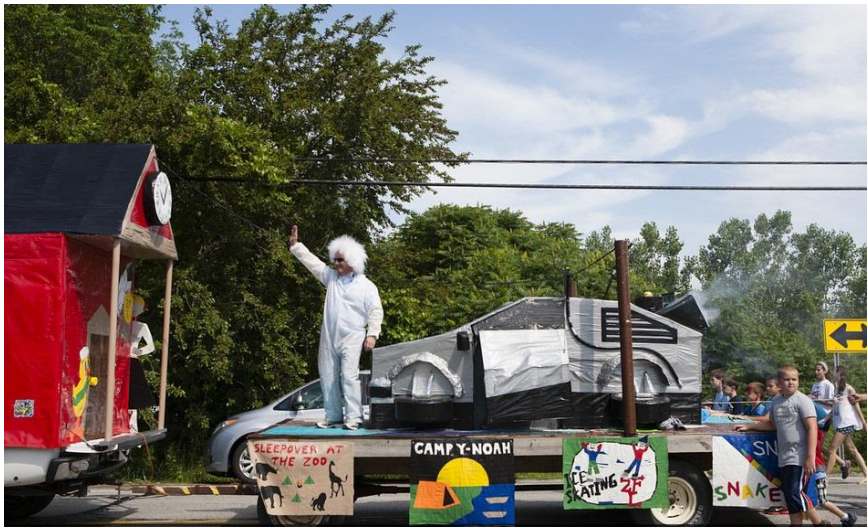
## Two Feathers Longhouse – Duct Tape Festival Winner

Submitted by Mark “Grey Hawk:” Luker

The 2013 Avon Duct Tape Festival was quite an exciting time for the Two Feathers Longhouse. 2FL entered a float in the annual festival parade and took home first prize of \$1200. Keith Urig, Kevin Laviano, Dave Horwedel and Mark Luker were key dads in designing and building a replica float of the famous time-traveling DeLorean auto from the movie “Back to the Future”. They spent many hours over several weeks building the float. The float also included a 12’ high replica of the famous clock tower from the movie. The DeLorean had working gull-wing doors and 2 fog machines for exhaust.



2013/14 2FL Chief Dave Horwedel (with white fright wig) dressed up as the infamous Doc Brown as shown in the picture below. A Wall Street Journal reporter shadowed them in the final hours of completing the float.



This annual 3-day festival in Avon (outside of Cleveland), Ohio is sponsored by ShureTech, the manufacturer of Duct brand tapes. Each entry is provided with 60 rolls but that wasn't nearly enough for these tireless dads. They had family members scouring stores outside of town for more. They worked on the float into the morning before the parade started.

Follow the link to the article and watch the video which features many scenes of the 2FL float and several great mentions of NSD Programs.

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424127887323300004578555371668233926>



# Longhouse Special Events

## Cuyahoga Valley Longhouse – Pine Wood Derby & Pathfinders Events

Submitted by Kevin “Chief Kwi” Kwitakowski,

**Annual Pine Car Derby:** Event was held at the Independence Recreation Center in March. Many Sons and Daughters participated with lots of creative designs for their cars. Of course... the dads also provide minimal (wink) help in building the cars that went screaming down the track. Winners were honored with trophies. The Wahoo tribe did a great job organizing the event and the Crow tribe ran the concession stand with such precision like they were working at Progressive Field (the ballpark for the Cleveland Indians).



**Pathfinder Highlights:** The Pathfinders organized another sellout Whirlyball event in January and fun was had by all. Whirly ball is a combination of amusement-park Dodgems, Lacrosse and Basketball. You drive the cars as teams, pass the ball with a Lacrosse-style stick and shoot into basketball hoops. See the pictures below.



In May, just prior to Memorial Day, the Pathfinder tribes visited historic Calvary Cemetery (founded 1893) on the near East side of Cleveland to help veterans place flags at the headstones of many, many veterans (from many wars of the last 100+ years) who are buried there.





# Florida RAL

Submitted by Brian "Flaming Arrow" Quirk, FLRAL Chief

## *Local Native Sons and Daughters Earn State Honors*



The local Native Sons and Daughters Organization recently attended the 2014 State Wide Pow-Wow where they garnered the State Event's Highest Honor. This year's version of the annual event attracted more than 700 program participants from around the state of Florida and was held in extreme western Broward County. The Timucuan Federation was well represented and spent the majority of one entire day visiting the Seminole Indian Reservation. The children were able to witness alligator wrestling, a serpent show, have their pictures taken with various wild critters, including a Florida panther and go out into the Everglades on a Swamp Buggy ride. The day's activities concluded with an exciting Air Boat ride where the kids saw alligators, wild turkeys, antelope, water buffalo, raccoons, wild boar, egrets, hawks, peacocks and even an ostrich.

During the Saturday evening award ceremonies, current Timucuan Federation Chief, Keith "Red Wolf" Armstrong accepted the coveted "Most Inspiring Award" for having the best campsite depiction of a Native American Village and the best display of Native American regalia. Our group also won the award for the furthest traveled. This distinction marks the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the Timucuan Federation has earned State recognition.

**WE HOPE TO HAVE REPORTS FROM GREAT LAKES, ALABAMA, AND CALIFORNIA RAL's IN THE NEXT EDITION**



# NSD Heritage-The Legacy

## June Friday-MacInnis

Submitted by Dave "Buckeye" Garberson from recent interviews with June Friday MacInnis

Additional by Greg Measor

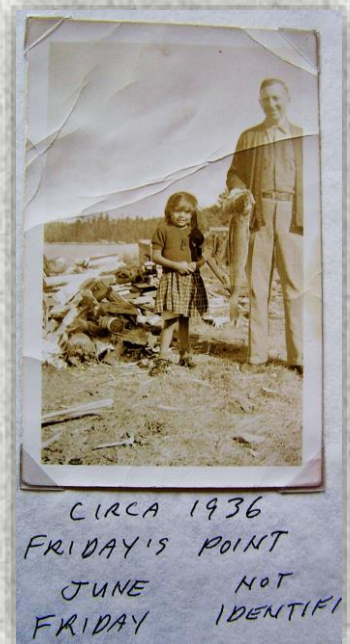
We would like to introduce you to another very important person in the legacy of Native Sons & daughters Programs. She is June Friday MacInnis. June is the oldest living niece of the great Joe Friday, Ojibway Indian whose inspiration gave the program a Native American theme about 90 years ago. Joe Friday was her uncle as her father Willie, was one of Joes brothers.

June was born at Fridays Point on Bear Island on June 11, 1931. Bear Island is the Ojibway Indian tribal land preserve on Lake Temagami, Temagami, Ontario, which for reference is about 5 hours north of Toronto, Ontario Canada. She weighed only 3lb.,8 oz. and needed special care by the tribal birth women (called midwives today) as the doctor thought she would not survive. She and her mother got special treatments at home till September when they both started to get along better and (as they say) the rest is history.

Her Ojibway name is Abamageis, which means Strawberry Month which the month of June is considered. She is a part of the White Bear Clan recalling the old story of Chief White Bear taking into his family those women and children when their father died. White Bear did this many times for other families over the years as do the Ojibway traditionally even now.

Her education until age 9 came from her family, primarily her brothers and sisters who would read to her. Her ability to read was important when she finally started school in the Christian grade school then completing high school.

She married in 1947 after her then to be husband got back from WWII. June has 3 boys and a daughter (who died 9 years ago). She has 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

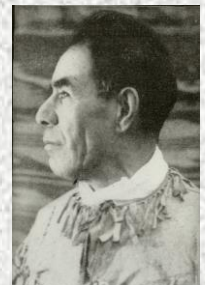


For many years she has taught the Ojibway language, traditions and history to interested children and young people as those ways and words have gone to pass with younger generations. She has lived in Northbay (an hour below Temagami) for a number of years at a senior center where she had been very active. She has struggled for the past year or so as she fought lung cancer and this has kept her in a wheel chair and walking with walker mostly. Her lung is scared but she is doing well now. Currently, she does a lot of reading and knitting, knitting all kinds of clothes and things that she mostly gives away for gifts to community centers and friends.

As a result of her health, June has not been to Temagami and Bear Island for last two years. Says she might go in mid-summer this year (2014) but right now (late April 2014) it is still winter up there with 40 inches of ice on the lake so travel to the island by boat is impossible until the ice melts.

June has written a series of stories about her family and history. She has a friend looking for a publisher and may get something done about that by her birthday. She was joyful and proud that we would remember her and keep in contact with her. I told her we would all pray for her health and finding a publisher.

Additional: In July 2006, several National Longhouse elders and some of their children journeyed to (and lodged on) Bear Island on Lake Temagami and visited the Northbay home of June Friday MacInnis for several days. We were told that we had been the first people to visit the island from the program since Joe Friday was laid to rest in the spring of 1956. June and her family are extremely proud and honored that National Longhouse would want to carry on the legacy of what Joe Friday had inspired and helped to create so many years earlier. They opened their doors to us as if we were family. During that trip, National Longhouse presented June Friday MacInnis with the Joe Friday Award, in honor of her and her family's contributions to the legacy of NSD Programs.



Uncle Joe Friday







# **Native American Lore**



## **The Origin of the Buffalo**

Long ago, a tribe of Cheyenne hunters lived at the head of a rushing stream, which eventually emptied into a large cave. Because of the great need for a new food supply for his people, the Chief called a council meeting. "We should explore the large cave," he told his people. "How many brave hunters will offer to go on this venture? Of course, it may be very dangerous, but we have brave hunters." No one responded to the Chief's request. Finally, one young brave painted himself for hunting and stepped forth, replying to the Chief, "I will go and sacrifice myself for our people." He arrived at the cave, and to his surprise, First Brave found two other Cheyenne hunters near the opening, where the stream rushed underground. "Are they here to taunt me," First Brave wondered? "Will they only pretend to jump when I do?" But the other two braves assured him they would go.

"No, you are mistaken about us. We really do want to enter the cave with you," they said. First Brave then joined hands with them and together they jumped into the huge opening of the cave. Because of the darkness, it took some time for their eyes to adjust. They then discovered what looked like a door. First Brave knocked, but there was no response. He knocked again, louder. "What do you want, my brave ones?" asked an old Indian grandmother as she opened her door.

"Grandmother, we are searching for a new food supply for our tribe," First Brave replied. "Our people never seem to have enough food to eat." "Are you hungry now?" she asked. "Oh, yes, kind Grandmother, we are very hungry," all three braves answered. The old grandmother opened her door wide, inviting the young braves to enter. "Look out there!" she pointed for them to look through her window.

A beautiful wide prairie stretched before their eyes. Great herds of buffalo were grazing contentedly. The young hunters could hardly believe what they saw! The old grandmother brought each of them a stone pan full of buffalo meat. How good it tasted, as they ate and ate until they were filled. To their surprise, more buffalo meat remained in their stone pans!

"I want you to take your stone pans of buffalo meat back to your people at your camp," said the old grandmother. "Tell them that soon I will send some live buffalo." "Thank you, thank you, thank you, kind Grandmother," said the three young Cheyenne braves. When the young hunters returned to their tribe with the gifts of buffalo meat, their people rejoiced over the new, good food. Their entire tribe ate heartily from the old grandmother's three magic pans, and were grateful.

When the Cheyenne's waked at dawn the next day, herds of buffalo had mysteriously appeared, surrounding their village! They were truly thankful to the old Indian grandmother and to the Sky Spirits for their good fortune.





# CRAFT CORNER

## Prayer Feather of Thanks

A simple yet meaningful craft that could be made as a special craft project or given as an award. Could be hung on a coup stick or in a special place.

### Materials:

- White 12" Wing feather
- Wheat sprig
- Yellow Fluff feather
- Blue Fluff feather
- Leather lace
- Large wooden bead
- Sinew

The meanings of the feather and its parts. This could be printed on card stock and hung or displayed with the feather.

### ***Prayer Feather of Thanks***

(White Wing Feather)

**Great Spirit, we ask for purity in heart, as the snow blankets the ground in winter, allow us to see the goodness and be thankful for these things...**

(Wheat)

**Great Spirit, we are thankful for the food from the earth.**

(Blue Feather)

**Great Spirit, thank you for the gift of waters we drink and the air we breathe.**

(Yellow Feather)

**Great Spirit, thank you for the light of the sun, and the fire that keeps us warm.**

(All Feathers)

**Great Spirit, thank you for the creatures, which all have their place on this earth, and provide the balance of life.**

6" piece of leather lace, wrapped in sinew

Bead to retain fluffs & wheat sprig, plus a dab of glue

