Art Workshops Offered by Master Artists

Please communicate with the instructors directly. There contact information is on our website abenakiart.org in the Artist Directory

Ash Basket Making Workshops - Instructors: Bill or Sherry Gould.
Instruction and all the materials you need to make an ash basket. Your group can choose from a napkin basket, tea basket or gathering basket.

Gourd Workshop - Instructor: Jeanne Morningstar Kent. This workshop starts with the one hour power point presentation “Gourds: Seeds of Inspiration” (see above) then moves to actually working on students’ own gourds. Work shop time is two hours making this a three hour event. All students are expected to attend the lecture before moving to the workshop.

Introduction to Porcupine Quillwork - Instructor: Rose Hartwell. The quill working class will be hands on instructions of the zig zag and the single line stitch patterns. This will be done on a piece of brain tan hide that can be made into a medicine bag if desired. It is recommended that individuals bring a pair of tweezers to assist them in the handling of the quills. All materials included.

Introduction to Making Twined Bags – Instructor: Vera Longtoe Sheehan.
In this hands-on class you will learn how Native Americans made twined bags, baskets & textiles from plant fibres, while making a small twined bag. Several twining techniques will be taught. These skills can then be applied toward making a larger twined bag.

Moccasin Workshop - Instructors: Roger or Linda Longtoe Sheehan
One day workshop, for individuals interested in learning the fine craft of making moccasins. Participants learn to identify leather types and characteristics, tanning methods, specific tool usage and techniques to complete a child size pair of woodland center seam moccasins. All tools and materials supplied. Participants will leave the workshop with the skills and materials to finish their own moccasins. Participation is limited to 10. Previous sewing or leatherworking experience is recommended, but not required.

Quillwork - Instructor: Jim Taylor. Learn various Eastern Woodlands Style Porcupine Quillwork techniques to better understand the delicate native Art form that is known as Quillwork. Depending on time frame allotted, participants will learn and gather knowledge too: Porcupine Quill Collecting, processing/cleaning, sorting & dyeing of the Porcupine quills. All materials included.

Wampum Bracelet - Instructor: Linda & Roger Longtoe. Learn the historical significance of wampum. See samples of finished wampum belts and a demonstration of wampum weaving. Then make your own 2 row, glass wampum bracelet with step-by step verbal instructions. All materials included.

Presentations and Workshops on Indigenous Art and Culture

For more information about our artists, please visit our website abenakiart.org
**Lectures**


**Always in Fashion: 12,000 years of Abenaki Clothing** - Instructor: Frederick M. Wiseman

**Gourds: Seeds of Inspiration** - Instructor: Jeanne Morningstar Kent. A one hour power point presentation on working with gourds. Includes brief history, how to grow them, clean, decorate and finish them. Also the tools used by the artist.

**Meaningful Media** - Instructor: Lina Longtoe

**Moccasin Tracks** - Instructor: Jeanne Morningstar Kent. With the help of power point, the presenter will help others learn to track Native American ancestors in New England and Quebec. She uses examples from her own genealogical search and shares some of the secrets of identifying possible Native names.

**Native American Roots** - Instructor: Sherry Gould. Learn how to research Native American ancestry.

**New England Indigenous Textiles** - Instructor: Vera Longtoe Sheehan. Learn about the history and traditional materials, dyes and techniques used to making twined Native textile bags, baskets and clothing in the Northeast.

**Roles of Native American Woman: Past and Present** - Instructor: Jeanne Morningstar Kent. This is a power point presentation which compares the traditional roles of Native American Women with the ever changing climate as European settlers and new laws altered both cultural and societal views of them.

**Seeds of Renewal** - Instructor: Frederick M. Wiseman. Illustrated program describing the search for and preservation of heirloom plants and associated ceremonies and traditions. Presentation includes slides, video and botanical displays of the newly discovered crops.


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**Classroom & School Visits**

Instructors: Melody Walker-Brook, Sherry Gould, Jeanne Morningstar Kent, Roger Longtoe Sheehan, Vera Longtoe Sheehan, Don Stevens, Jim Taylor or Voices of the Koas. When presenting to a classroom or groups, we are happy to tailor our program to meet the needs of the Audience. Presenters generally provide samples of our work or reproductions of historical artifacts to share with the audience so participants may get close up to the items and handle them. As a group we encourage audience participation when and where possible. Most of our presenters have worked in educational settings previously, making them ideal resources for all age groups including teacher training or administrator and staff sensitivity training.

**Story Telling**

**Traditional Stories of the Wabanaki People** - Instructors: Roger Longtoe Sheehan, Don Stevens, Paul Rene Tamburro and Jim Taylor. Story telling pre-dates written language. It is used to excite, entertain and teach.

**Outdoor Skills**

**Fire Making with Flint & Steel** - Instructor: Roger Longtoe. When your survival depends on keeping warm, you need to know how to make fire. During this class, you will learn how to make charcloth, learn about fire fungus, how to identify them and learn to start and maintain a proper fire. If weather permits, we will walk though woods collecting and identifying materials. This is an interactive workshop, which will require movement and kneeling. Take home a fire starting kit, which includes: steel, flint, char cloth & fire fungus.

**Native American Cooking Class** - Instructor: Vera Longtoe Sheehan. Learn how to prepare a traditional Abenaki meal. During this workshop you will: gather firewood, start a fire, pound corn, prepare and mix ingredients which you will cook outdoors, over a open fire. Afterwards relax and feast on the fruits of your labor. This is not a kosher or vegetarian meal. There will be meat. All food, utensils and materials included.