

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR GREAT LAKES
NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE, INC.**

Presents

Elm Bark Basket Class

Jay County Public Library

315 North Ship Street, Portland, Indiana

May 16, 2009

William Blalock, a Portland native, will teach an elm bark basket class Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jay County Public Library, 315 North Ship Street. Class size is limited to 8 students, ages 12 and up.

William's interest in primitive technology began at the tender age of 5 when he received a hickory long bow and arrows for Christmas. He has been flintknapping for 25 years. In 1994 he began harvesting birch bark in northern Michigan and started making birch bark containers known as mukuks. Since birch trees are not common in this area of Indiana, William researched what the indigenous peoples would have used for their containers and found that they used elm and tulip poplar. Elm is more readily available and more durable.

In this class participants will study the use of elm bark for domestic and utilitarian items. The class will begin with an introduction to the subject, discussion time, and simple introductory activities to familiarize participants with the tools and techniques used for harvesting and processing elm bark and assembling it into beautiful and functional baskets or trays. Class participants will be provided the raw materials to make their own mukuk after documented examples on hand of those commonly in use across the Eastern Woodlands. This is a great opportunity to learn about local tree resources and their important contributions to the pre-European subsistence strategies in the eastern forests.

Class registration fee is \$60 per person payable to NCGLNAC. Because of the labor-intensive nature of collecting and processing the raw materials needed for this class, \$35 of the registration fee covers all of the materials needed for completion of the mukuk and the use of William's specialized tools. Registration deadline is **May 8** and class size is limited to **8**, ages 12 and up. *This class is made possible in part by Arts Place, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

ELM BARK BASKET CLASS REGISTRATION FORM

Mail to Kay Neumayr, 4950 N 750E, Attica, IN 47918

To Be Received By the May 8 Deadline

Make Checks Payable to NCGLNAC, Inc.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Registration fee enclosed (\$60 per class participant, includes all materials) \$ _____

Total Registration Enclosed \$ _____

Registration Deadline is May 8 - Class Size is Limited to 8

