

E-Naaahjig

*A Bi-Weekly Electronic Publication
from the Ziibiwing Center*

 **ZIIBIWING CENTER**
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

Binaakwii-Giizis
(Moon of the Falling
Leaves)
October 2016

A Copper Bowl Forging In-Service Workshop was held at Ziibiwing on September 29, 2016. This educational workshop for Ziibiwing employees was funded by the Tribal Historic Preservation Office. The few seats available once the employees were accounted for were offered to the Quillwork Workshop attendees who were on site when the information for this workshop became available.

Todd Parker (miskwabikinini) led the workshop using discs made of nearly 100% pure copper that originated in Michigan. Michigan copper has its own distinct molecular structure as proof of its origin here, Todd explained. In this workshop, wood stumps, a hot fire (a blessing on that cool September day), and hammer stones from Lake Superior were used to shape the discs into bowls.

In addition to bowls, Todd also makes beautiful copper jewelry. He states that he "has spent the past 2 decades learning the tools and techniques of the art and craft of traditional metal working," and that he "began working with copper after having worked with master coppersmith Ed Gray for a number of years."

Todd has given workshops and taught about the "Great Lakes copper culture" in various settings across the region. In addition to teaching the ancient way of copper bowl forging, Parker shared historical and cultural teachings including the ingenious techniques used by the Anishinabek to mine for copper, the extensive cooperative manufacture and trade system established and the immense respect for this unique creation.

He encourages the Anishinabek to include miskwabik (copper/red medicine) into our daily lives beyond the nearly universal use of copper in American households used in plumbing for water transport.



Todd Parker holding copper discs



Copper jewelry by Todd Parker



Copper bowl by Todd Parker

For workshop photos visit www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing

New Face at Ziibiwing: Meet William T. Cross, Ph.D.

Dr. Cross is a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan who has a resumé of achievements and experience much too long to individually list here. It does, however, include a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from Michigan State University (MSU) and a Certificate of Fellowship from Harvard University. But, don't confuse this Dr. Cross with the Dr. Cross already known at Ziibiwing who also has a Ph.D. and MSU relationship. That would be Dr. Suzanne Cross who created the beautiful shawls exhibited in the "***Healing Through Culture and Art Shawl Collection***" displayed at Ziibiwing in a changing exhibit in 2014 and currently sits on the Ziibiwing Board of Directors. There is reason to think of that Dr. Cross, however, as she is the younger sister to Dr. William Cross. So much talent in one family!



Dr. William Cross is involved in a very important project having to do with the question of how to best utilize the property at the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School (MIIBS) site. Since 1991, Dr. Cross has been providing "cross-cultural communication and management consulting services to corporations and financial institutions to foster economic development on Native American Tribal Lands." This, along with his membership in this tribe and the furtherance of his tribal educational experience via having visited and interacted with the residents of "over 200 reservations, pueblos and Indian towns," puts the MIIBS project well within his wheelhouse of interest and experience.

This multi-faceted project involves several areas of concern and investigation. One item involves querying the Tribal community for feedback pertaining to their ideas, wishes and desires concerning the site. A survey appears in the October issue of the ***Tribal Observer*** that gives the community an organized tool to share those thoughts and wishes with Dr. Cross and the committee members with whom he serves.

Engineers and architects might need to be involved to determine which ideas are feasible before decisions can be made. Of course funding is yet another project component that must be considered before plans can become realities.

This is an important and vast undertaking which must also be designed through a lens of honor and remembrance of the lives and sacrifices of those ancestors who walked the floors and halls of the buildings on this site. "The Boarding School, even though it is buildings - brick and mortar - it means something more than that and we have to take that into consideration," adds Dr. Cross. We welcome and are glad to have Dr. Cross working from the Ziibiwing Center and providing his insight and contributions to this significant project.

Be sure to fill out a survey so your voice can be heard in this important planning phase.



All Events
Free &
Open to the Public

EAGLE FEATHER

CLEANSING • October 19 • 1pm-6pm
(Feathers & parts from other birds can also be cleaned)

HONORING • October 20 & 21 • 1pm-6pm

FEASTING • October 21 • 6pm-8pm
(Please bring a dish to pass)

William Johnson • 989.775.4730 • wjohnson@sagchip.org for questions

Honor a loved one who has walked on to the Spirit World by bringing to share the favorite food, stories and photos of that special someone who touched your life.

SPIRIT FEAST

November 4, 2016 • 6pm-8pm

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