



THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



May 31, 2018

During 2018 I have several sessions planned which are designed to reconnect people with the land and with each other; participants will gain knowledge of and, a renewed sense of reverence for, this land we call our territory. People of differing backgrounds will be brought together to share knowledge, stories and...some good food.

The majority of these sessions will take place...you guessed it...outdoors. No stuffy classroom or office setting for this stuff rather, much of this programming will be in an area in the bush, around a fire; in this setting we will learn from experts about the art of birch bark canoe building, foraging for edibles, harvesting medicinal plants, wilderness survival skills, hide tanning, basket making, steam pit cooking and much more. These sessions are hands-on and, all are welcome so, come out...literally! Some of the topics to be covered may include;

Foraging for edible & medicinal plants

Many of the common plants around us can be used for food and medicine. Time will also be spent discussing how these plants can be used for survival and wilderness living skills.

- Plant Identification (edible, medicinal, poisonous)
- Proper harvesting and preparation techniques of edible plants
- How to use medicinal plants; herbalism
- Utilitarian uses: We look at plants from the perspective of wilderness living skills; basket making, cordage/rope making, grass mats, how to harvest and make pitch glue, and many other skills. It is a great time to come and learn how we can use the plants that surround us to provide many of the things we would need if we lived in a wilderness setting.
- Stewardship and being caretakers of the land

Bush craft & survival skills

- Basic and advanced trap parts and triggers
 - Aidless & natural navigation
 - Shelters - survival and advanced
 - Braintan buckskin (Tan a deer hide from start to finish)
- ... and much more!

(A short survey will be sent out to community re: bush craft/survival workshop topics to identify which are of interest; we will focus on those topics for this session)

Birch bark community canoe build

- Build a birch bark canoe with community using simple tools; all materials collected from the territory.
- Train 1-2 community members in birch bark canoe building so that this knowledge can be brought into the community and shared/passed on.
- This project will also give community members an opportunity to learn about the Metis culture; relationship building.
- Anishinabe teachings and stories to be shared along the way

This series of workshops is geared toward youth/adults ages 16 and up but, everyone is welcome!

- Families are encouraged to come out together!
- Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

*Please note that transportation will not be provided.

Keep an eye out for flyers with workshop dates and additional details for these sessions in the months ahead!

Miigwetch!

~ Leena, Project Coordinator