

# NEWSLETTER

## Farewell Jake Swamp...

*The MPSS Community celebrates the life & memory of a powerful mentor*



Every class for the last twelve years has been opened and closed with the Thanksgiving Address. The Initial Premise that all living things are inherently good and have a deep desire to feel needed and appreciated along with the Peacemaker Principles have been the backbone of our community.

All of these things were given to us through former elder, and now revered ancestor, Jake Swamp. Jake crossed over last week, and sacred fire ceremonies across turtle island were lit. On the fourth day after ours closed with an emotive thanksgiving. We will carry the sacred bundles forward.

### APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM DETAILS!

With folks already registering for the Pilot year long apprenticeship program starting starting in the Spring, it promises to be an exciting journey! The kick off is a pot-luck dinner at the Maine Primitive Skills School Augusta campus on March 25th at 6pm. From there we'll meet each other and map out personal interests and what you would like to emphasize during the



experience. The 5 five day courses and the dates you plan to attend will also be worked on, and we will schedule your monthly one on one and weekly phone interviews as well. Each participant is invited to stay in the dorms during and between classes provided there is room. Due to the limited infrastructure, only four can stay for more than a week at a time between classes , and we'll attempt to (cont.)

### Mentoring Skills Class

There seems to be a LOT of interest in the mentoring skills class. For those of you who couldn't help but notice the powerful sense of community that manifests with each class at the school, this course is designed to share the technologies behind that. It is also an opportunity to bring the school to the next level in the evolution of these technologies as we develop "acorns" beyond the central fire here in Augusta. The goal is a scene infinite cenral fires of community and mentorship steeped in a deep connection with the natural world that dot the landscape. Sign up now while there is still room. (Dates: Nov. 19-21





APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM DETAILS (CONT.)



**Apprenticeship participants**  
*will gain proficiency in Earth living and community building.*

fill that calendar as well during the pot-luck. Apprentices will be able to come early and participate in acorn meetings before classes and also share in the debrief after classes end. This is valuable experience in mentoring technologies and the invisible school. It will also prepare you for your own instructional time in the late summer and fall when you can apply the technologies you've been working on in front of a "live" class. This experience was designed to preserve the intensity of successful Tracking based programs found in the East while implementing the community building models so successful on the West Coast. The goal is a "best practices" forum where you are challenged, involved, and allowed to develop your own

passions in primitive skills. Your journals and sit spots will represent stark growth rings as you awaken connections to the landscape and increase your proficiency in the "hard" and "soft" skills of our ancestors. There are parts that are tough. We believe without the struggle of getting your first coal with a hand drill, or the experience of sleeping COMFORTABLY in a debris hut for the first time, your voice as someone who shares these skills will lack the strength of your experience. You will, however, be supported by a community of fellow learners just as dedicated as you are.

If you are interested in the apprenticeship program you can contact us via e-mail at [mpss@gwi.net](mailto:mpss@gwi.net)

NEW VIDEO RELEASES EMPHASIZE FOOD GATHERING SKILLS

- We've added seven more videos in September. Five of these deal with food procurement off the landscape. The two exceptions are a thatched hut video and a camouflage and concealment video. Here are the links to each.
- Camouflage and Concealment Instructor Asleep on the Job <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAOEiOH7YUA>
  - Thatched Hut Basics-Long Term Survival Shelters <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8p4d7irq-gc>
  - Early Fall Understory Edibles <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAOEiOH7YUA>
  - Field Dressing Small Game Pt 1- Fleshing and Gutting <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=306Bm5Q4sjs>
  - Field Dressing Small Game Pt 2-Quartering <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1qsC0ghjbc>
  - Field Dressing Small Game Pt 3-Primitive Cooking <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgJZFXxpyMA>
  - Wilderness Survival Ladders-Finding Wild Food Throughout the Year <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gejXiDmgNp0>

Novembers videos will continue on the same theme beginning with traps and snares.



UPCOMING NOVEMBER CLASSES EMPHASIZE AWARENESS AND MENTORING

The month's **first weekend** is the weekend of **Native Awareness 1**. For those who want an intense experience in the awareness disciplines, the **Awareness 5 Day** starts at **9am on Wednesday the 10th and ends at 4pm on Sunday the 14th**. Our long awaited **Mentoring Skills Weekend** is the **19th through the 21st**.