

NOVEMBER 2011

the

Maine Primitive Skills School



The 2012 Apprenticeship Process has begun!

Dear Apprenticeship Candidate,
Welcome to the beginning of a journey that will awaken and develop your skills and awareness. Each person's apprenticeship is unique and as in depth and inclusive as you can make it while still functioning at a comfortable level within society in general. For some, full immersion into the skills is the only way to go. For others, obligations to family, community, and career need to be balanced with the yearning to develop a stronger connection to their landscape as they grow (personally and in the skills). The elements involved in the program are diverse and many. They overlap, support, and complement each other in a way that will round out and expand your understanding of your self and the landscape like no other program. The reason for this is that the experience is designed to start where you are, taking into consideration your background, interests, and learning styles. From there we use cultural tools and community support to help you define your interests and goals within the program as you experience a diverse core of skills. The core curriculum of required courses is the minimum required courses to attend. You may attend any course at the Augusta campus during your enrollment period. This not only ensures you get your money's worth, but that you are exposed to some of the major elements of the program to help round out your areas of focus.

Home Schoolers

In 2012, MPSS is offering a two Tuesday 1/2 day session for six weeks starting May 15. The 9am-12 noon session will be geared toward 4-8 year olds. The Afternoon Session will run from 1pm-4pm and will focus on 9-12 year olds. Both groups will cover age appropriate games and activities designed to increase knowledge of nature and the outdoors.

Another six week program is being offered for older home-schoolers, ages 12-16. This one will be held every Wednesday from 9-3 and will culminate in an overnight "survival" experience with shelters they learn to make off the landscape and using the skills they learned in the previous experiences.

The six week program is \$180.00 for the season, or 35.00 per drop in student.

Family discounts, and limited scholarships are available.

For more information, please contact Mike DiMauro at mpss@gwi.net

Save the Date!

Feb. 15 2012
Deadline to
Register for the
Apprenticeship 4
Registered, 8 Spaces Left!

March 24
Apprenticeship
Potluck and Kick
Off @ 5pm

April 25
1st Earth Living 5
Day of the Year!



Why “Primitive” Skills?

Occasionally someone will ask, “Why do you call it Primitive Skills?” The answer is simple. The attitude associated with the meaning of primitive (first skills) is a symptom of the current condition. Once thankfulness and appreciation for the gifts of our collective ancestry are re-awakened, the term “primitive” no longer means a derogatory simplification, but takes on a meaning of profound simplicity and wisdom.

Increased Skill Level means Increased Awareness

If you have the ability to gather materials from the landscape and shape them with a stone tool to get your fire, a new appreciation for the energy that takes, the plant species involved, what the landscape offers, and the gift of modern fire technologies fills you. Practitioners of Primitive Skills have much more awareness for the gifts of the landscape, the presence of a lighter, and the use of matches, than those who haven't.

Increased Awareness leads to Increased Empathy

When a student goes to a vacant lot and learns the edible and medicinal uses of Milkweed, Jewel Weed, and Plantain by using them something inside that person changes. After learning the language of birds and tracking voles in that same space suddenly that lot doesn't seem so vacant. Relationships built on experience are a symptom of real growth through learning this way. Allowed to grow, these emotional ties extend to all aspects of a healthy beings reality.

Increased Empathy Promotes Community

Once we experience this awakening of our senses, we recognize the adversarial construct that we experience in our lives as divisive, even damaging. We may go through a painful reckoning of this energy, but with mentoring and community support, we are empowered to invest back in to those things that helped us grow. We develop from student, through warrior, to teach, and finally become healers. Understanding that energy flows through systems and cannot be compartmentalized is an example of “primitive” thought as it was found throughout our hunter-gatherer nomadic lineage.





Want to Get Involved?

Our community is always looking for innovative ways to reach out and include folks in what's happening. Your skills can be amazing or maybe you've never been barefoot on the earth. It doesn't matter! With our community gardens, trails, class room needs and many projects, we are always looking for folks like you who want to get involved. Our work-study and bartering programs can earn you up to half your tuition at the Augusta campus. Any of the courses you attend, you can come back and help at as a volunteer. The more you get involved, the more growth and opportunities are available. The school is in need of many items and many hands. Our purpose is to share skills and make connections. If you have a skill, a craft, an idea, please shoot us an e-mail! The worst thing that could happen is that we would know you are eager to learn.

Here are a few of the projects we could use help with. Remember that each hour invested is worth twenty dollars toward the tuition of a course.

Building the New Kitchen Area

Building the New Apprentice Lodge

Working in the Greenhouse and Gardens

Firewood

Trail Maintenance

Organizing Class Room Spaces and the Library

If any of these projects appeal to you or if you are looking for a way to earn work-study hours, OR you want to contribute in some way to the school, please contact Karen at:

mpss@gwi.net

Needed Items for the School

Whether it's normal wear and tear or a symptom of growth, we could use the following:

Blender	Yurt
Kitchen Knives	Heavy Canvas Tarps
Potholders	Screen Doors
Hand Towels	Digital Camera
Large Mixing Bowl	Double Pane Windows
Chest Freezer	Graphic Designs for Posters

For more information about courses, articles, or the school visit www.primitiveskills.com