



LENAPEHOKING
REESTABLISHMENT
PROJECT
NEWSLETTER
June 2024



Happy Summer Solstice!

School's out. Pools are open. Beaches and lakes are fully packed with families enjoying the sun and, most importantly, the water.

For a lot of people in our communities, summer time is "Pow-Wow Season", where we get to travel from Pow-Wow to Pow-Wow, touching base, laughing, dancing, singing, and eating with all of our extended family from other nations.

We at Lenapehoking Reestablishment Project would like to wish you all safe travels this summer! And stay hydrated!!!

**UTILIZING
TEACHINGS &
RESOURCES**

LRP's first sponsored workshop, hosted at the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Grounds, and spearheaded by citizens of a sister Wampanoag tribe!

FINISH READING ON PG. 2



**ARTIST
SPOTLIGHT**

This month's Artist Spotlight focuses on another of our youth representatives of LRP, as well as our home tribe's Youth Council Treasurer, and the youngest grandson of Chief Mark "Quiet Hawk" Gould;

Mathyas "Laughing Wolf" Ellis!

FINISH READING ON PG. 4



POW-WOW

This year was the first year in nearly a decade that Lenapehoking Reestablishment Project representatives weren't closely engaged with our home tribe's Annual Pow-Wow.

We'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on past years, as well as highlight the amazing job this year's Committee did!

FINISH READING ON PG. 7



UTILIZING

Teachings & Resources



Artist of the Month, Mathyas
"Laughing Wolf" Ellis,
working on Wampum pieces
at home for gifting.

It's extremely exciting & fulfilling to see the primary focuses of Lenapehoking Reestablishment Project be successful. Aside from the Indigenous Youth, the focus on the arts is LRP's other primary focus. All of the work we do proves to be worth it when you see what the youth learned being continued to be utilized beyond the workshops that are set up. Even more so, it is amazing to see these artists that we feature form meaningful connections with each other, as well as with others in our and surrounding communities.

A lot of these connections have stemmed off of our Wampum Workshop that we held with our youth back in February, with Artist Spotlighthed in March, Miciah Stasis-Harding. A lot of our youth have continued their interest in practicing the art of making Wampum Jewelry due to her teachings, which is the primary reason we held this Workshop at all; to bring this art back to Lenapehoking!



Wampum Pieces done by youth Aiden
"Red Badger" Ford at our Wampum
Workshop, later turned into earrings.

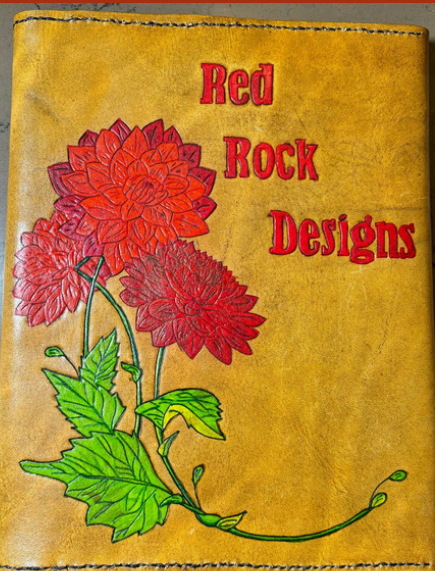


Wampum Jewelry continued by Youth Representative & Counselor, Brianna Dagostino, who also made these wampum pieces during the Workshop.

Some of the youth and members of our community has gone as far as making jewelry to sell or gift to others, incorporating other works that they have picked up and learn along the way. Recently, some of our youth made a batch of necklaces to gift to some of our supporters, who will be credited to funding a lot of upcoming events and projects. It was their first time putting these pieces together almost completely without the assistance of adults and teachers. They were exposed to the often failures of creating a piece, for it to break near completion. All artists understand the importance of **failing**, as those “fails” turn into “lessons”. At some points, they felt defeated; but at the conclusion, they felt proud of their accomplishments!



Images of Traditional Stick & Poke Tattoos on members of our community by Miciah Stasis-Harding.
 The middle image was done in honor of LRP Co-Founder Gail “Gentle Leaves” Gould, received by her daughter, youngest daughter of Chief Mark “Quiet Hawk” Gould, & February’s Artist, Lia “Watching Sparrow” Gould.
 (Left) Ty “Dancing Wolf” Ellis
 (Right) Autumn “Snow Fox” Brown
 (Bottom Left) Meredith Marshall
 (Bottom Right) Steffani Savoy-El



Leatherwork done as a gift for Miciah, by artist to be featured in the future, Carmela Wilmore, citizen of the Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape.

It is additionally extremely fulfilling to be a part of making connections that will last a lifetime. Many of our community members found themselves getting traditional tattoos, including all of the LRP artists featured to date. We’re extremely excited to continue creating oppurtunities for these connections!



“I’m the kind of parent that wants his sons to grow up to be better than him in every way; I’m proud to say I think I’m on the right track...”



Artist Spotlight – June 2024

Introducing Mathyas “Laughing Wolf” Ellis, Junior Rep of LRP, & Youngest Grandson of Chief Mark “Quiet Hawk” Gould!



Mathyas “Laughing Wolf” Ellis, Junior Headman at NLL Pow-Wow. Photo by Teko Alejo

Mathyas is the youngest son of Ty “Dancing Wolf” Ellis and Lia “Watching Sparrow” Gould, and the youngest grandson of Chief Mark “Quiet Hawk” Gould and Gail “Gentle Leaves” Gould, and younger brother to April’s featured artist, Braiden “Bright Spirit” Gould. He is a citizen of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe, and serves as the New Dawn Youth Council’s Treasurer.

Mathyas is 14 years old, and has been exposed to the Lenape Way of Life for his entire life, where having his feet planted in both worlds is the only thing he knows.

He currently attends Vo-Tech, pursuing a career in auto-mechanics and body.

Mathyias has had the privilege to serve as Junior Headman Dancer as his home tribe's Pow-Wow earlier this month. This was his first time being honored with this responsibility by his community. His family is very proud of him for accepting and carrying out this role.

As far as his 'art', Mathyias is currently a Chicken Dancer, and previously has been a Grass Dancer.

He has also taken a huge interest in continuing the teachings given to him by honing his skills in the art of Wampum Jewelry making, and he intends on focusing more on this art.



Mathyias "Laughing Wolf" Ellis, at 8th Grade Graduation, 2023



Mathyias "Laughing Wolf" Ellis surrounded by members of his community during the NLL Pow-Wow, 2024.

In his personal life, Mathyias spends a lot of time with his family. He has spent the last year experiencing High School sports with his older brother, participating in Football, Wrestling, and most importantly, Lacrosse. Mathyias has played Lacrosse since middle school, and takes much pride in it, knowing that it is a sport that originates from Indigenous People.

When he is not out representing his people in a good way, he is either expressing his hobby of building or putting things together, or spending his time playing video games with his friends and family. He has even taken part in after-school gaming club when he's not at sports practice.

He is really good at it, and surely on his way to dethrone his father and brother as household gaming champs!

Kta Holel, ila! We are all very proud of you!



Mathyias "Laughing Wolf" Ellis exhibiting his first completed Wampum piece during the Wampum Workshop



ConGRADulations

New Dawn Graduating Youth Class of 2024

You all make your people extremely proud!



Aiyana “Dancing Gentle
Wind” Pierce

*Pittsburgh High School for the
Creative and Performing Arts*



Julian “Kind Spirit”
Harmon

*Cumberland Regional High
School*



Xander “Looking Turtle”
Satterfield

Delsea Regional High School



Gavin “Dancing Hawk”
Satterfield

Delsea Regional High School

Attending Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Strawberry Moon Pow-Wow



Former Pow-Wow Committee Chairman, Ty “Dancing Wolf” Ellis, LRP Founder & CEO, dancing Southern Traditional during the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Strawberry Moon Pow-Wow. Photo by Mike Chan.

“After being in charge of coordination of our home tribe’s annual Pow-Wow for the last decade, and Chairperson of Co-Chairperson for the bulk of that decade, this year looked extremely different for me and my family.

There was excitement; the ability to be able to ‘breathe’ around this time of the year without stressing the responsibility of coordinating the event. The ability to be home at the conclusion of the event before the sun went down.

There was also sadness; being a ‘spectator’ really put in perspective the fulfillment that I once had being in the position to improve the quality of life for the many performers and vendors that came to the event, even if just for the weekend.

I did get the opportunity to dance at my home tribe’s Pow-Wow for the first time since 2014. 2014 was our first Pow-Wow in charge. That year, I came out of mourning the loss of my grandmother, Lorraine “Rainbow Walker” Gregg, who also had the responsibility of coordinating the Pow-Wow in the past. I was once told by Clan Mother Aunt Edie that the Pow-Wow was her legacy, and that stuck with me for the decade, and held it with pride. I do look forward to one day being in the position to serve, not just our community, but other Indigenous Communities, in the future...”



Li'Ana "Little Yellow Bird" Ellis preparing to dance at the Pow-Wow. Photo by Mike Chan.

This year, the Pow-Wow of the Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape has officially adopted the name "Strawberry Moon", as the Pow-Wow always falls within the lifespan of the Strawberry Moon. The youth had a strong presence, as they sold at their candy stand without much of any involvement of their counselors. Their little voices yelling "Candy for Sale!" in a repetitive alternating manner still rings in our ears. LRP and its reps had no involvement in the coordination of this year's Pow-Wow; we only spent our time with the youth and helped them where there was a need for that help.

Though we were unable to hold the specials for Co-Founder Gail "Gentle Leaves" Gould, our family was able to honor her and come out of mourning, with a song sang by Red Blanket Singers, the drum group that we all belong to. We thank them for giving their time and singing that song in her honor.

With that being said, we would like to say to the new Chairperson and Co-Chairperson of the Pow-Wow Committee; you did an AMAZING job. We look forward to seeing all of what you envision for the future of our tribe's Pow-Wow come to reality. We enjoyed kicking our feet up this year, but know that we are in your corner and are a resource for whatever you may need in the coming years!



Multiple featured dancers from our communities, including citizen Stephen Conaway, and his sons, Opalanie "Opie" Conaway & Aihamikwen "Kwen" Conaway". Photo by Mike Chan.



Pow-Wow Junior Head Dancers.
(Left) Maehawii
(Right) Mathyias "Laughing Wolf" Ellis

And lastly, we would like to give a huge shoutout to this year's Junior Head Dancers, both being members of the New Dawn Youth Council, as well as descendant from reigning and former Chiefs respectively. We are all extremely proud of you both for the responsibility that you took on. You both fulfilled your roles with honor!