

Weaving Past and Present

Wabanaki Basket Making in Maine

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Who are the Wabanaki?

Meaning "People of the Dawn," Wabanaki refers to the four remaining tribes in Maine and Canada's maritime provinces.

History

Wabanaki baskets serve many purposes. From their utilitarian purposes to the ways in which they provide economic support, baskets are an important way of passing on family traditions and patterns from one generation to the next. From the seasonal Indian encampment on Mount Desert Island (see below) to present day art shows, the buying and selling of baskets has long been a way in which Wabanaki and non-Native cultures come into contact.



Tradition in Practice

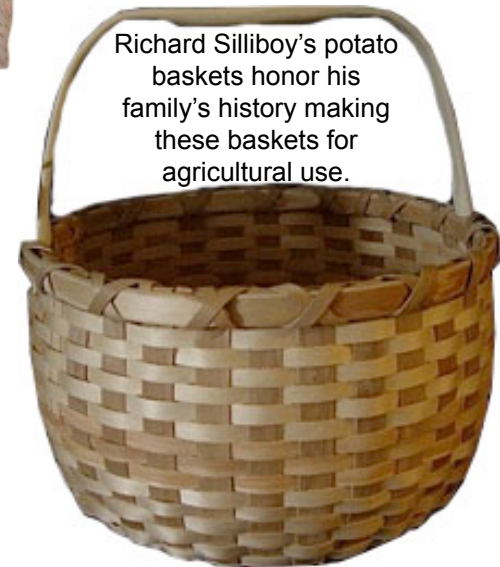
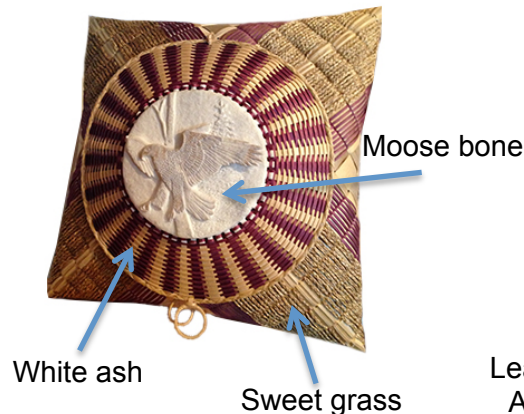


George Neptune learned how to make baskets at age 4 from his grandmother Molly Neptune Parker, a master basket maker recognized as a 2012 National Endowment for the Arts Fellow.



A George Neptune basket incorporating his grandmother's signature acorn shape.

Jeremy Frey's baskets incorporate family technique with personal innovation.



Richard Silliboy's potato baskets honor his family's history making these baskets for agricultural use.

Learn more about the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance at <http://www.maineindianbaskets.org/>.