



# North Country Inter-Tribal Pow-Wow

Hosted by Anna Sunlight



October 2009

Volume 3, Issue 3

## Committee Members:

President/Treasurer:  
Ed Littlefield

Host/Co-President:  
Anna Sunlight Littlefield

Operations Director  
Ellie Luce

Gate Keeper/Head of Security:  
Randy Luce

Committee Members:  
William Wright  
Jennifer Wright  
Keith Richards  
Teresa Richards  
Michael Paczesny  
Sarah Parsons

Volunteer Coordinator:  
Amanda Cook

Fire Keeper:  
Michael Paczesny

## Another Great Year!

2009 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> official gathering hosted by Anna 'Sunlight' and Ed Littlefield. In 1999 the pow-wow began with a few close friends and family in a wide spot in the woods behind Ed and Anna's home. The field was cleared and vendors invited in 2000, grass planted and the gathering extended to three days in 2002. Each year Ed and Anna made small improvements to the pow-wow. In 2005, as the event grew to more than 2,500 visitors, they recruited their daughter and son-in-law, Ellie and Randy Luce to help. The pow-wow committee was formed in 2007 as the event grew to over 4,000 visitors and more than 20 vendors. Growing a little each year, 2009's pow-wow welcomed more than 6,000 people through the gate, 37 vendors and traders, two head dancers, four flute players and two storytellers.

NCITPW is truly blessed by the people who help make our event such a great success. The pow-wow committee would like to extend our sincerest thanks to Sacred Spirit Drum for being our host drum this year. The drum is the heartbeat of the pow-wow and Sacred Spirit together with Indian Bay Singers, Lone Wolf Singers, Rez Dog, Two Feathers Drum, and Wind & Stone, provided us with great music and song throughout the weekend. In addition to our drum groups, we were joined by four great flute players; Dail 'Dragonfly' Martin, Robert 'Kunnaway' Turner, Roger 'Lame Owl' Simmons, and Bob Olson. Each one played their music on their own handmade flutes.



Hosts: Ed & Anna Littlefield

2009 marked the first year where NCITPW had head dancers. Stacy Jenness and Don Barnaby were our female and male head dancers, respectively. The role of the head dancer is to lead each dance. In addition to their beautiful regalia, Don and Stacy are to be commended on their stamina dancing every dance for three straight days. Many thanks to Tony Austin and Pauline George; they took some great pictures of the dancers and the circle throughout the pow-wow. Several of these photographs have been posted on Facebook and will be available on our site soon.

In addition to all of the great dancing, drumming and song at this year's pow-wow, we had several other activities throughout the weekend. The tomahawk throw continued this year and several vendors demonstrated their craft. Dewey Grant did a wonderful drum making demonstration on Sunday and Doris Neptune provided an ash pounding demonstration on Saturday.

The list of people who make this event successful is a long one. Everyone who attends, trades, dances, sings, helps with security and construction, provides guidance, and with the blessings of Spirit and Creator, allow NCITPW to be better each year. Thank you for another amazing year!

## Pow-Wow Committee to Meet & Plan for 2010

*Save the Date: September 4, 5 & 6, 2010—10th Annual Pow-Wow Celebration*

The date has been set and the planning has begun. The pow-wow committee will be meeting in January to plan our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pow-Wow. Although the first gathering occurred in 1999, the event we know today really started in 2000 therefore we will mark our 10<sup>th</sup> official year in 2010.

The feast will continue in 2010, donations from this year's feast have been set aside to provide some more great food for the coming year. Showers will also continue at the 2009 rate. The second tipi was erected shortly after the pow-wow; we are procuring hides throughout the fall and winter and hope to complete it during one of the upcoming volunteer days.

Several suggestions on what we did right as well as what could do better have been received; each will be carefully reviewed and discussed at our January meeting. If you have an idea on how we can improve NCITPW, please send it to us, we welcome any proposal large or small. The pow-wow committee can be contacted through Facebook (Anna Sunlight), email (ncountrypow-wow@yahoo.com), US Postal Service (934 Elm St., Newport, ME 04953), and by telephone (207-368-4959 or 207-341-0506). We look forward to hearing from you!

# Trader's Tent

Crafters and vendors from all over came to NCITPW this year – a record 37 traders. While we are thrilled to have the variety of craft and teachings of each vendor, we realize that 37 is far too many. It is important for us to place our traders around the circle so that they may enjoy the pow-wow as much as those who dance and drum. For 2010 we will be limiting the number of traders so that each one will be as close to the circle as possible. To facilitate this, traders will be required to have a submitted and approved contract to vend at the pow-wow. Any vendor who arrives without an approved contract will not be permitted to set-up. We are reluctant to have to enforce this type of rule; however, several traders arrived without contracts this year.

Contracts will be sent after our January committee meeting. Those who have been with us for several years will receive their contracts first and those who have only recently joined us will receive their contracts in March. Contracts will be approved on a first-come-first-served basis. While we strive to make several improvements each year, electricity remains limited on the pow-wow grounds. Those requiring electricity for medical purposes may indicate this in their contract, a nominal fee of \$20.00 will be charged for this service which will cover electrical use for the entire weekend. We request that those who do not require electricity for medical purposes supply their own generator which may be operated between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and again from 5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. NCITPW will do its best to accommodate anyone who needs electricity; however, if we are unable to provide it, a refund of the electricity fee will be provided. Water will be available at the pow-wow trailer as in years past; no water hookups will be available in 2010. Holding tanks can be filled between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. for a fee of \$10.00 for the weekend.

The pow-wow grounds officially open on Friday morning. Vendors are encouraged to arrive early in the day so that you may get set up and have plenty of room to maneuver any larger motorhomes or trailers. NCITPW requests that whenever possible, vendors arrive before 9:00 p.m. so that set-up can be completed before 11:00 p.m. We know that by working together everyone will have another successful year in 2010.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

NCITPW cannot thank our volunteers enough for all of the time and commitment they give to our event. In addition to the two official volunteer days held in 2009, countless additional hours were dedicated to the grounds throughout the year. Projects in 2009 included clearing of the sweat lodge grounds, clearing some room for additional campers, the beginnings of a new tipi, tables for the pow-wow trailer, electrical and plumbing work for the trailer, painting of the picnic tables and arbor, mowing, trimming and so much more. Our new Volunteer Coordinator, Amanda Cook, was integral in the recruitment of several new volunteers as well as ensuring everyone was kept plenty busy throughout the weekend. Dates for 2010 will be set at our January committee meeting; we hope that everyone can join us to help make more improvements to the grounds.

The pow-wow committee would like to extend special thanks to our security team this year. Our largest event ever, 2009 provided a few minor issues which were handled with the utmost professionalism and care. We had one medical emergency which required ambulance service; the security team reacted rapidly and the patient received great care, and we are happy to report recovered well from the problem. We hope that everyone who comes to NCITPW feels safe while with us; this will continue to be our mission.



**Sacred Spirit Drum under the Arbor**

*Photo Courtesy of Tony Austin*

## North Country Inter-Tribal Pow-Wow

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**Mother Earth has given this land to us to meet on. Let's keep the land beautiful for the next generation.**