

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian
3001 Central Street.
Evanston, IL 60201
(847) 475-1030
www.mitchellmuseum.org

Press contact: Nat Silverman
Nathan J. Silverman Co.
1830 Sherman Ave., Suite 401
Evanston, IL 60201-3774
Phone (847) 328-4292
Fax (847) 328-4317
Email: natsilv@aol.com

News

For Immediate Release

Attn: Calendar & Events Editors/Museums/Home & Garden

Native Plants Presentation May 19 in Mitchell Museum's Garden

EVANSTON, Ill., May 10, 2013 — Eli S. Suzukovich III (Little Shell Chippewa/Cree) will discuss Native Americans' use of indigenous plants found in the Chicago area and how to create a home prairie garden at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, in the garden of the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston.

"I'll offer tips on how you can restore a piece of the prairie in your own back yard," Suzukovich says.

He'll also explain how area residents can research the ecological and cultural histories of their homesites.

Topics will include some of the plants in the Mitchell Museum's garden that Native Americans have used for herbal remedies and food and in making baskets and clothing. These include yucca and milkweed.

Szukovich will also discuss the many traditional uses of pokeweed (immortalized in Tony Joe White's 1960s hit song, "Polk Salad Annie").

Szukovich holds a doctorate in anthropology from the University of Montana in Missoula, where his studies focused on cultural resource management. He is currently involved in post-doctorate work in psychology at Northwestern University.

— more —

He is the urban ecology coordinator for the American Indian Center of Chicago. He manages the center's on-site medicinal prairie garden, where medicinal, edible, and ceremonial plants are grown for use by Native community members. The garden includes plants, grasses, sedges, shrubs, fungi, and trees.

In addition to plants mentioned in the presentation, the Mitchell Museum's garden also includes Indian grass, little bluestem, Joe Pye weed, coral bells, hawthorn, bristlecone pine, Jerusalem artichoke, English ivy, yarrow, and purpletop vervain.

Admission to the talk is \$12 for the general public and \$10 for Mitchell Museum members, in addition to museum general admission of \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (ages 1- 17), students (with ID), teachers (with ID), and seniors (age 65+). Museum admission is free for Mitchell Museum members and tribal members.

For information, phone (847) 475-1030 or email visitor.services@mitchellmuseum.org.
Website: <http://www.mitchellmuseum.org>.

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