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GANONDAGAN'S NEW SEASON OF EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING COVERS ANCIENT TO CONTEMPORARY

*Sports, games, and the natural world are explored in workshops,
lectures, and community activities*

Victor, NY—As it prepares to open its 2011-12 season on **Sunday, May 1, Ganondagan State Historic Site** is taking a thematic approach this year for much of its programming. A full complement of events and activities led by Site Interpreters and guests will focus on the role of sports, games, and the natural world, including demonstrations and talks on **Native hunting and trapping** including the primitive atlatl (ancient hunting spear), **a wooden sticks lacrosse game day, community longball games** (the Native predecessor of baseball), and much more. **A complete chronological event calendar follows.**

The varied lectures and workshops are in addition to Ganondagan's popular annual events like the **Native American Dance & Music Festival** celebrating its **20th anniversary** (July 23-24), the **Living History event** (September 24)—a re-enactment of French explorer Robert LaSalle's 1669 visit to the Seneca, the historic **Canandaigua Treaty Day** (November 11), and the **Native American Winter Games & Sports** (February 4, 2012).

"This year's programming and events are particularly exciting," said Friends of Ganondagan Executive Director Jeanette Miller. "We planned it so that there will be something for everyone and every age."

The bark longhouse and all trails will be open for guided walks on Opening Day, which also will feature a morning wildflower walk and a history of Fort Hill, and an afternoon geocaching event. It will be the first time that Ganondagan hosts a geocaching event, a popular high-tech outdoor treasure-hunting game.

Ganondagan State Historic Site is located at 1488 State Route 444 in Victor. Most, but not all outdoor activities and workshops take place at the Site, with lectures at the Victor Town Hall (85 East Main Street). Programming and events are a combination of fee-based and free, with some pre-registration required. For details, visit www.ganondagan.org or call (585) 742-1690.

(more)

2011-12 Chronological Calendar of Programming and Activities

MAY

1 **Ganondagan Opening Day** (10 am-4 pm); morning wildflower walk and history of Fort Hill (10 am-12 noon), afternoon geocaching event (1-4 pm)

JUNE

5 **Community Longball Game** (1-3 pm)

18 **Native Hunting & Trapping** (1-4 pm); demo and talk on Atlatl, bird blunts, arrow-making and hands-on activities including archery, hoop and javelin, and atlatl throw.

JULY

9 **Community Longball Game** (1-3 pm)

23-24 **20th Annual Native American Dance & Music Festival** (10 am-6 pm)

AUGUST

13 **Wooden Sticks Lacrosse Game Day** (1-4 pm); lacrosse history, demonstrations, game

24 **Annual Educators Day: Eat, Play, Live: The Haudenosaunee Way to Health** (9 am-4 pm)

27 **Community Longball Game & Storytelling** (7-9 pm); play the game of longball then head to the longhouse for a campfire and storytelling

September

24 **Annual Living History Event** (10 am-4 pm); a historical re-enactment of French explorer LaSalle's visit to the Seneca people in 1669

November

5 **Traditional Native Arts Workshop: Beaded Earrings** (10 am-2 pm)

11 **Annual Canandaigua Treaty Day**; keynote speaker is Robert Odawi Porter, President of the Seneca Nation

February

4 **Annual Native American Winter Games & Sports Event** (10 am-4 pm)

April

14 **Traditional Native Arts Workshop: Beaded Frames** (10 am-2 pm)

The three-part **Native American Lecture Series** will be offered in late 2011 and early 2012. The theme, "And Now Our Minds Are One: Connections to the Natural World," refers to the closing of each section of the traditional Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving address used at any important meeting or gathering.

All program dates and times are subject to change. For the complete event calendar, pricing, and event locations, visit www.ganondagan.org/events.html or call (585) 742-1690.

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Note to Media: Interviews and photos are available on request.

Ganondagan State Historic Site in Victor, NY stands at the location of what was one of the largest, most vital 17th-century Seneca towns until its destruction in 1687. Today, it is a destination for visitors to explore the authentic replica of a bark longhouse and hunting lodge and enjoy self-guided tours through 600+ acres of trails. It also acts as a resource for students and educators about the Iroquois Confederacy, or Haudenosaunee, and its message of peace. Every summer, Ganondagan's Native American Dance & Music Festival brings more than 4,000 people from all over the world. *Friends of Ganondagan* hosts the annual Canandaigua Treaty Day and presents lectures, workshops, and programming reflecting the vibrancy of a living culture and promoting a sustainable future. Visit www.ganondagan.org.