

# Currents

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The Newsletter of the Center for Great Lakes Culture

Issue 2, March 2002

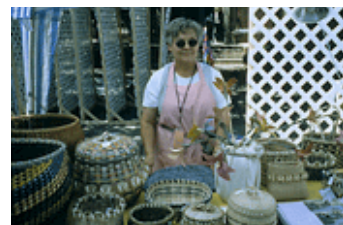
## Announcing Great Lakes Folk Festival 2002!



The Great Lakes Folk Festival is to be held Aug. 9-11, 2002, in downtown East Lansing and will succeed the popular National Folk Festival. The Great Lakes Folk Festival (GLFF), produced by the Michigan State University Museum's Michigan Traditional Arts Program, will present the best in international, national, and regional traditional musicians, dancers, storytellers, craftspeople and cooks. Both entertaining and educational, the festival will be a unique fusion of arts fair, music festival, county fair, hands-on workshops, and celebration of our multi-ethnic heritage.

The GLFF will feature multiple music and dance stages, a folk arts marketplace, traditional ethnic foods, games and children's activities. To identify exceptional traditional artists for GLFF, the MSU Museum will continue to work with local, state, regional and national organizations.

The Center for Great Lakes Culture, housed at Michigan State University, as well as other MSU academic departments and programs, will also play key roles in shaping the GLFF with a diverse array of the experiences, expressions and the vitality of traditional cultures in America. ■



Vendors invited to participate in the Festival sell authentic traditional arts or related items rarely available in stores.

► More information on the Great Lakes Folk Festival can be found at the official website of the Festival, [www.greatlakesfolkfest.net](http://www.greatlakesfolkfest.net).

## International Initiative to Explore Regional Arts, Culture and Community

*The partnership with Salzburg Seminars will create three seminars to be held in Salzburg, Austria on the theme of regional Arts, Culture, and Community...*

The Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs has awarded the CGLC two grants (\$58,000 in 2001 and \$30,000 in 2002) to develop an international initiative for the state and region. Among the first phase of work will be: 1) cultural exchanges of artists and cultural workers; 2) artist residencies in educational institutions and in community centers; and 3) cultural

policy planning and professional development for cultural workers.

One of the major thrusts will be the partnership with Salzburg Seminars to create three seminars to be held in Salzburg, Austria on the theme of Arts, Culture, and Community for invited participants from around the world. This series will explore the nature of regional arts and cultural expressions as a force in community development/building and the kinds of skills needed to be a successful cultural worker in the 21st century. The planning for this series will be completed in 2002 and the first session will be held in 2003.

Future issues of the newsletter will highlight other international activities of the CGLC as we strive to explore the connections between the study of regional arts and culture in the Great Lakes in relation to other regions of the world. For more information on this program, please contact Dr. C. Kurt Dewhurst at [dewhurst1@msu.edu](mailto:dewhurst1@msu.edu). ■

## INSIDE CGLC

### Advisors to shape the next phase of development

Center for Great Lakes Culture Advisor's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10th on the Michigan State University Campus. The meeting will run from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and it will be held at the MSU Union Building.

The Steering Committee for the Center anticipates that this meeting will help shape the next major phases of work for the development of the Center. The Center has already implemented a variety of programs including the CGLC Fellowship Program, the Newberry Library/CGLC Fellowship Program, the "Gatherings Program," the annual CGLC Awards Program, and the development of significant web-based resources. This coming meeting is intended to focus the Center's collective energies on areas including: the potential of the CGLC as a virtual center and the planning for a variety of educational outreach programming.

► Stay tuned! Details on the partnership between CGLC and Salzburg Seminars will be available in the next issue of Currents.



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## CGLC EVENTS

### April 3

East Lansing, MI  
*CGLC Fellows Lecture*  
 Dr. Javier Pescador, the topic will be: "Soccer, Borders and Socials Spaces in the Great Lakes, 1940-2000."

### April 10

East Lansing, MI  
*CGLC Advisors Meeting.*

## REGIONAL EVENTS

### Oct '01-Dec '02

Kenosha Public Museum  
 Kenosha, WI  
*Extended Exhibit: Harvesting the Inland Seas*  
 The history and development of Great Lakes commercial fishing.

### Jan-Aug

Michigan Historical Museum  
 Lansing, MI  
*"Schooner in the Sand: Unlocking the Secrets of a Great Lakes Shipwreck"*  
 Exhibition.

### Jan-Apr

Midland Center for the Arts Galleries  
 Midland, MI  
*"Great Lakes, Great Boats: Shipping on the Inland Seas"*  
 Find out how much boats used on the Great Lakes contributed to the building of America, including small town Midland.

### Feb-April

Biosphère  
 Montreal, Quebec  
*The St. Lawrence River, from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic*  
 An exhibition of original photographs portraying the river and its various facets.

### March-June

Chicago Cultural Center  
 Chicago, IL  
*A Force of Nature: The Life And Work Of Jens Jensen*  
 Illinois' pioneering landscape designer will feature the many aspects of Jens Jensen's work.



Dr. C. Kurt Dewhurst,  
 Director

The Center for Great Lakes Culture continues to make great strides building on the highly productive planning activities of the last two years. While we were disappointed by the NEH decisions not to award the center a challenge grant and to not continue the regional center initiative, we have been actively engaged on many fronts. As you will see in this newsletter, we (in

partnership with Arts Midwest) have received grants to support the planning of an exhibition on Great Lakes culture...with a focus on water related themes. We also have received two grants to initiate international programming, including plans for three Salzburg Seminars that will explore the connections between arts, culture, and communities in a global context. The Center is also deeply involved in the creation of a new festival called the "Great Lakes Folk Festival," which will premiere on August 9-11 in downtown East Lansing.

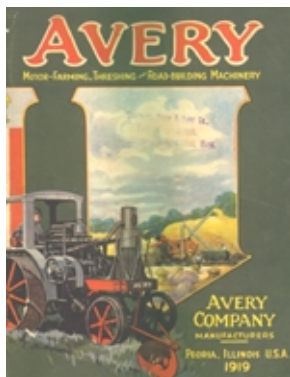
Our next CGLC Advisor's meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 10th and we will be devoting our energies to the creation of a

variety of Virtual Center programs as well as the planning for our emerging set of Educational Outreach Matrix activities. We also will be presenting our Second Annual Center for Great Lakes Culture Awards for Best Book and Best Website on Great Lakes Culture (see related story in the newsletter) at this meeting.

Over the past two years we have been "mapping our past, present, and future"...and now the map is becoming much clearer as we have been able to formalize a series of programs such as our CGLC Fellowship Program, the Newberry Library/CGLC Fellowships; the "Gatherings Program;" the Annual Awards Program; and a variety of seminar/lecture series in the region. The CGLC website content continues to build and we hope you will share your activities with us so we can post them and share them via the CGLC interest group listserv. I always welcome hearing from those with interests or ideas related to the development of a responsive and engaged regional center so please feel free to contact me. I want to thank all of you for your continued support of the Center for Great Lakes Culture.

## Farmers in the Great Lakes Region

Farmers in the Great Lakes region provided the impetus and the market for one of the most remarkable periods in the history of American agriculture: the development of the stationary thresher/separator and the internal combustion farm tractor. A special collection at Michigan State University of some 3,500 items, which dates from



the late nineteenth century to the 1940's, contains a wealth of information about tractors and threshers. The collection consists of sales catalogs, price lists, owner's manuals, and illustrated parts list. While the major emphasis lies in tractors and threshers, the entire range of farm equipment

which was offered by 130 different manufacturers and suppliers can be found. The firms represented in the collection were located throughout the Great Lakes region, including Battle Creek, Michigan; South Bend, Indiana; Moline, Illinois; and Racine, Wisconsin. The collection, which is currently being inventoried to improve access, is available for use in Special Collections, MSU Libraries.

## what's hot?

### Michigan Writers Network

A new initiative that uses the Internet to strengthen the already thriving community of Michigan writers is being launched by Michigan State University. Using the Internet's diverse spaces for interactive and collaborative learning, the Michigan Writers' Network, [www.michigan-writers.org](http://www.michigan-writers.org), will act as a wide-ranging and community-building resource for public educators and writers across the state by housing a variety of multimedia resources for writers and teachers of creative writing and literature. The network provides a space where people can share ideas, discuss the craft of writing, and learn about the interests and current work of other authors, with the primary goal of promoting awareness of an interest in creative writing in Michigan schools.

The initiative is funded by a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and sponsored by MSU's MATRIX: The Center for Humane Arts, Letters and Social Sciences Online, a cornerstone for the Center for Great Lakes Culture.

## March-April

Various locations  
Illinois  
*Lighthouse Legends*  
Lee Murdock's Road  
Scholar program.

## Mar 22-23

Wayne State University  
Detroit, MI  
*"Michigan in Perspective"*  
— Local History  
Conference.

## March 29-30

Indiana University  
Bloomington, IN  
*First Nations, Indiana  
University, First Annual  
Pow Wow.*

## April 4

Fondulac District  
Library  
East Peoria, IL  
*Folk Songs Of The Great  
Lakes Region*  
Lee Murdock's Road  
Scholar program.

## April 18

Grand Rapids, MI  
Mike Steinberg, editor  
of Peninsula will read  
and discuss creative  
non-fiction.

## April 20

London, Ontario  
*Great Lakes in Depth*  
Ontario-based diving &  
archaeology group is a  
hosting a series of  
presentations.

## May 18

Chicago, IL  
*Chicago's Southeast Side:  
A Community Story —  
Tour*  
Cultural sites where  
diverse ethnic groups  
have come together to  
share and pass on their  
traditions.

## May 19

Michigan Historical  
Museum  
Lansing, MI  
*"The Wreck of the HMS  
Hope: When British  
Warships Sailed the  
Upper Great Lakes"*  
Lecture.

## May 25-27

Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH  
*20th Annual Moon When  
The Ponies Shed Powwow.*

## May 31–June 1

Charles Wright Museum  
Detroit, MI  
*Underground Railroad in  
the Great Lakes*  
Conference.

## Arts Midwest and CGLC Collaborate: Great Lakes Culture Exhibit

The CGLC is collaborating with Arts Midwest, in Minneapolis, on the planning and development of a traveling exhibition that will examine the cultural expressions of artists in the region with a focus on the theme of water. Given the importance of water and the Great Lakes in particular, on the settlement, growth, and patterns of life in the region, many artists have explored the presence of water, and patterns of daily life along the lakes in their work. This exhibit will build on the recent success of the exhibit, "Illusions of Eden: Art from the Heartland," developed by Arts Midwest in partnership with the Columbus Arts Museum and the Ohio Arts Council and a 2001 CGLC Best Exhibit award winner. Like the earlier exhibit, this exhibit will incorporate an international dimension as artistic expressions from Ontario, Canada will be included.

The Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs has provided an initial planning grant of \$20,000 for this project and the first planning meeting will be held later this Spring. For more information on this project, please contact Dr. C. Kurt Dewhurst at dewhurst1@msu.edu.

## CGLC Fellow Report

During my GGLC fellowship, I was able to continue my research and present preliminary results in various professional meetings including the American Historical Association, the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies, and the Latin American Studies Association. The GGLC fellowship also allowed me to focus on my research and dedicate my American History Seminar to creating, with my students, a photo exhibit on recreational activities, Americanization and community formation in Mexican/Latino neighborhoods in the Great Lakes called "Immigrants and Citizens".

I was extremely happy with my students' reaction to the project. They selected the pictures among the hundreds taken by Luz Maria Gordillo and myself; organized the exhibit; planned the reception; and delivered two wonderful presentations addressing the social relevance of amateur sports among Mexican/Latino communities. They also invited the Mundo Latino League organizers and pioneer players from Detroit. The CGLC plans on working with Gordillo and me to take the exhibit to Detroit and Chicago this coming summer. I never imagined my research could have such an impact!

**-Javier Pascador, CGLC MSU Fellow**



## Book examines Mexican communities in the Midwest

*Barrios Nortenos: St. Paul and Midwestern Mexican Communities in the Twentieth Century* (University of Texas Press, 2000) has been selected for The Center for Great Lakes Culture 2002 Annual Book Award. The author, Dionicio Nodin Valdes, who is a professor of history at the University of Minnesota, is a leading scholar of this region, especially focusing on Mexican immigration and labor. The book, selected among a strong field of nominees, makes an important contribution to the mission of the Center for Great Lakes Culture to understand and interpret the cultural history and expressions of the diverse peoples, traditions, and customs of the Great Lakes region and the region's interactions with the world. According to Valdes, the two major objectives of the book are "to reconstruct the twentieth century history of Midwestern Mexican urban communities" and "to discuss group inequality." By examining the interactions of Mexicans and non-Mexicans, along with analyzing the role of geographic setting, Valdes offers a significant theoretical challenge to the Southwest-based geographic premises on issues of homeland, collective memory of conquest, employment patterns, and ethnic diversity. The book has been reviewed in a number of journals, including *New Mexico Historical Review*, *Minnesota History*, *Agricultural History*, and *Journal of American Ethnic History*.

## Website promotes the values of maritime heritage

The award for the Best Website on Great Lakes Culture in 2002 will be awarded to the Wisconsin's Great Lakes Shipwrecks website, [www.seagrant.wisc.edu/shipwrecks/](http://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/shipwrecks/). This website is a joint project of the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute and Wisconsin Historical Society. It was selected because of its exceptionally high quality of content. Launched in 1996, the website collects and disseminates valuable information which contributes to the understanding of the cultural and social history of Wisconsin's maritime heritage. For example, the website features descriptions of the history and fate of 22 historic shipwrecks, 17 video clips, a glossary of nautical terms, and links to about 50 other online sources of related information as well as Great Lakes diving safety information. The partners explain that the objective of this exciting project is "to promote a better public appreciation for the historical and cultural value of the shipwrecks in state waters, while encouraging responsible use and preservation of these sites among recreational divers."

BOOK

WEBSITE

**June 15-16**

Cicott Park  
Independence, IN  
*Cicott's Gathering Along  
the Wabash Pow Wow.*

**June 15-16**

Edgewater Park  
Cleveland, OH  
*American Indian Education  
Center's 8th Annual  
Competition PowWow.*

**June 22-23**

Louis Adado River Front  
Park  
Lansing, MI  
*Dancing by The Riverbank  
Traditional Pow Wow.*

**June 23-28**

Hamilton, Ontario  
*Managing Shared Waters  
Coastal Zone Canada  
2002 Great Lakes  
Conference.*

More events and a  
continuously updated  
calendar can be found on  
GLC's web site at:  
[greatlakes.msu.edu/  
calendar/](http://greatlakes.msu.edu/calendar/)

## Great Lakes Quilt Center: Gift supports collection care, education and research

In July 2001, Kitty Clark Cole made several major gifts including an estate commitment of approximately \$1 million for the MSU Museum's Great Lakes Quilt Center and a \$50,000 gift for annual support of the Center. Kitty is a leader in the formation of the Great Lakes Quilt Center, which was established in 2000 to document, preserve, and present the region's quilting history.

Kitty Clark Cole took her first quilt making class in 1991, became immediately hooked, and started buying lots of fabric. By the mid-1990s, her interest had become so developed that, from December 1993 - December 1995, she owned and managed Village Patchwork, a quilt shop in Plymouth, Michigan. She also taught quilting classes for children and photo transfer-T-shirt quilt classes. Now, in addition to enjoying replicating antique quilts with reproduction fabrics, Kitty lectures on quilt history and quilt care.

Also in July 2001, Kitty donated 13 rare and mint condition quilts from her collection to the MSU Museum, which represents important styles, techniques or activities. Kitty also knows the expense related to storing and preserving the Kitty Clark Cole Quilt Collection, Kitty gave an additional \$7,000 to purchase a cabinet that will properly store her donated quilts and is establishing an endowed fund for the care and use of her collection.

In addition to being a long-time supporter of the MSU Museum, she has been an active member of the Greater Ann Arbor Quilt Guild where she was guild president and chair of the Education and Preservation Committee and, in those capacities was instrumental in the guild's support of the MSU Museum's quilt preservation activities. She also served as Vice Chairperson on the MSU Museum's Development Council and is currently a member of the board for The Alliance for American Quilts.

Kitty's gifts and generosity in supporting collection care, education, and research have strengthened the MSU Museum's quilt collection immeasurably.



Kitty Clark Cole, photo by Pearl Yee Wong, MSU Museum



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