

Interview with Jay & Rebecca Hartleroad
 Miami Nation of Indians of Indiana
 February 26-27, 2005
 Auburn, Indiana (at their home)
 by Mike Gonella

Family

- Their house has been in their family for 5 generations. Jay’s mother owns it, and leases farmland around it to farmers. The farm was recently tilled, and the tiles fixed, after being in the Conservation Reserve Program for 20 years. They lost a lot of nice successional habitat, including huge dogbane patches and other prairie-type plants.
- All info from Jay alone, unless otherwise specified.

Plant	Cultural Information
Tobacco	Men grow the tobacco and always use to smudge the drum before using, making a tobacco offering. Tried growing the Miami tobacco—just sprouted then died. Not sure why. It was grown out by someone else first (Izania & Bruce Thornington (Bruce is Miami)) Seed is supposedly Miami, came from Nick Clark with corn and beans, all from a 2000 year old burial site. Tobacco put into grave also, as offering
White sage	<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i> (introduced): also used to smudge with, with tobacco for drum offering. Jay had a bag of dried white sage (<i>A. lud.</i>) from his property. Sage used to smudge graves during funerals. Put it into graves too. <i>Salvia apiana</i> (from western U.S.) also used: pan-indian, but liked because it has very strong, pleasant odor
Sweetgrass	Braided like a mother’s hair. It is representative of mother earth
Cedar	This is for women’s medicine (info from Jay and Rebecca). Cedar is put into a grave, being women’s medicine it is an offering to Mother Earth. Some women (woodland?) wear a bit of cedar pinned to their shirt to show that they are in moon time—probably a Medowewin, more contemporary practice.
Wood	Drum made of plywood and metal conduit bent into a circle, wood supports
Drum	Jay learned songs, drum etiquette from a Ponca man (identity not asked) from Oklahoma. He taught him Ponca songs. Also learned all about drum and drum etiquette from Tick Bush (Potawatomi with some Miami in his family).
Shelf Fungus	Used as a punk (hold fire/coal). It grows on trees, brown and black on bottom, light brown on bottom. Used with flint to start a fire. Jay uses these and learned this info from George Dorin

Miami White Corn	Received seeds from Nick Clark. Have tried growing it. It grows taller and is slower to mature. The kernels are usually very plump and fat. The ones they had left were not as plump. (Info from Jay and Rebecca)
Miami red bean	Received red bean with small light/white spots. Also tried growing this but did not get seed. (Info from Rebecca)
Wild Bergamot	Had some dried plants. Clarence White (Pokagon Potawatomi) told them its good medicine for stomach ailments
Mayapple	The fruit is edible but it can be poisonous also if not eaten at the right time.
Nut-Seed Trees (Maple, Oak, etc.)	In squirrel hunting, you get to know the trees that the squirrels like to be in, because of their edible seeds and nuts. You know you can hunt when certain trees are in seed, like when you see the Maple trees in seeds. Also, you can find the squirrels by listening to the sound of them chewing on a nut like a beech or a hazelnut—it sounds like rubbing the two ends of quarters together.
Elderberry (black)	They had a bush growing in their yard, for many years. Harvested berries last summer and kept them. Rebecca made a kind of elderberry jam: 1 part elderberry juice (strained and pressed) $\frac{3}{4}$ part sugar some wild grapes mixed in providing natural pectin boil until frothy, then a while longer let cool and it should gel (info here is from Rebecca)
Staghorn Sumac	Sumac berries used to make _____, and stems used as pipestems.
Basswood	Knows that basswood inner bark is very fibrous
Dandelion	Rebecca's grandmother cooked dandelion greens by pouring hot bacon grease over the new leaves. Eaten as a spring tonic (info from Rebecca)
Comfrey	Rebecca grows this.
Puffballs & other mushrooms	Rebecca gathers these for eating.