



NEWSHOUSE

Staff Login

Search



68° Cloudy

YOUR RESOURCE FOR NEWS, ENTERTAINMENT AND WHAT'S HAPPENING

CAMPUS NEWS

OFF CAMPUS

SPORTS

LIFE & STYLE

ENTERTAINMENT

BLOGS

Photo: Kaitlyn Richards

SHARE

Printer-friendly version

E-mail this story

# Onondaga Lake Park expo promotes traditional Native American lacrosse

By Madina Toure  
September 30, 2013

**The first annual Haudenosaunee Wooden Stick Expo featured exhibition lacrosse games, Native American craft vendors, stick-making demonstrations, and social dancing.**

Seneca Nation member Todd Gates was heartbroken when a hip replacement surgery in 2009 forced him to stop playing lacrosse for 10 years. But it was lacrosse that helped him recover.

"It was really depressing at the time," said Gates, 53, of Buffalo and former tribal council leader for the Seneca Nation. "Lacrosse brought me back into being the guy that I thought I could be."

Last summer, Gates and his brother, Leroy Gates, considered hosting the world's largest lacrosse game, but eventually decided on a more traditional lacrosse event; an idea that instantly resonated with people.

"It's a foundation for how young men can develop their skills to be leaders in the community and develop a teamwork, community-minded knowledge and vision for how to get things done," he said.

The first annual Haudenosaunee Wooden Stick Expo, held on the south end of Onondaga Lake Park on Sept. 28 and 29, celebrated the five Native American nations uniting to play lacrosse, known as De-wa-eoh in the Seneca language, or the Creator's Game. [Skā-noñh – Great Law of Peace Center](#), hosted the event in conjunction with the [Onondaga Historical Association](#), Syracuse University and the

22

Like

0

1

Tweet

## More by this author

- [Centro bus schedule confusing for students](#)
- [College Survival Guide](#)

## Related tags

- [Haudenosaunee](#) [Wooden Stick Expo](#) [Iroquois Nationals](#) [lacrosse](#) [Leroy Gates](#) [Onondaga Historical Association](#) [Onondaga Lake Park](#) [Onondaga Nation](#) [Onondaga Redhawks](#) [Seneca Nation](#) [Todd Gates](#)

## Popular tags on recent stories

- [Syracuse Orange](#) [John Desko](#) [Carrier Dome](#) [Kris Joseph](#) [music](#) [Hendricks Chapel](#) [live music](#) [review](#) [James Southerland](#) [JoJo Marasco](#) [Doug Marrone](#) [Fab Melo](#) [SU basketball](#) [theater](#) [Westcott Theater](#) [Scoop Jardine](#) [Bernie Fine](#) [Dion Waiters](#) [Big East](#) [recipe](#) [Ryan Nassib](#) [food](#) [Rick Jackson](#) [film](#) [Jim Boeheim](#) [concert](#) [indie rock](#) [SU CNY Shows](#) [Syracuse](#)



Photo: Kaitlyn Richards

The first annual Haudenosaunee Wooden Stick Expo was held at Onondaga Lake Park on Sept. 28 and 29.

also a construction manager, lacrosse relaxes him and gives him energy to handle the challenges of his job.

“When I’m out there on the field, I concentrate on strategies of lacrosse and think about my brothers out there that I just want to have fun with and meeting up with my old friends,” he said.

The event drew 5,000 to 10,000 over the course of the weekend.

Onondaga Nation.

The event featured exhibition games in which Haudenosaunee men played with wooden lacrosse sticks and leather balls, Native American craft vendors, stick-making demonstrations, social dancing, food and youth clinics hosted by the Onondaga Redhawks and the Iroquois Nationals.

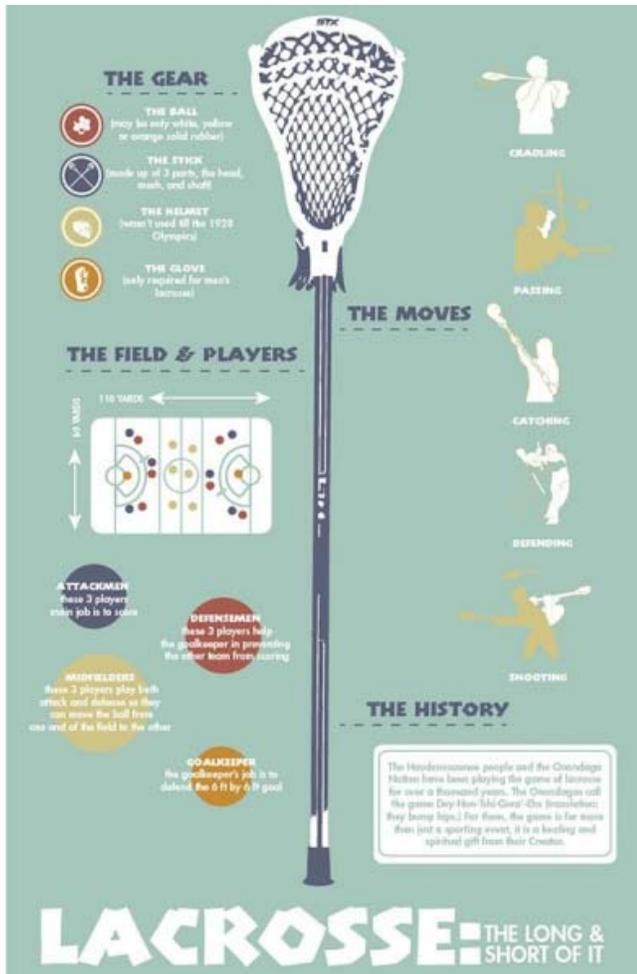
Lacrosse originated over 1,000 years ago as a gift from the Creator for his enjoyment, Gates explained, to unite individuals of different abilities and to settle differences between nations, towns and villages.

The exhibition games, known as the Old Sticks Game, featured players aged 40 and older.

Roughly 20 players, including Gates, participated in a total of six old sticks games. For Gates, who is

University dining hall football  
 SU football **Orange** men's lacrosse  
 basketball **Brandon Triche** Kayla  
 Alexander art Michael Carter-Williams  
 men's basketball C.J. Fair  
**Syracuse** environment University  
 Union

[more tags](#)



Infographic: Miriam Taylor

**Post new comment**

\* Field must be completed for your comment to appear on The NewsHouse

Your name: \*

E-mail: \*