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Native Plymouth Tours Recognized by Yankee Magazine

PLYMOUTH, Mass. - A local tour guide in his second season of offering a unique perspective to Plymouth history has been distinguished by Yankee Magazine in the 2011 Travel Guide to New England with an exclusive "Editor's Choice" award in the Best of New England issue.

Tim Turner, who launched Native Plymouth Tours in April of 2010 with his brother Tom Turner, was as surprised as he was honored to receive the Best Native American Point of View award from the magazine that has been dedicated to enhancing the New England experience for more than 75 years.

"Receiving the award was totally out of the blue. I didn't realize how big of a deal it was until the phone calls started. It seems like everybody reads Yankee Magazine," said Tim Turner, a member of the Cherokee Nation who has lived in Plymouth all of his life. "I think this is going to raise awareness of our tours and that there is an opportunity for local residents and tourists to learn the other side to the story."

The New England Travel Guide is the best selling and most widely distributed guide to the six state region providing readers with a comprehensive vacation-planning tool and daily reference.

"Our 'Best of New England' issue is about where we live and play and raise our families. These places happen to be the cities and villages, the beaches, mountains, and forests, where visitors from around the world come to spend precious vacation days," says editor Mel Allen. "We've filled our pages with the places we want to see, and have seen, and will see again. Immerse yourself in these places to visit, as beautiful as any in the world, plus more than 250 'Bests,' our recommendations for inns, shopping, sights, restaurants, adventures, and what-have-you."

The Native Plymouth Tours adventure begins on the Plymouth waterfront in Pilgrim Memorial State Park and offers a walking tour of the historic sites and monuments of downtown Plymouth from a Native perspective. From Plymouth Rock to the Burial Hill, the tour covers about a mile and takes about an hour and a half during which participants see these places through a different lens and come to understand the important indigenous history to the region.

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“I realize that for many people attending our tours this may be the first time they realize they are interacting with a native person, and I want it to be a positive experience. I want them to be comfortable and ask questions. It is a wonderful learning moment,” he said.

Tim’s knowledge comes from a combination of research and experience including the many stories he was told about the native history of Plymouth as he was raised here, his own research as an interpreter and manager of the Wampanoag Indigenous Program at Plimoth Plantation for more than 20 years, research he has done in the Pilgrim Hall archives, and what he has learned through his relationship with local historian Jim Baker.

The recognition from Yankee Magazine is already paying off for the fledgling business as visits to the website, nativeplymouthtours.com have increased by nearly 500 percent since the issue hit the newsstands last month.

Tim hopes to increase his business enough to hire other Native people to offer the tours and to reach more of the visitors to Plymouth with this unique and interesting take on history.

For more information about Native Plymouth Tours, or to book a tour, visit nativeplymouthtours.com or call 774-454-7792.

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