

TNTCX NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019 Issue No. 8

Editors: Michael P. Fedoroff and Annie Harrison



TNTCX Director's Message

Welcome everyone to a new year of Tribal Engagement and a new issue of the TNTCX newsletter. In this issue's Tribal Perspectives section, we have contributions from both the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations discussing first contact with Europeans and the evolution and importance of indigenous sport. The first quarter of FY 2020 was a hectic time for the Tribal Nations Technical Center. The TNTCX Update catches up on events from the fall, including participation at the Moundville Native American Festival, attendance at the National Congress of the American Indian in Albuquerque, and participation at the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM) in Anchorage.

The Fall District spotlight focuses on Jacksonville District and their innovative work with the Seminole Nation. As usual, the *News and Notes* section is full of information on coming events, newly released publications, and exciting training opportunities. We think there's something there for everyone. As we head into spring, we invite you all to contribute to the community by letting us all know about your initiatives, your successes, your comments and suggestions.



Ron Kneebone, Ph.D.
Director
Tribal Nations Technical Center

Inside this Issue

Director's Message

Page 1

Tribal Perspectives (Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation)

Page 2-7

TNTCX Updates

Pages 8-11

Partnering Tips

Page 12

News and Notes

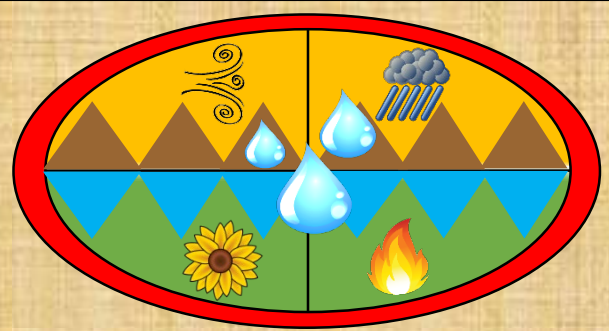
Page 13-14

District Spotlight (SAJ)

Page 15-16

Contact Us!!!

Page 17



Tribal Perspectives

Tribal Perspectives: Submitted by Chickasaw Nation

First Encounter

In early May 1539, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto and his company of conquistadors set sail from Havana, Cuba, in hopes of searching for gold and riches. De Soto, who played an active role in the conquest of the Inca Empire in Peru under Francisco Pizarro, had an urge for wealth and power. De Soto and his army of approximately 650 men, about 220 horses, a large pack of dogs to be used as food, mules and Irish hounds to help with hunting ventured to North America. By late May, de Soto and his men finally reached the banks of Tampa, Florida, and began their quest in hopes of finding gold in this land.

Over the next year, De Soto and his conquistadors marched north, then west, cutting a swath through southeastern North America. As the Spaniards encountered Native Americans along their journey, the conquistadors were accustomed to their own tactics on how they to defend themselves if Native Americans attacked. As some of the Native Americans were unsure of these new people in their territory, the Spaniards used it as an advantage and ordered the Native Americans to be their servants, took their food and even murdered them if they did not follow orders.

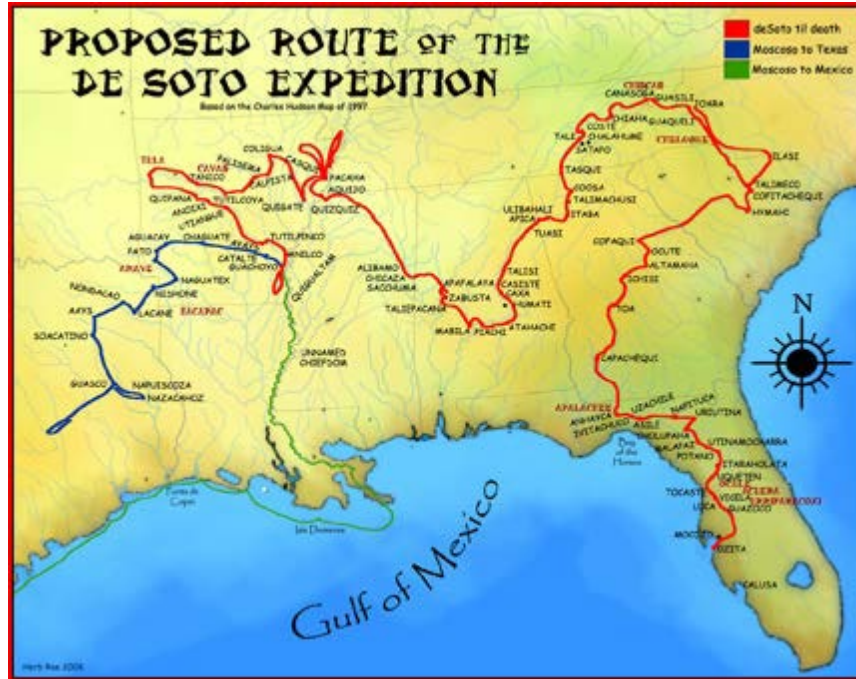
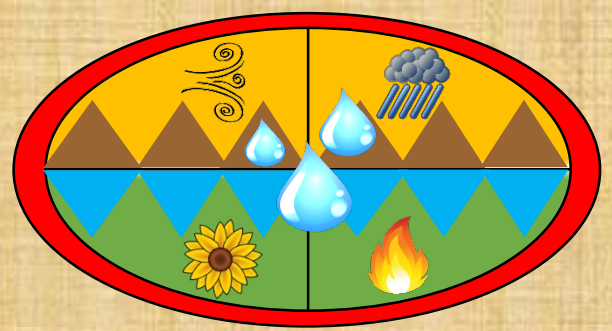
However, as some of the Native American tribes caught wind of the Spaniards' journey and tactics, many of them abandoned their villages and fled. With many of the tribes moving on, de Soto and his men were starting to run out of food and unsure of which direction to go as they were unable to speak with the tribal leaders to confirm there was gold. As de Soto made his way west, and having lost more than 100 men to diseases and battle, he heard about the land of Chicaza, the land that was enriched with fields of maize.

It was not until December 1540 when Chickasaw warriors spotted the Spanish along the Tombigbee River. The Chickasaw warriors sent volleys of arrows toward the Spaniards, warning them to not cross the river. However, eventually de Soto and his conquistadors made it across on rafts and spoke with the Chickasaw *minko* (leader) about obtaining peace.

The Chickasaws offered shelter to the Spaniards during the winter months and provided one of their abandoned villages for safe harbor. Misinterpreting the hospitality of the Chickasaws, de Soto began demanding many of the Chickasaw people to care for his men during their search for gold. In order to keep peace with the Spaniards, Chickasaw leaders agreed to supply them with gifts of skins, shawls and food. As time went on the Chickasaw leaders became suspicious about the Spaniards and recognized they had ulterior motives. After discussing with their tribe, the Chickasaws then decided to confront these unwelcome guests and their demands.

The Chickasaws spent many winter nights beating the drum from their village making de Soto fearful of a possible attack. He warned his men to stay on guard, but no such attack came. As the Spaniards became comfortable and complacent, the Chickasaws used surprise to their advantage with a predawn strike. The Spaniards awoke to the smell of smoke from the burning village, as well as the drum beating which signaled the attack. Confused and dazed, the Spaniards tried to save their lives by running through an engulfment of flames and piercing arrows fired from the Chickasaw bowmen surrounding them. The fire destroyed most of the Spaniards' military gear, weapons and clothing,

Tribal Perspectives

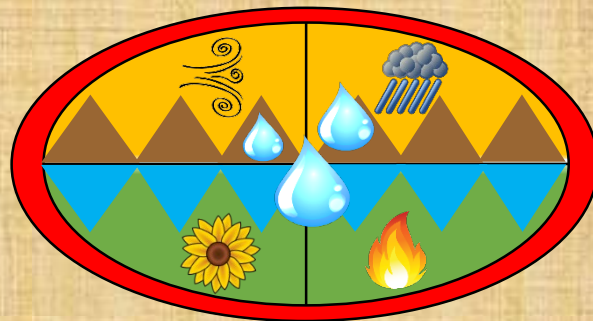


as well as killing 57 horses and some 400 pigs. The accounts vary, but 12-14 of de Soto's army were killed, along with many more who were burned or wounded. It is recorded that the Chickasaws could have completely wiped out the entire expedition, but pulled their forces back to avoid losing any men. The Chickasaws seemed to only want to deliver the message that the Spanish demands were no longer welcome.

Defeated and embarrassed after the attack, de Soto ordered his remaining army to pull back to another abandoned village two or three miles away. Seeing that de Soto's army was crippled, the Chickasaws waited for them to move on, but when they started to regroup for what looked like another expedition, the Chickasaws attacked again March 15, just before dawn. After days of fighting, the Chickasaws were victorious and successful in forcing the Spaniards out of Chickasaw territory. Even after the defeats, de Soto and his men continued to search for gold in the Southeastern area, but now they were more focused on survival than riches. De Soto died a year later due to complications from fever. After his death, his remaining men were desperate and traveled down the Gulf Coast until they reached a Spanish town, but not before losing half of the group on the trip.

The Chickasaws' first encounter with Europeans was an intriguing event in Chickasaw history. From supplying food, gifts and shelter to driving the conquistadors out of their Homeland due to de Soto's persistent demands, the Chickasaws developed a reputation of being both hospitable and having a fierce warrior spirit. Later, writers stated the Chickasaw warriors were called the "Spartans of the Mississippi Valley" and that warrior reputation only continued to grow after the first encounter.

Tribal Perspectives



First Encounter Sources Cited

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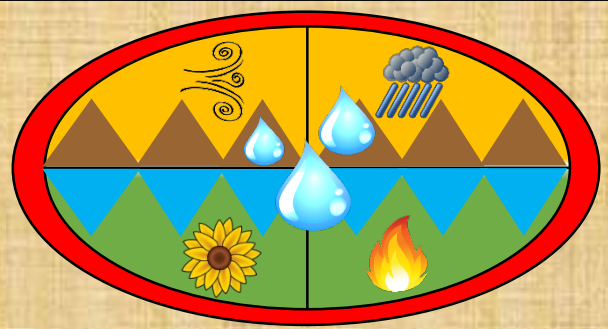
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LEFT: Chickasaw Warriors

RIGHT: Spanish Explorer Hernando de Soto

Tribal Perspectives



Tribal Perspectives: Choctaw Nation: The Rich History of Choctaw Stickball By: Cece Ketcher (TNTCX)

The legendary tradition of stickball has been played for hundreds of years. The commissioner of the World Series of Stickball calls it “the granddaddy of all American sports”. The games are played with a woven leather ball, a *towa*, and handcrafted sticks, *kabocca*, which are carved from hickory and bent at one end to shape the cup of the stick. Leather is tied to the stick to make the pocket in which the players catch and carry the ball. The *towa* is made from cloth tightly wrapped around a small stone or piece of wood. Then, the maker weaves leather over the cloth. The objective of each team is to throw the ball down the field to get it close to the goal post using only sticks and to hit the ball against the post to score a point. The field of play is about the size of an American football field or a soccer field, and the sticks the players use are about two and a half feet in length on average. The goal post is wooden, four inches in diameter, and about twelve feet high. These posts are centered on both ends of the field.

In the past, the Choctaws would play stickball against each other to peacefully settle disagreements with each other. Some of these games were fought hard and could be played by over 300 Choctaws. When these games were played, there were not any defined limits or rules for game play.

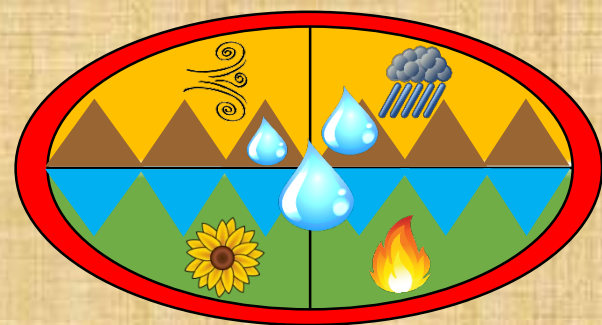
Today, the tradition continues on the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian reservation during our annual Choctaw Indian Fair where the public is invited to watch stickball games. Stickball teams are now separated into different divisions by age and gender, including ten to thirteen years of age, fourteen to seventeen years of age, women’s division (18+), men’s division (18+), and thirty-five and over. Anywhere from thirty to forty teams meet for the annual, single-round elimination tournament at the fair hoping for the chance to make it to the championship. The last day of the fair is the championship game.

Most teams that participate in the tournament are made of players from the same communities within the Mississippi Band including the Pearl River, Beaver Dam, Bogue Chitto, Red Water, Conehatta, Standing Pine, Tucker, Bogue Homa, Warriors, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Some of the communities have more than one team to represent them in the tournament. In addition, there are usually two men’s teams and one women’s team from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Each stickball game is played in four fifteen-minute quarters for the adults, and the youth divisions have a shorter playing time. Historically, the players wore handmade uniforms consisting of pants hemmed just below the knee and open necked pullover shirts. Today, players wear t-shirts representing the color of their community, and many players now wear headbands with the diamond design in the community color.

Stickball keeps several Choctaw craftsmen’s busy, since the *kabocca* and *towa* used by the players must be handmade. Modern stickball has a few more rules than its historical predecessor. The rules are printed and distributed to all players before the fair begins. While players can tackle, block, or use any technique to impede the other team’s movements, there are implicit limits to acceptable violence.

Kabotcha Toli (stickball in Choctaw) is all about the love for the game and bragging rights for a year. There is a high level of pride in representing your team. It is a traditional game that brings all of the communities together. Because speed, toughness, and strength is required, the competition is called the “little brother of war”.



Tribal Perspectives

Tribal Perspectives:

Choctaw Nation: The Rich History of Choctaw Stickball

By: Cece Ketcher (TNTCX)

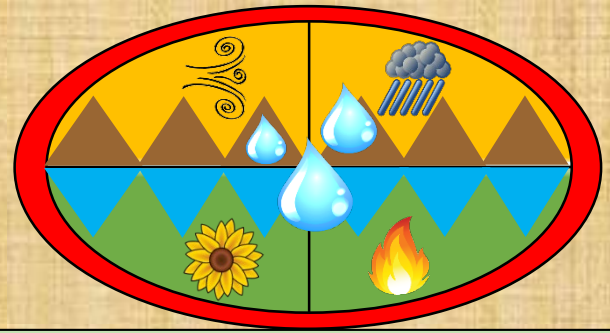


TOP LEFT: Adam Joe Jr. carrying the ball with stickball sticks. (14-17 Division; Koni Hata vs. Bok Cito), Conehatta in blue & Bogue Chitto in white.

TOP RIGHT: Aven Joe with the ball. (10-13 Division; Beaver Dam vs. Koni Hata), Beaver Dam in red & Conehatta in blue.

BELOW: 10-13 Division Champions _ Beaver Dam. Photo Credits: Adam Joe Sr.





Tribal Perspectives

Tribal Perspectives:

Choctaw Nation: The Rich History of Choctaw Stickball

By: Cece Ketcher (TNTCX)



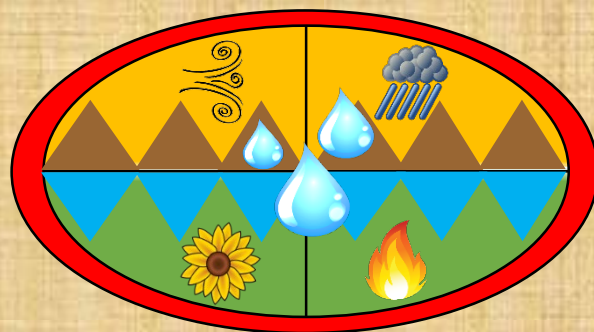
TOP LEFT: Kiezer Johnson attempting to reach the ball. (Men's Division; Bok Cito vs. Warriors), -Bogue Chitto in white & Warriors in maroon. Photo Credits: Asa Keats.

TOP RIGHT: Close up of Kiezer Johnson. (Men's Division; Bok Cito Team), Photo Credits: Asa Keats.

BELOW LEFT: A huddle between the players to get the ball. (Men's Division; Bok Cito vs. MBCI), Bogus Chitto in white & MBCI in green. Photo Credits: Bradley Isaac.

BELOW RIGHT: A child in the background of stickball sticks and stickball ball. Photo Credits: Will Allen.

TNTCX Update



USACE Planning Community of Practice Meeting (PCoP)

Attendance at this weeklong meeting (04-08 November 2019) in Kansas City, Missouri provided the Director of the Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX) and TNTCX Staff Ms. Beverly Hayes an opportunity to interface with USACE Planning Community of Practice from across the nation to share best practices and challenges for the future. This type of engagement is another primary focus of the TNTCX Mission. The meeting was well attended by USACE planning elements from regions across the country.

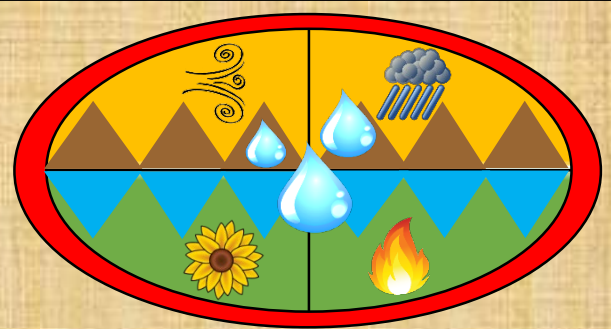


TOP LEFT: MG Spellman opens the Planning PCoP meeting in Kansas City.

BOTTOM LEFT: TNTCX Staff, Dr. Ron Kneebone and Ms. Beverley Hayes attend the meeting.

TOP and Bottom RIGHT: PCoP Attendees listen as Dr. Kneebone discusses best practices for working with Tribal Nations.

TNTCX Update



Moundville Native American Festival

The Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX) was able to attend the 31st annual Moundville Native American Festival October 9 through 11th to connect with attendees and educate the public about the TNTCX mission. Several state and Federal agencies were also in attendance, including USACE Mobile District. The festival featured several performers, vendors, and educational opportunities all aimed at celebrating Native American culture. These included a target range, Living History teachers, make-and-take crafts, dancers, Native American foods, and many other opportunities for attendees to experience Native American culture. Visitors were also encouraged to explore the Moundville Archaeological Park and Museum to learn about the history of the Native Peoples who used to inhabit the land. The TNTCX was thrilled to be able to share our mission and educate the public about our services, and staff enjoyed speaking with the numerous attendees at the festival. The TNTCX looks forward to participating in the years ahead.

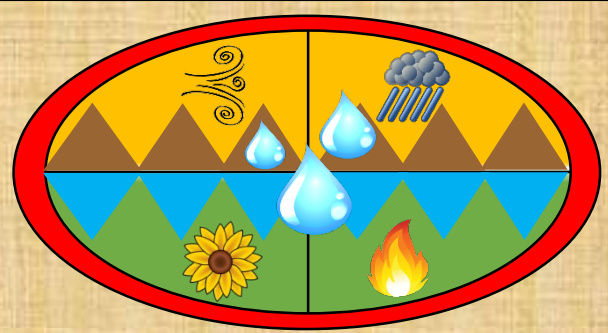


TOP LEFT: Festival attendees learn about the Moundville culture in the Jones Archaeological Museum on site.

BOTTOM LEFT: TNTCX Outreach Specialist Annie Harrison waits for guests at our festival booth.

ABOVE: Children at the festival participate in a traditional stick ball game taught to them by living history performers.

TNTCX Update



National Congress of the American Indian (NCAI)

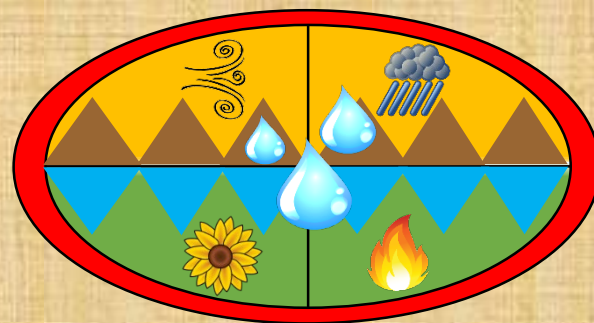
Attendance at this weeklong convention (20-25 October 2019) provided the Director of the Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX) and the Albuquerque District Tribal Liaison an opportunity to interface with Tribal representatives from across the nation to provide outreach regarding opportunities to partner with USACE. Attendance also provides an opportunity to hear about the challenges facing Tribal Nations to better understand how USACE can help Tribes meet and overcome those challenges.



LEFT: Dr. Ron Kneebone, TNTCX Director, provides information about the center to conference attendees.

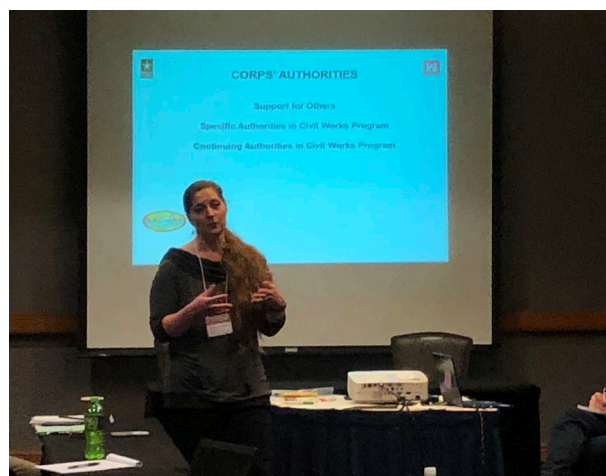
TOP RIGHT: Attendees of NCAI explore the convention to learn more about issues facing Tribal Nations.

TNTCX Update



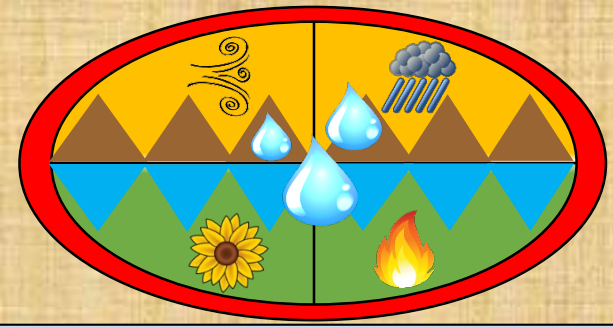
Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM)

Dr. Ron Kneebone and Matthew Grunewald were fortunate to attend the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM) in Anchorage, Alaska. This four day conference brings government organizations together with Tribes and non-profits to discuss and solve environmental problems unique to Alaskan communities. This event, planned by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Department of Community Environment and Health, included a number of presenters covering a wide range of topics including water resources and public utilities, community health, solid and hazardous waste, air quality and healthy homes, sustainability and resilience, contamination support, and monitoring. The event also presents Environmental Excellence Awards to recognize individuals and groups for their preservation work. This annual conference provides unique insight into challenges faced by rural Alaska communities and Indigenous Alaskans. The TNTCX was pleased to attend the presentations and bolster relationships with attendees.



LEFT: Dr. Ron Kneebone, TNTCX Director, and Matthew Grunewald attend the meeting.

RIGHT: Kendall Campbell (USACE Alaska District) delivers another presentation with Seth Cohen (not pictured) to conference attendees about Strengthening USACE Collaboration with Alaska Natives on Water Resources Planning and Management



Partnering Tips

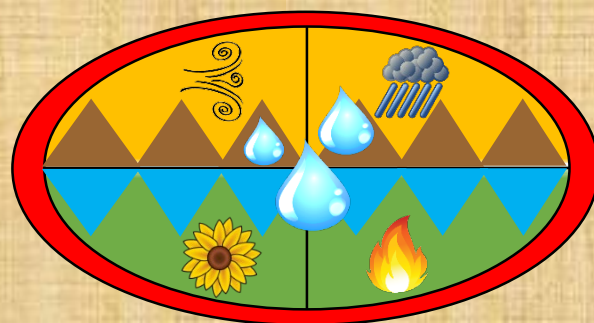
Partnering Tips

- Actively listen and do not interrupt. Always act with respect.
- Incorporate feedback thoughtfully and constructively.
- Take the time to learn about the tribes you will be working with.
- Understand that relationships take time to build. Do not be discouraged by disagreement, but rather work to understand another point-of-view.
- Follow-up after meetings in a timely manner and be willing to answer any new questions that have come up.



Performers participate in a Tribal dance (photo courtesy of University of Alabama, Moundville)

News and Notes



Tribal Engagement Focus

With contributions from our Tribal Partners, USACE Tribal Liaisons, and TNTCX Staff

Upcoming Events:

Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians (ATNI) Winter Convention

January 27 - 30, 2020

Portland, OR

Tribes from all Northwestern United States will be in attendance.

<http://atnitribes.org/>

2020 Reservation Economic Summit (RES)

March 1 - 5, 2020

Las Vegas, Nevada

RES is the premier economic development event in Indian Country, bringing together business experts, tribes, Native entrepreneurs, inspiring speakers, and many others in a collaborative environment.

<https://res.ncaied.org/>

To Bridge A Gap Meeting

March 30 - April 2, 2020

Tulsa, OK

This annual meeting is co-hosted by the USDA Forest Service and Tribal Partners. This year the Osage Nation will be hosting in Tulsa, OK. More information about this event can be found on the To Bridge A Gap Facebook page.

<https://facebook.com/To-Bridge-A-Gap-Meeting-363558567387612/>

Society of American Archaeology

April 22 - 26, 2020

Austin, TX

Tribes from all over the Americas will be in attendance for this annual meeting which brings archaeologists together to share ideas and innovations.

<https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting>

Publications:

Documents of United States Indian Policy (Third Edition)

ISBN: 9780803202337

The third edition of this landmark work adds forty new documents, which cover the significant developments in American Indian affairs since 1988. Among the topics dealt with are tribal self-governance, government-to-government relations, religious rights, repatriation of human remains, trust management, health and education, federal recognition of tribes, presidential policies, and Alaska Natives.

Early Coordination with Indian Tribes During Pre-Application Process: A Handbook

Published by the ACHP

This handbook present recommendations for federal agencies, applicants, and Indian tribes to work together in pre-application information gathering or prior to the Section 106 process.

Access online for free:

https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2019-10/EarlyCoordinationHandbook_102819_highRes.pdf

Training Opportunities:

E0580: Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments

March 16 - 19, 2020

Emmitsburg, MD

Registration contact:

<https://training.fema.gov/apply/>

E0580: Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments

August 17 - 20, 2020

Emmitsburg, MD

Registration contact:

<https://training.fema.gov/apply/>

E0582: Mitigation for Tribal Governments

September 14 - 17, 2020

Emmitsburg, MD

Registration contact:

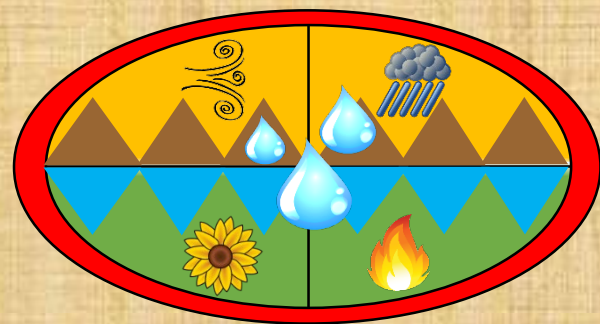
<https://training.fema.gov/apply/>

Editor's Note: With today's busy schedule it can be tough to find time for professional development. Once way to increase knowledge and awareness of tribal matters is through reading!

What are you reading?

We would love for you to reach out with suggestions for publications that have impacted you.

News and Notes



New Section 106 e-Learning Course

Early Coordination with Indian Tribes for Infrastructure Projects



A 90-minute, online, on-demand course
on the [ACHP e-Learning Portal](https://www.achp.gov/training/elearning)

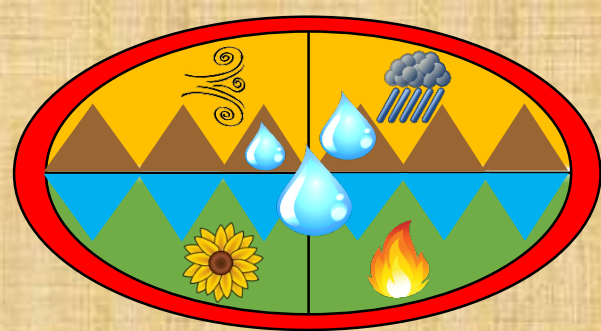
This course will develop understanding and skills for federal, cultural resources, environmental review, and program/project management staff to interact and work with Indian tribes early in the Section 106 process. It will also prepare consultants and applicants seeking federal licenses, permits, grants, and other approvals to work with Indian tribes as they plan and develop pre-application information for their projects.

**MORE
INFO** ➔

<https://www.achp.gov/training/elearning>

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Preserving America's Heritage





Tribal Engagement Spotlight

Jacksonville District Spotlight

Written by: Ms. Meredith Moreno, (SAJ Tribal Liaison)
Mr. Matthew Grunewald, (TNTCX Tribal Liaison)

Engaging with the Seminole Nation of Florida in Stewardship of the Everglades

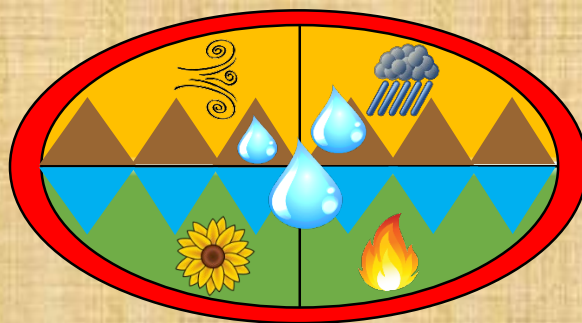
The USACE Jacksonville District has been working on the Central Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) since the project's authorization by congress in 2000 as a plan to "restore, preserve, and protect the south Florida ecosystem with providing other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection." America's Everglades, an area twice the size of New Jersey, is comprised of a mixture of dense forests, open prairies, sunny croplands, shady swamps, rural expanses, and dynamic cities. It is also the source of water for 8.1 million residents. Unique and threatened, the Everglades is the focus of a restoration partnership between the Federal government and the State of Florida.

There are two Federally-recognized tribes (the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Florida) that have vibrant, thriving cultures based within the Everglades region. Members of both groups maintain a traditional life style that is intricately connected to the Everglades environment. Traditional practices of hunting and fishing life-ways are still maintained—along with modern entrepreneurship through various enterprises such as cattle ranching and tourism related businesses along Tamiami Trail. These practices, which continue to tie the tribes to the Everglades, warrant careful consideration of effects from Corps projects.

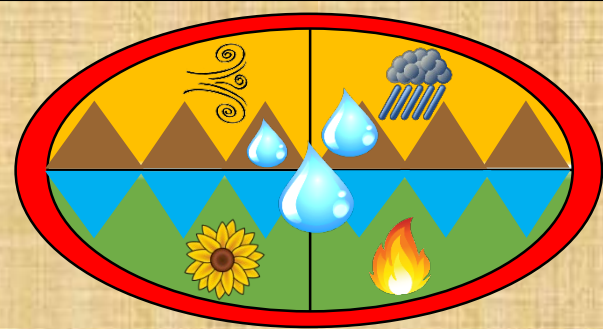
As a result of tribal consultation efforts undertaken by the Jacksonville District, the Seminole Tribe of Florida requested an ethnographic synthesis of the Everglades in order to develop a better understanding of the historic tribal use of tree islands and other resources and features within the region. As the Corps consults on future water management activities, the specialized expertise and perspectives contained in such an ethnographic synthesis will aid in the identification of historic properties and further refine the assessment of potential effects of future projects on resources of importance to the tribes. In order to develop the ethnographic study requirements, the USACE Jacksonville District reached out to the USACE Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX) to facilitate and participate in consultation meetings with the Seminole Tribe of Florida to discuss the potential ethnographic study which would gather information from a tribal perspective to assist the USACE in future Tribal consultation efforts for projects and undertakings associated with the CERP. The Seminole Tribe of Florida graciously hosted the meeting in southern Florida on the Big Cypress Reservation in June 2019. The meeting was a success and ended with an understanding of what information would be included in the ethnographic study.

In partnership with the Jacksonville District, the TNTCX took the information gathered at the consultation meeting and developed a scope of work for the CERP Seminole Ethnographic study and worked to award a task order under the TNTCX IDIQ to meet this requirement. Tribal collaboration is the cornerstone of this project, and this study will be utilized by the USACE, the Miccosukee, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida in an effort to more effectively consult, protect, and revitalize important resources in the Everglades. This is part of the USACE Federal trust responsibility to tribal people and also a major function of the TNTCX Mission.

Tribal Engagement Spotlight



ABOVE: Seminole Tribe of Florida, USACE Jacksonville, and TNTCX Working Group



How to Reach Us

HOW TO REACH US

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