



San Diego Cherokee Community Newsletter

Issue 13

www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com

June 2009

Meeting June 28

The next SDCC meeting will be June 28 at 1 p.m. at Lemon Grove United Methodist Church, 3205 Washington St, Lemon Grove.

Patrick Bea will conduct an introduction to the Cherokee language class and give a tour of the Cherokee Nation website. We will also start the process on how to write our name in Cherokee. In our first meeting after the summer break, September 20, we will practice how to write our name in Cherokee and transfer that to painting on a wild turkey feather.

Wild turkey feathers were given by the U.S. Fish & Game Dept. to the Cherokee Nation. Registered Cherokees could write in and request the feathers. We will use these feathers to paint on.

We will also start viewing the PBS Special that recently aired on that channel, "We Shall Remain – Trail of Tears". We will finish the movie during our September 20th meeting.

We will be giving away several prizes, a book by Shan Goshorn "The Origin of the Milky Way" and a book by Peter &

Connie Roop "...If You Lived With The Cherokee."

Mike Ledger will talk about the Cherokee Green Corn ceremony. This will be followed by a sampling of cornbread in recognition of the Green Corn ceremony.

Refreshments will be provided by the Council.

Print your copy of the Cherokee Syllabary before coming to our meeting:

www.cherokee.org/Extra/Downloads/syllabary.html

However it is not mandatory but will be helpful in the language class.



We are looking for volunteers to learn how to cook the "hog" for the upcoming

Cherokee Hog Fry in October. We also need volunteers to help set up and cleanup afterwards. This is a large event and we need our fellow Cherokee neighbors to help. We will have a signup sheet at the June & September meeting. If you cannot attend those meetings and would like to help, please contact us by sending an email to:

sdccnewsletter@yahoo.com or
sandiegocherokeecommunity@yahoo.com

We appreciate your help!

SDCC Picnic

The 3rd annual SDCC Picnic was held on May 31st at Lake Murray in La Mesa. We had about 50 attendees sharing our luncheon of chicken and various side dishes. Since it was also a strawberry festival, many desserts were served using strawberries.

Numerous individuals learned how to played Cherokee marbles. Dane Wallace was our first winner. He won a prize, the book by Peter & Connie Roop “...If You Lived With the Cherokee.”



Phil Konstantin & Dane Wallace

SAVE THE DATE

The Cherokee Nation Chief, Chad Smith, will be in San Diego on October 11 for a Cherokee hog fry & picnic.

Once again this event will be held at De Anza Cove, Mission Bay

More information to come so please check the website:

www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com

Council Elected

Three council members were recently elected. They are Shannon Ventuleth, Cindy Swayze and Patrick Bea. They will serve a 2 year term.

Here are your Council members:

Meeting Facilitator – Phil Konstantin
Records Keeper – George Lynch
Treasurer – Mike Ledger
Membership Coordinator – Patrick Bea
Program Coordinators – Cindy Swayze and Shannon Ventuleth
Alternate Facilitator, Records Keeper & Newsletter editor– Wynona Bigknife

The Legend of the Strawberry

As the story goes, there was a young Cherokee couple who was promised to each other upon their birth. They married and soon discovered that they loved each other very much. They seemed to enjoy their first few years together. However, as they became older, they began to

grow apart. The Indian maiden became unhappy because she thought her husband no longer loved her. Lonely and afraid, she prayed to the great spirits for release. Her prayers were answered, but not in the way she had imagined.

One morning, when she awoke beside her husband, the maiden looked at him without recognition. Her memory of him and her love for him had been totally erased. Not knowing what to do, the young girl dressed and simply walked away from her home, her tribe, and everything she knew. Her husband, upon finding out that his wife had left him, began to grieve. It took him no time at all to discover that he didn't want to live without her because she was the happiness in his life. So he vowed to find her and bring her home. He asked the Creator to help him accomplish his task. However, before agreeing to do so, the Creator asked the warrior if he could find it in his heart to forgive his wayward wife for wishing to forget him. He thought it about for the briefest moment and then stated that he could forgive her anything at all.

With the Creator's help, the warrior was able to track his wife, but she was several days ahead of him and he feared he wouldn't be able to reach her before winter set in. Amidst the snow, he feared he would lose her trail, thereby losing his beloved forever. The Creator decided to distract the maiden so her husband might finally catch up to her. He put a row of luscious huckleberries along her pathway; certain she would stop to gather some of them.

But the maiden continued along her way, without hesitation. Next, the Creator put a row of raspberries along the path. Once again, however, the maiden didn't bother to stop. Certain that the rare blue or blackberries would stop the maiden in her tracks, the Creator lined the path on one side with blueberries and the other with blackberries.

Though the maiden glanced at both bushes, she did not stop to gather any of the rare berries. With her warrior husband quickly losing ground, the Creator knew he had to find something quickly. So he created a whole new plant that was ripe with luscious and huge red berries like none that had ever been seen before.

Having never before seen berries of this type, the maiden stopped to examine them closely. Sitting on the ground, she picked a few of the fruits, first

feeling their texture and then smelling their wonderfully sweet fragrance. It was quite a while before she decided to take a bite and, in the mean time, her husband had grown closer to where his wife sat.

Finally, the maiden could wait no longer and she took a tiny bite out of a berry. As she did, the memory of her husband's face popped into her mind and her heart began to flutter. With each successive bite, more of her memories returned; each one more precious than the one before. Gathering the berries in her skirt, the maiden turned and began to retrace her steps home. As she reached the top of a hill and looked down, she saw her husband traveling the same path toward her. She ran to share the wonderful new treats with the man she realized that she loved more than her own life.

As they ate the berries together, they promised to never allow life to force them apart. Any time that they got angry with one another, or lost their way, the couple would go to gather strawberries, making time to be alone together. And because they did, they managed to live a long and happy life.

Upcoming Events

September 20, general meeting,
location to be announced.

October 11, 3rd annual CN Picnic,
DeAnza Cove, 1 p.m.

December 13, Holiday Party and
general meeting, place to be
announced.

Rugged Cherokee Country

The rugged country of the Cherokee – a country of flat-topped mountains, sharp valleys, wooded ridges, high plains, fertile farmland and powerful rivers – stretched across nearly all of Kentucky and Tennessee, much of Georgia, and parts of West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama at the time of the arrival of the first Europeans.

During the 300 years between the Cherokee's first meeting with Europeans and their forced removal from their homeland in 1838, this wide expanse of geography became pointed to Bradley County where the most catastrophic events in the history of these people occurred.

It was at Red Clay where the Cherokees held their last council meeting. It was here they learned they'd lost their homeland forever.

The Last Resolution of the Original Cherokee Nation was signed at Rattlesnake Springs in Charleston in 1838.

According to the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee, N.C., the Cherokees say the first man and woman, Kanati and Selu, lived at Shining Rock near Waynesville, N.C.

As early as 1200 B.C., people who would become the Cherokees are believed to have lived in the region. Communities of people at Williams Island near Chattanooga have been documented from this time, according to

the museum, as well as artifacts and hunting grounds found throughout the southern Appalachian Mountains.

By 1500 B.C., according to the museum's timeline, the Cherokee language had begun to evolve, and about 1000 B.C. the people began to plant corn and build permanent homes.

Randall L. Goldsen who published a book "About North Georgia", the Cherokee Nation was the largest of the Five Civilized Tribes in the Southeast. The Cherokee called themselves the "Ani'-Yun'wiya" or "Principal People".

Before the arrival of the Europeans, they controlled more than 40,000 square miles and had a population estimated at 22,500 people.

The Cherokee were first exposed to smallpox in 1698 when an epidemic decreased their population measurably.

An epidemic in 1738-39 is estimated to have killed between 7,000 and 10,000 Cherokee, as much as one half of the population.

"Since medicine men were unable to provide a cure," the Encyclopedia of North Carolina states, "the Cherokee tried a traditional method of purification – sweat houses followed by plunging into ice streams. This practice only added to the number who died. Others who survived the disease were horror stricken by their disfigurement and killed themselves rather than live in disgrace."

Until 1838, when the Trail of Tears began, the Cherokees continued to lose pieces of their homeland. However,

their culture continued to evolve with written laws, a written language, a Supreme Court, a bilingual newspaper, and a written constitution that proclaimed sovereignty over their lands.

In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president of the U.S. pursuing “manifest destiny” and the removal of the native people. The same year, gold was discovered in the Cherokee territory of Dahlonega, GA.

In 1831, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Cherokee sovereignty in the case of Worcester vs. Georgia.

However, Georgia defied the court, held a land lottery and gave Cherokee property to white citizens. In 1834, Georgia confiscated the newspaper, The Cherokee Phoenix, declaring it subversive.

In 1836, federal agents began the work of gathering the Cherokee for the removal from their homelands and the history of these people, whose heritage had spread across 40,000 square miles of the southeast US, comes to a point on 332 square miles in East Tennessee in Bradley County.

Source: Cleveland Daily Banner

Rattlesnake Springs

One of Bradley County’s greatest historical sites, which are on private land, was opened to the public in April. Rattlesnake Springs was one of the last encampments for the Cherokee Indians before their removal along the Trail of Tears.

Source: Cleveland Daily Banner

Looking for Stories to Share

If you have a family story, pictures or anything else that might interest our members, please share. We are most likely family.

We are also looking for programs for our monthly meeting. If you have something that you want to hear about, please let us know. Even better, if you can lead our group in a specific program, give us your idea.

We are looking to enrich our Cherokee culture and knowledge and what better way to learn – from someone in our own group.

Send us an email at:

sdccnewsletter@yahoo.com

Writing Competition

The Alaska Federation of Natives, in partnership with the National Congress of American Indians and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement has launched “Native Insight: Thoughts on Recession, Recovery & Opportunity,” a writing competition designed to encourage Native Americans to share their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities in the current economic and political landscape.

The national competition will distribute a total of \$60,000 among three Alaska Native winners and three Native Hawaiian/Lower 48 American Indian winners (\$10,000 each) with

opportunities for their winning essays to be published in Native journals and magazines across the U.S.

The competition is open to Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and American Indians of all ages.

For complete program information, visit the Native Insight Web site www.nativeinsight.org.

Syllabary Art Exhibit

A new exhibition featuring artwork focusing on the Cherokee syllabary opened May 22 at the Cherokee Heritage Center, in Tahlequah. The CHC is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Created by 93 Cherokee artists, the “Generations: Cherokee Language through Art” exhibition will be on display through August 16.

Artists created a visual narrative of the Cherokee language using a different character from the Cherokee syllabary. Each piece reveals the individual artistic expression of its creator or creators.

The Cherokee Nation currently uses 84 of the 86 syllabary characters developed by Sequoyah in the early 1800s.

Source: The Cherokee Phoenix by Will Chavez

Rhubarb Pie

1 C Sugar
3 T flour
1 beaten egg
2 C fresh rhubarb (cut small) or
1 16 oz pkg frozen rhubarb

If using fresh rhubarb, cook with sugar until sauce, then mix flour & eggs into mixture.

If using frozen rhubarb, sift sugar & flour together. Combine with beaten egg. Stir rhubarb into mixture.

After either rhubarb mixture has been combined, pour into crust, top crust, trim and seal. Bake 400 degrees for 35 min.

Membership Has Expired!

Membership in the SDCC expired April 30th. Your Council reduced the annual dues to \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a family membership (all members of a family living in same household) for this year.

Please renew today. Visit our website;

www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com

Print out the renewal application and mail to SDCC, P. O. Box 504453, San Diego, CA 92150-4453.

Lake Murray Picnic



George Lynch holding a basket weaving class



Basket weaving



Cherokee Marble holes



(Photos by Phil Konstantin)