

2014

October



THE WASSAMASAW TRIBE  
of VARNERTOWN  
INDIANS

WWW.WASSAMASAWTRIBE.COM

# Tribal Newsletter

## Native American Heritage Month Celebration

This year, the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians will be celebrating Native American Heritage Month with a buffet banquet at Wingate Hotel by Charleston Southern University. This event will be on November 22, 2014 from 4 pm to 7 pm. We will be celebrating our tribal achievements as well as achievements of our individual members. Please plan to attend by RSVP'ing on our Tribal Facebook page or send us an email message. Sitting is limited and we need a head count for food. We will be defining our goals for this year and fel-

### NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH BANQUET

**Date:** 11/22/14

**Time:** 4 - 7 pm

We will be celebrating Native American Heritage Month at the Wingate Hotel in North Charleston (across from Trident Hospital.) We will be reviewing our tribal accomplishments and achievements and recognizing individual successes. This is our time to come together and celebrate our rich heritage as a people. This is a free event for our community and tribal members. Please make plans to attend this annual event.

**Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians**

Native American Heritage Month Celebration

SAVE THE DATE

November is  
Native  
American  
Heritage  
Month



### November Native American Events

These are the upcoming events across the state for November:

**November 1-2, 2014** Waccamaw Pauwau

<http://waccamawindians.us/tribal-events/>

**November 8, 2014** Sumter Tribe of Cheraw Indian Meet and Greet

[www.facebook.com/672762226154180/photos/a.672762842820785.1073741827.672762226154180/688098907953845/?type=1&theater](http://www.facebook.com/672762226154180/photos/a.672762842820785.1073741827.672762226154180/688098907953845/?type=1&theater)

**November 15, 2014** Selugadu VIII: A Native American Celebration at Hagood Mill in Pickens

[www.facebook.com/events/1501557293422044/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1501557293422044/)

**November 17-18, 2014** CMA observance of Native American Awareness Day

**November 18, 2014** Film *Cherokee Word for Water* at McKissick

[www.facebook.com/events/3702355883126685/](http://www.facebook.com/events/3702355883126685/)

**November 20-21, 23, 2014** Native American Film Festival

<http://www.cherokeeofsouthcarolina.com/Film-Festival/index.html>

**November 22, 2014** Our Native American Heritage Month Banquet at

## May 17th, 2014 Tribal Potluck

We had the community potluck at The First Church of God in Summerville off highway 78. We had Kelly's Barbeque and everyone shared in the affairs of the tribe and community. We had a wonderful video of family pictures and everyone enjoyed seeing all the events and activities of the community as well as pictures of all their loved ones, present and past. We enjoyed sharing with everyone who participated. This year, we are planning focused and specific events to bring the community together. Your participation is greatly appreciated! If you have any thoughts or ideas you would like to see the tribe do, please come to our council meetings. We meet every 2nd Saturday of the month at the Otranto Library in North Charleston (by K-Mart). The



## Trip to St. Augustine

The tribal trip to St. Augustine, FL was a success. All those who attended left on June 6th and returned on June 8th, 2014. While in St. Augustine, we visited the Old Jail, The Castillo de San Marcos, the Lightner Museum, and The Fountain of Youth. We took the trolley both days around the city and learned about the rich history and the historic sites. Saturday night, we took the haunted trolley to all the ghostly sites at the jail, the cemeteries as well as the lighthouse!

The purpose of the trip was to expose our tribal youth to our rich native history outside of our community. To motivate our youth in learning our history and give them the opportunity to experience history hands on and not just in the history books.

We all had a great time and there was so much to do! We will be visiting St. Augustine again in the future. We want all our youth to participate in our outings and trips. These



## FolkFabulous 2014 at McKissick Museum

McKissick Museum kicked off its new exhibit, *Traditions, Change, and Celebration: Native Artists of the Southeast* on August 23rd in its 2nd floor South Gallery. The exhibit celebrated the art work of many Native artists across the Southeast. Two of our tribal members had art-work in the gallery: Ms. Tammy Leach and Mr. Chris Weik. It was a great gathering of Native people on the horseshoe at USC in front of the museum. There was Native dance, songs, drumming and story telling. The tribe had an information table and Ms. Lisa Collins was on the discussion panel inside the museum. The exhibit will be on display from August 8, 2014 - July 25, 2015. It was a historic event and we would like to thank all the tribal members who attended the celebration. Congratulations to Tammy and Chris on their achieve-



## Varner-Collins Family Reunion

The Varner-Collins Family Reunion was held on August 1-3, 2014 at the Wingate Hotel in North Charleston. All family members who descended from Rose and William Varner, Sr. was invited to attend. There were many family members who shared their rich heritage and we met relatives and descendants that we hadn't seen before! It was a tremendous time of sharing! Next year's reunion is planned for Myrtle Beach and we hope to see even more of our family in attendance. This is the time to pull together as a united community and preserve our unique herit-



## Words from Lisa

The tribal council has been working hard to make sure that our community and organization stays involved and represented in our State and other organizational entities. We all volunteer our time to bring these classes and events to our members to maintain our heritage and complete our mission as a tribe and community. We get a number of requests from tribal and community members that range from home repair, help with education and letters for legal proceedings.

The problem is, we don't hear from anyone until there is a need. Members need to stay ACTIVE in our community. It is easier to maintain a presence than to ask us to drop everything to attend to specific needs. We have been chartered since 2001. There is no excuse to wait until you want to go back to school or go to court to want your tribal membership card and prove that you are a member of a recognized tribal organization.

We are NOT a club. We are a family; a community. This is YOUR heritage. You can not shed it at your convenience. We are here to help our people. Everyone who works in the tribe does it freely and sacrifices time from family and personal agendas. They are dedicated!

We need to see our people, our community, make an effort to attend our events and classes. Don't let our hard work be in vain!

## Looking for Some Help!

Looking for help with our community project! We are looking to reestablish the pump/well in the community graveyard. If you know someone who is willing to help, please call us at 843-364-7041.

## Remembering Our Members

We've recently lost some of our elders and members this past year. They have left a void in our community. We remember the contributions they made and their memories will live through their family and friends.



**Ginger Rodgers Bratun** (March 19, 1938—May 26, 2014)

**Linda Goins Burbage** (September 10, 1948—October 8, 2014)



**Charles C. Dangerfield, Sr.** (January 1, 1943—October 12, 2014)



Please remember to keep the families in your prayers.

## Looking for our Artists

We are working towards our cultural revival and preservation of our traditional arts. We will be having classes throughout the year in the traditional arts of gourd painting, white oak splint basket weaving, quilting, and beadwork. If you are an artist and would like to share your talent and knowledge, please contact Lisa Collins at [wassamasaw@hotmail.com](mailto:wassamasaw@hotmail.com). We are working towards an upcoming exhibit of our Native artwork. All artists welcome. Get the word out! Everyone welcome to come and



learn as these classes scheduled.



are



I give you this one thought to keep  
I am with you still - I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow,  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush,  
I am the sweet uplifting rush,  
of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not think of me as gone -  
I am with you still in each new dawn.  
**Traditional Native American Prayer**