

2015

January



THE WASSAMASAW TRIBE
of VARNERTOWN
INDIANS

www.wassamasawtribe.com

Tribal Newsletter

Native American Heritage Month 2014

November as always is Native American Heritage Month. There were a number of activities and celebrations across the state and nation in where Native Americans and their rich history and heritage were celebrated. The tribe celebrated Native American Heritage Month this year with a banquet at the Wingate Hotel on November 22nd. We had over 40 community members and friends come out and celebrate together. We showed a slideshow of our family members as well as recognized some of our tribal youth and elders on their successes and leadership. Among those who were recognized were: Joshua Shumak, Amanda Wagner, Marc Mood III, Ariel Kline, Henry Clark, Jimmie Leach and Rev. Arthur Clark, Sr. Ms. Lisa Collins spoke about the goals set for the tribal community for the upcoming year. Mr. Anthony Davidson of the Natchez-Kusso, Edisto Tribal council spoke to the members about unity and working together and fostering working relationships.

Everyone had such a great time. The tribe would like to thank the following people: Ms. Tammy Leach for the table settings, Mr. Richard Guerzon for the projector and operating our slideshows, Ms. Valerie Herald for taking pictures, Ms. Janie Shumak and family for helping to set up, Dish and Design Catering for the wonderful food, The Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes for the donation of the pocket Cultural Awareness Guides, Alyssa Ruiz at Wingate Hotel for working diligently with us and Ms. Lisa Collins for the souvenir pens and key chains for guests and cake.



Upcoming Tribal Community Events

January 31, 2015: We will be showing the film, *The Cherokee Word for Water* at 2 pm at the Goose Creek Library on Old Moncks Corner Road. All are welcome to attend.

February 28, 2015: We will be having a gourd painting class at 2 pm at the Otranto Road Library in North Charleston. All are welcome to come. Please RSVP on the tribal Facebook page/event page or call 843-364-7041.

The Executive Board meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at the Otranto Road Library Conference Room at 10 am.

South Carolina Celebration of Native American Awareness Day for 2014

This year, CMA hosted the celebration for Native American Awareness Day as a 2 part event. November 17th, CMA hosted a town hall meeting titled, *"Building Our Nations"*. The meeting was held at the Columbia Chamber of Commerce where Dr. Joe Kalt spoke about the findings of the Harvard project and community development.

The second part was a press conference held on November 18th at the State House where Native Leaders spoke about Native history, awareness and issues in the state of South Carolina.



SC Native American Heritage Awareness Day Celebration 2014

"Building Our Nations"
Tuesday, November 18, 2014
12:00pm-2:00pm
South Carolina State House, 1st Floor Lobby
All are invited to attend this FREE event!

Come and celebrate Native American Heritage and Culture! This event will feature Native American Leaders and Economic Development Professionals from across the US bringing awareness to issues facing SC Native American Communities.

There are approximately 23,000+ Native American Indian people living in South Carolina according to the 2010 Census Data. Currently, there are one federally recognized tribe, eight state recognized tribes, five state recognized groups and five state recognized special interest organizations. There are large numbers of urban Indian and non-recognized Indians in South Carolina as well. Please join us for our 2nd Annual Event!

Featured Speakers:
 Chief Bill Harris, Catawba Indian Nation
 Dr. Joe Kalt, Co-Director, Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development
 Dr. Courtney Lewis, Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina
 Dr. Jani Kato, Co-Director, Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development
 Dr. Courtney Lewis, Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina

Sponsored by the CMA SC Commission on Minority Affairs

For more information, please contact Mary J. Hayden, Native American Affairs SC Commission for Minority Affairs at (803) 652-6165 or email at mhayden@cma.sc.gov.



Office of Multicultural Student Affairs presents

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

November 2014 Indians, Chiefs and Celebrations Native Amos of the Southeast McKissick Museum 2nd Floor, South Gallery	November 12 "From Gator to Wolf": An Evening with a Native American Chef/Cook 6 pm, UMC Communion Room A cooking demonstration with Dr. 2014 Anthony Davis, Chief of the Department of Native American Studies and author of the Native American Cookbook, Adapt to Help Southern Whites Adapt to the South	November 18 Cheerful Wood the Water Office Sourcing 7:00 pm, 1st McKissick Museum Five Three Ambassadors Presented and supported by Five Three Ambassadors, a group of five young professionals from the Columbia area who are committed to the growth and development of the South Carolina community.
November 2 ENRICHES presents: The Master Fishes Indian from South Park to The Duck Store 5:30 pm, 1st Floor House 202 Indian music and dance from the Southwest and the Great Lakes regions, plus an art display from the Southwest and the Great Lakes regions. The musical American Indians are not all from the same place and have different traditions.	November 15 Cheerful Indian Village Office Sourcing 7:00 pm, 1st McKissick Museum A celebration of the Native American community with a variety of activities and performances.	November 20 Diversity Exchange Office Sourcing 7:00 pm, 1st McKissick Museum A celebration of the Native American community with a variety of activities and performances.
November 9 Native American Indian Specially Invited Presenters of South Carolina Annual Meeting 2:00 pm, 1st Floor House 202 Columbia College Center 1500 Columbia College Pk. Columbia, SC 29208	November 11 Native American Indian Presenters of South Carolina Annual Meeting 2:00 pm, 1st Floor House 202 Columbia College Center 1500 Columbia College Pk. Columbia, SC 29208	November 20-21 The Annual Native American Indian Film and Video Festival Upper Art Center and Cannerman Music Hall November 20-21 The Annual Native American Indian Film and Video Festival Upper Art Center and Cannerman Music Hall

For updates and more events visit: cma.sc.edu/indian

Proclamations!!

Some of our proclamations we received for Native American Heritage Month for 2014.

William C. Collins, Mayor
Council Members:
Terry Jenkins, Mayor Pro Tem
Walter Isakay
Austin Brown
Karin Gustin-Schmidt
Bob Jackson
William McDonald

Mayor and Council Members

Proclamation

WHEREAS American Indians, Alaskan natives, and Native Hawaiians have played a vital role in the life of our state, city, and country and their many contributions have enhanced the freedom, prosperity and greatness of South Carolina, and

WHEREAS there are two tribal communities who are located in Summerville, The Wassamaw Tribe of Yamacraw Indians and The Natchez-Kanaw Indian Tribe of SC, recognized and incorporated (chartered) in the State of South Carolina as "body politic," "State Recognition" and "Native American Indian" people; and

WHEREAS their ancestors to present Native American Indians have called Summerville their home from various Native American Indian tribal cultures and have throughout history including: Adipponi, Cape Fear Indians, Catawba, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Edisto, Escamacum, Etowah, Hopewell, Kanasaw, Kanasaw, Pamlico, Pee Dee, Santee, Sawnee, Sewee, Stono, Tuscarora, Waccamaw, Wando, Wassamaw and Winyah. Many of these Native American's descendants still reside in South Carolina and in the Summerville area today; and

WHEREAS historic Native American Indian missions and schools were established to serve the native people such as the St. Barnabas Indian Mission, Ridge School, Red School, Four Holes Freedom Indian School, and the Varner Indian School; and

WHEREAS Native American Indians of the Summerville community, also historically known as Summerville Indians, Edisto Indians, Four Holes Indians and "varner" Indians have contributed significantly towards a greater society. Individuals such as Catherine "Kitty" Spings, the only woman of Native American Indian descent to have a monument erected in the State of South Carolina in her home. She donated money and land for schools for the Native children of Summerville; Dr. John Glenn Creel, the first Native American doctor to serve the Native communities; and Geneva Varner Clark, who proclaimed her heritage and culture and is documented in the United States Library of Congress; and

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www.sumsc.gov

Bevo Clark and Treasurer
Lisa L. Wallace
Tina Hittney
G.W. Parker

Proclamation

WHEREAS many Native North Americans, Central Americans, and Alaskan Natives; and South Americans of Indian descent have come to be citizens and residents of the Town of Summerville and the State of South Carolina, from many different parts of the western hemisphere; and

WHEREAS Native American South Carolinians have served with valor and distinction in wartime, and their artistic, entrepreneurial, and other skills have truly enriched our South Carolina heritage; and

WHEREAS the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by resolution, recognize November 18 as National Native American History Month and declare November 18th as Native American Awareness Day in South Carolina.

State Senator S. William C. Collins, Mayor of the Town of Summerville do hereby proclaim November 2014 as

South Carolina Native American Heritage Month

in the Town of Summerville and I urge all our citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Date at Summerville, SC
This 4th day of November, 2014

William C. Collins
Mayor

State of South Carolina
Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, inhabiting this state for thousands of years, Native American Indians shared their knowledge of the land and its resources with the first immigrants to our country and have played a vital role in the freedom, prosperity, and greatness of the Palmetto State and the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, Native American Indian culture and society are at the roots of agricultural development, medicinal discoveries, environmental preservation, geography, governmental institutions and structure, commerce, and many other facets of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, many of our state's residents are of Native American Indian heritage from various tribes that were indigenous to our state or are descendants of Native American Indians throughout the western hemisphere who relocated in the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, currently, the Catawba Indian Nation is a federally recognized tribe, while the State of South Carolina has recognized seven tribes, the Beaufort Creek Indians, the Edisto-Natchez-Kanaw Tribe of SC, the Pee Dee Nation of Upper SC, the Pee Dee Indian Tribe of SC, the Santee Indian Organization, the Wassamaw Indian People, and the Wassamaw Tribe of Yamacraw Indians, five groups, the Chalcokwas Chickasaw Indian People, the Eastern Cherokee Southern Inquisit and United Tribes of SC, the Natchez Indian Tribe, the Pee Dee Indian Tribe of Beaver Creek, and the Piedmont American Indian Association-Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of SC, and two special interest organizations, the American Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Little Horse Creek American Indian Cultural Center; and

WHEREAS, continuing to maintain their history, culture, lifestyles, and unique heritage, Native American Indians have served with valor and distinction in wartime, and their artistic, entrepreneurial, and other skills have truly enriched our heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 2014 as

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to remember the many contributions made by Native American Indians in the Palmetto State and across the nation and to honor the unique heritage of our continent's first inhabitants.

Nikki R. Haley
NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Proclamation
Of the Mayor

"South Carolina Native American Heritage Month"
November, 2014

WHEREAS American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians have played a vital role in the life of our State, City and Country and their many contributions have enhanced the freedom, prosperity and greatness of South Carolina;

WHEREAS there is a vital community who is located in Berkeley County, The Wassamaw Tribe of Yamacraw Indians, recognized and incorporated (chartered) in the State of South Carolina as "body politic," "State Recognition" and "Native American Indian" people;

WHEREAS there are two tribal communities who are located in Summerville, The Wassamaw Tribe of Yamacraw Indians and The Natchez-Kanaw Indian Tribe of SC, recognized and incorporated (chartered) in the State of South Carolina as "body politic," "State Recognition" and "Native American Indian" people; and

WHEREAS their ancestors to present Native American Indians have called Berkeley County as their home from various Native American Indian tribal cultures and have throughout history including: Adipponi, Cape Fear Indians, Catawba, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Edisto, Escamacum, Etowah, Hopewell, Kanasaw, Kanasaw, Pamlico, Pee Dee, Santee, Sawnee, Sewee, Stono, Tuscarora, Waccamaw, Wando, Wassamaw and Winyah. Many of these Native American's descendants still reside in Berkeley County and in the Summerville area today; and

WHEREAS historic Native American Indian missions and schools were established to serve the native people such as the St. Barnabas Indian Mission, Ridge School, Red School, Four Holes Freedom Indian School, and the Varner Indian School; and

WHEREAS Native American Indians of the Summerville community, also historically known as Summerville Indians, Edisto Indians, Four Holes Indians and "varner" Indians have contributed significantly towards a greater society. Individuals such as Catherine "Kitty" Spings, the only woman of Native American Indian descent to have a monument erected in the State of South Carolina in her home. She donated money and land for schools for the Native children of Summerville; Dr. John Glenn Creel, the first Native American doctor to serve the Native communities; and Geneva Varner Clark, who proclaimed her heritage and culture and is documented in the United States Library of Congress; and

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The Cherokee Word For Water

On November 17th, tribal members Tammy Leach and Lisa Collins went to see the film, *The Cherokee Word For Water* and met Mr. Charlie Soap. Mr. Soap was the husband of Chief Wilma Mankiller and was instrumental in the process of providing running water to the Cherokee Community of Bell. The tribe will be showing this film to our community this month.



Pictured Above:: Ms. Lisa Collins (L), Mr. Charlie Soap (middle) and Ms. Tammy Leach (R).



Native American Film Festival 2014

The 17th Annual Film Festival kicked off on November 20th in Columbia. Hosted by the Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of SC, this year's films featured dramas, documentaries, short films and student films. The film festival has been an ongoing effort for 17 years to bring quality film work by native people about native people to the region. We are proud to be a part of Native people telling our stories. Thanks to Dr. Will Goins.

Town of Moncks Corner

A Proclamation

WHEREAS, American Indians, Alaskan natives, and Native Hawaiians have played a vital role in the life of our State and Country and their many contributions have enhanced the freedom, prosperity and greatness of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, There is one tribal community who is based in Moncks Corner, The Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, organized and incorporated (chartered) in the State of South Carolina as "body politic", "State Recognized" and who maintain the history, culture, lifestyles and unique heritage of South Carolina Native American people; and

WHEREAS, From ancient times to present Native American Indians have called Moncks Corner their home from various Native American Indian tribal cultures and bands throughout history including: Ashepoo, Cape Fear Indians, Catawba, Cherokee, Edisto, Esanaco, Etowah, Iroquois, Kussoe, Kiawah, Pamlico, Pee Dee, Santee, Saraw, Sewee, Stone, Tuscarora, Waccamaw, Wando, Wassamasaw and Winyah. Many of these Native American's descendants still reside in South Carolina and in Moncks Corner today; and

WHEREAS, Historic Native American Indian missions and schools were established to serve the native people such as the Barrows Mission, Groomsville school and Varner Indian school; and

WHEREAS, Native American Indians of the Varnertown community, also historically known as Summerville Indians, have contributed significantly towards a greater society. Individuals such as Geneva Varner Clark who proclaimed her Native heritage during the Great Depression; Henry Clark, the first Indian to register with the state as a Native American business owner; and William and Mary Varner who donated land for school, businesses and a church. A state historic marker now stands to designate the contributions of the Varnertown Indian people; and

WHEREAS, Many Native North Americans, Central Americans, and Alaskan Natives; and South Americans of Indian descent have come to be citizens and residents of Moncks Corner and the State of South Carolina, from many different parts of the western hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, Native American South Carolinians have served with valor and distinction in wartime, and their artistic, entrepreneurial, and other skills have truly enriched our South Carolina heritage; and

NOW; THEREFORE, I William W. Peagler III, Mayor of the Town of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, along with my fellow members of Moncks Corner Town Council, do hereby proclaim **November 2013** as

South Carolina Native American Heritage Month

in the Town of Moncks Corner and urge all citizens of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Signed this 4th day of November, 2013

Attest:

Maelyn M. Baker
Maelyn M. Baker,
Clerk-Treasurer

William W. Peagler III
William W. Peagler, III, Mayor



17th Annual Native American Film Festival of the Southeast

THURSDAY, NOV 20, OPENING NIGHT OF FESTIVAL
Tapps Arts Center - 1644 Main Street -Columbia, SC - (803) 988-0013
6:00pm -Indians Like Us (57 min) by Sylvie Jacquemin...
7:00pm Inner Healing: Journey with Native Trees of Knowledge (103mins) by Adrian Esposito
9:00pm INDIAN RELAY (80 min) by Charles Dye
10:00 Across the Creek (30 min) by Jonny Courmoyer (Rosebud Sioux)

FRIDAY, NOV 21, 2014 2nd NIGHT OF FESTIVAL
Tapps Arts Center - 1644 Main Street -Columbia, SC - (803) 988-0013
6:00pm The Mayan Connection: Lost Legacy of the Southeast (45 minutes) by Antara Brandner ...
7:00pm LADONNA HARRIS: INDIAN 101 (63 min) by Julianna Brannum
8:00pm Knowledge, Wisdom & the Traditional Mind: The Nottoway in the 21st Century(40 mins) by Stanley Knick, Ph.D
9:00pm Spirit in Glass: Plateau Native Beadwork (30 mins) by Penny Phillips
9:30- 10:00pm BETWEEN HELL & A HARD PLACE (30 Min) by writer/director Jaysen P. Buterin

SUNDAY, NOV 23, 2014- Matinee and Evening screenings from 12 noon - 11pm
Conundrum Music Hall - 626 Meeting Street- West Columbia, SC 29169- (803) 250-1295
12:00 noon Music Video selections and Student Films
1:00pm LADONNA HARRIS: INDIAN 101 (63 min) by Julianna Brannum
2:00pm ACROSS THE CREEK (30 min) by Jonny Courmoyer (Rosebud Sioux)
3:00pm THE MAYAN CONNECTION: Lost Legacy of the Southeast by Antara Brandner (45 min)
4:00pm INDIAN RELAY by Charles Dye (80 min)
5:00pm SPIRIT IN GLASS: Plateau Native Beadwork by Penny Phillips (30 mins)
6:00pm Inner Healing: Journey with Native Trees of Knowledge 103 mins by Adrian Esposito
8:00pm Knowledge, Wisdom & the Traditional Mind: The Nottoway in the 21st Century by Stanley Knick, Ph.D
9:00pm BETWEEN HELL & A HARD PLACE (30 Min) by writer/director Jaysen P. Buterin
10:00pm INDIANS LIKE US (57 min) by Sylvie Jacquemin

General Admission: \$7.00
Seniors /Students / Active Military \$5.00 & Free to Tribal Cardholders

Cloud Dancer Photography

Words from Lisa

It's a new year, and we are striving to bring positive change and opportunities to our community. This year, we are starting off with a tribal film and gourd painting. We are currently working on improving our Elders Speak program to preserve the history of our community.

We really need some dedicated people to help out on some committees. There are a number of different projects that members can lend a helping hand. We really want to engage our youth and motivate them to participate. Not only will this opportunity give them experience in community work, but also immerse them in their history and culture. These community service projects would look great on any college application or career resume.

I know that sometimes these projects are not highly visible to our community and many members may think that things are not moving forward, but believe that your Executive Board is working diligently for you. If you ever want to hear what is happening, attend one of our Board Meetings the second Saturday of each month. All are welcome!

Lisa

Looking for Some Help!

Looking for help with our community project! We are looking to reestablish the pump/well 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.

Mrs. Shirley Clark (1/15/38—1/3/15)



Mr. Charles Rodgers, Sr. (1/17/47—1/7/15)

Mr. Charles served our community in the past as tribal spiritual leader and council member. He was a strong advocate for our community and he will be deeply missed.

Pray for our families and



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. 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 are scheduled.



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 starts that shine at night.
Do not think of me as gone -
I am with you still in each new dawn.
Traditional Native American Prayer