



October 1, 2023

From Chief Massey

We traveled in true form to the festival. It was so good to see everyone. I'm thankful for all of the support given to make this another amazing gathering. So many familiar faces and new ones added to mind. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

Now on to business. There will be a Governing Body meeting Oct. 14. From 10:00 am with a 30 minute lunch break at 12:00. Estimated dismissal of business meeting 2:30. Stay as long as you like. This will be considered our October State Meeting. All are welcome. Blessings



Some Festival Pictures Above

Echota Cherokee Festival of 2023

The tribe wishes to thank all who volunteered their time and efforts towards making this year's festival a great success. We would love to mention everyone by name but there are too many. If you were there, all you had to do was look around and see the wonderful people doing what they could. Below are pictures from the event. The pictures came from Eddy Bonner and Chief Massey. Thank you to everyone!!!



Echota Cherokee Festival of 2023, cont.



Cherokee Women and Their Important Roles: Posted by Foy Southard

Women in the Cherokee society were equal to men. They could earn the title of War Women and sit in councils as equals. This privilege led an Irishman named Adair who traded with the Cherokee from 1736-1743 to accuse the Cherokee of having a "petticoat government". Clan kinship followed the mother's side of the family. The children grew up in the mother's house, and it was the duty of an uncle on the mother's side to teach the boys how to hunt, fish, and perform certain tribal duties. The women owned the houses and their furnishings. Marriages were carefully negotiated, but if a woman decided to divorce her spouse, she simply placed his belongings outside the house. Cherokee women also worked hard. They cared for the children, cooked, tended the house, tanned skins, wove baskets, and cultivated the fields. Men helped with some household chores like sewing, but they spent most of their time hunting. Cherokee girls learned by example how to be warriors and healers. They learned to weave baskets, tell stories, trade, and dance. They became mothers and wives, and learned their heritage. The Cherokee learned to adapt, and the women were the core of the Cherokee. They are the givers of life (Bearing children). The men are the takers of life (hunters).

Cherokee Word(s):

How are you?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U44PWxcDjbM>

Click the blue link to hear how to say it.



Orange Shirt Day September 30

A Day We Remember Our Native Children



This day acknowledges that residential schools are a part of our history. Wearing an orange shirt is a national movement to recognize the experience of those who went to Indian residential schools, to honor them, and show a collective commitment to ensure that Every Child Matters. Native children were ripped from their homes, some tortured and some killed and buried in mass graves. On this day, we wear orange to remember all those innocent Native American children who suffered greatly, never saw their families again and for those who died at the hands of the residential school system.

Mission Statement

Reflecting the goals of the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama, Inc.

1. To encourage & promote socio economic development aimed at tribal & individual self sufficiency.
2. To support the preservation of traditional Cherokee, culture, language and values.
3. To improve education and training opportunities for tribal members.
4. To seek improved health care for our people with particular emphasis on children and elders.
5. To encourage our people to develop, as individuals, their talents as craftsmen, dancers, artists, musicians, and writers.
6. To continuously strive to maintain the dignity of the American Indian by always treating others with the utmost respect and courtesy.



Reminder - Pay Your Annual Assessment

We are receiving emails of individuals who do not realize they should be paying an annual assessment. To be an active citizen and to have a vote in any election, you need to pay your annual assessment. You can do so by paying online or sending in a check/money order to the tribe.

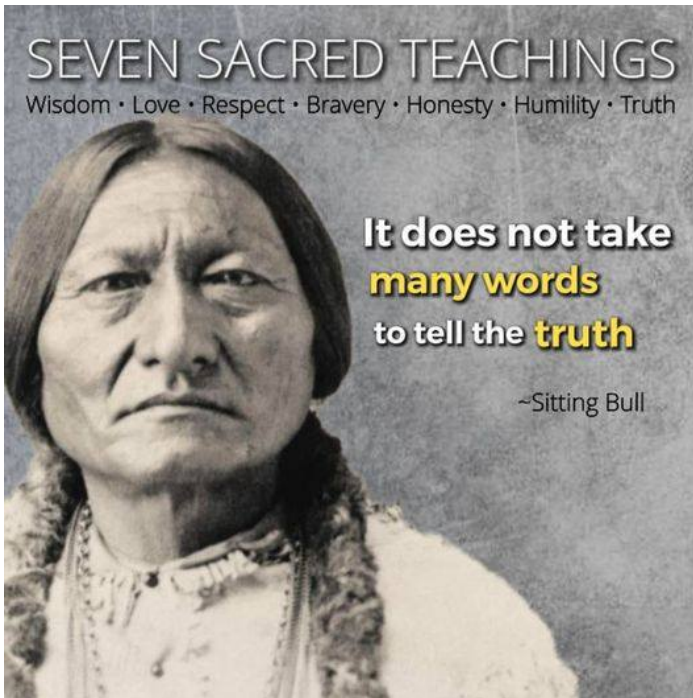
Pay online here:

<https://echotacherokee.org/assessments.html>

Pay through mail:

The Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama

P.O. Box 479
Falkville, AL 35622



The Seven Sacred Teachings, also known as the Seven Grandfather Teachings, are a set of teachings that have been passed down from generation to generation by First Nations people of North America. These teachings are the guiding principles for living a meaningful and fulfilling life, and they are essential to maintaining a harmonious relationship between human beings, nature, and the divine.

The Seven Sacred Teachings include:

1. Wisdom involves making wise choices that lead us on a path of positive growth and development. To attain wisdom, one must learn from experiences, seek knowledge from elders, and listen and learn from one's mistakes.
2. Love emphasizes the importance of unconditional love, compassion, and kindness towards ourselves and others. It teaches us to give love freely and unconditionally, without any expectation of receiving love in return.
3. Respect emphasizes the importance of treating oneself, others, and nature with respect. Respect involves acknowledging the value and worth of all living things, and treating each other with kindness, honor, and dignity.

4. Bravery involves courage, fortitude and strength of character. Bravery inspires us to face our fears and overcome obstacles, to push ourselves to our limits and to fight for what is right.

5. Honesty emphasizes the importance of being truthful, trustworthy, and sincere in all our interactions with others. Honesty promotes trust, loyalty, and integrity, and it allows us to build meaningful and enduring relationships.

6. Humility involves having a modest and unpretentious attitude towards life, recognizing that we are all equal and interconnected. Humility inspires us to serve others, to be compassionate towards those who are less fortunate, and to strive to make a positive impact in the world.

7. Truth involves understanding and acknowledging the reality of our existence and our place in the world. It encourages us to seek knowledge, to be open-minded, and to question our assumptions and beliefs.

Each of these teachings are an inseparable whole and work together to create a holistic approach to mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual life, that is centered around humility, respect, and love.
~John Gonzalez

WHAT TO TELL MYSELF WHEN I'M FEELING DISCOURAGED

1. This is tough. But so am I.
2. I may not be able to control this situation. But I am in charge of how I respond.
3. I haven't figured this out...yet.
4. This challenge is here to teach me something.
5. All I need to do is take it one step at a time. Breathe. And do the next right thing.



Echota Citizens Visit Oakville Indian Mound
Submitted by: Amanda Turner

On Saturday September 30, The Echota Tribe was invited to a private guided tour of Oakville Indian mounds in Danville Alabama. The tour was given by Anna Mulligan and Meagan McDonald. Anna showed us lots of artifacts that most people don't get to see. We were also told about a female body that they found in the big mound at Oakville. She also walked us around Oakville and told us about the other mounds and about all the different people who called Oakville home. We were also able to use the paddle boats and canoes at Oakville. Meagan also showed us how to use the Atlatl. Let me just say we had 2 people who were natural at it. It was a great day of fellowship!

Thanks to Wayne Smith and Amanda Turner for working with Oakville to put this together! Keep an eye out for more fun things at Oakville Indian mounds.



Tribal Citizen Receives Grants

Tribal citizen Weeya Calif is the recipient of two grants. She applied and was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Green Bay Public Arts Commission, Wisconsin Arts Board and the National Endowment for the Arts to enhance her traveling digital art class. Weeya's classes work with Native American communities and local areas bringing digital art experiences to children.

Weeya was also nominated by (WIEDC) Wisconsin Indigenous Economic Development Corporation to be the minority business owner to be one of 20 small minority business owners to receive a \$5,000 grant to be used by her small business. This award was presented by the Milwaukee Brewers, Associated Bank and the Ethnic and Diverse Business Coalition.

Weeya and her husband, Rick Calif were at the event to receive the award.



Looking for Clan News & Updates:

If you have clan business or clan information you wish to have published in the newsletter, please email the tribe with the information and we will make sure to get it out in the next newsletter. Please pay attention to the dates on the last page of the newsletter. The dates show when to submit articles and when the newsletter comes out. We look forward to more clans submitting information.



During the festival, Weeya Calif and Dr. Shawn Castleberry worked together during the festival to get applications out, set up a new card system to roll out soon and other office management items. Dr. Castleberry will be taking over the duties of the office (once approved by the Governing Body) while Weeya will continue to do the newsletter and the website. Weeya will continue to work with Dr. Castleberry throughout the transition.



Echota Cherokee Tribe Council House Reservation



Because of meetings overlapping from different entities in the tribe, the Chief and Vice Chief are setting an expectation that anyone wishing to use the tribal council house for anything will need to reserve the space. The expectation is that our citizens will visit our calendar on our website to see if the date they wish to use the facilities is available. They will then be required to email the tribe to have that date reserved. The facilities cannot be used without going through this process. Those following the reservation process have priority.

To make a calendar reservation, include the following information in the email:

- What type of meeting
- Contact Person
- Date of meeting
- Time of meeting
- Description of what will occur at the meeting.

The Echota Print Shop

The tribe now has a print shop. The Governing Body has given Weeya Calif permission to create items to sell for the tribe. All profits from the sale of these items will go directly to the tribe. We have just a few designs and hope to have more in the near future. Please visit the link to see one of a kind items.

<https://echotacherokee.org/the-echota-print-shop.html>



The Majors Move to Florida



Rita and Almon Majors, Echota Citizens, decided to move to Florida from Alabama to be closer to their granddaughter and grown children. This sort of move is a major life event that requires unlimited patience and planning. After almost two (2) years of searching, competing in a fast paced seller's market, overcoming obstacles with work, health, and the sale of their home in Alabama, they made it to the finish line! Last Friday, Rita and Almon CLOSED on their beautiful pool home nearby their beloved Aubrey in Orlando. Folks, nothing in this life is impossible. "Where there is a will, there's a way". Congratulations dear friends 🌸🎉 You did it! 🥰. Welcome to the Sunshine State 🌞🌴🕶️

Written by Vicki Bray Fagan, submitted by Rita and Almon Majors.

Interesting Facts about the Cherokee

- During the Seven Years' War (a.k.a. the French & Indian War), the Cherokee/England alliance was tested.
- The Native Americans initially joined the British war effort against France. But after feeling undervalued for their services, skirmishes ensued, which eventually led to full warfare between them.
- The Cherokee began attacking southern colonies. The British retaliated with two military incursions during the Anglo-Cherokee War (1758-1761), which caused widespread destruction of Cherokee **towns in Georgia** and South Carolina.
- 20. After the murder of a number of Cherokee leaders in the State of Franklin (now East **Tennessee**), Little Turkey was elected as chief of the Cherokee.
- The seat of the Cherokee council was then moved from Chota to Ustanali (later known as New Echota, in Calhoun GA), which was established by refugees from the Cherokee Lower Towns.
- The government of the Cherokee Nation began meeting in New Echota. On November 12, 1825, it was officially named their capital, serving as a place for Cherokee Council meetings, court hearings, and social gatherings.

Cherokee Farmstead at the New Echota Historic Site in Calhoun Georgia.



Available to Official State Recognized tribal citizens.

Indigenous youth aged 15 to 30 years that need financial assistance in the areas of sport, education, and culture can apply for a \$500 bursary from IndigiFund. There is a simple online application form on their website: <https://www.indigifund.com/apply> Deadline October 15, 2023.

CULTURAL EVENT & POW WOW

MA-CHIS LOWER CREEK INDIAN TRIBE OF ALABAMA

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY
OCTOBER 27TH & 28TH

Dancer's Luck of the Draw

\$2,000

Demonstrators

Vendors

Food & Fun

MA-CHIS TRIBAL GROUNDS

2950 County Rd. 377,

Elba, AL 36323

334-897-3207



Things to Remember:

FAKE Echota Cherokee Page on Facebook

When adding a location to your pictures on Facebook, you will see a location called Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama Inc. This is not our tribal Facebook page and does not belong to us. Therefore, we cannot support citizens tagging to this location. It puts our pictures on a page that does not belong to us.

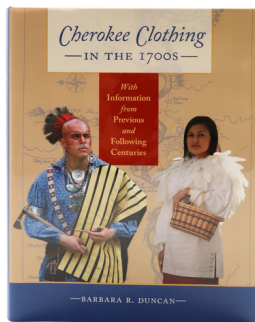
Not Able to See the Online Newsletter?

Dear Citizens, if you know of an elder or other citizen who is unable to go online to read the newsletter or have it sent to them in email, we ask that you let your Clan Rep know so that they can print a copy and get it to those individuals or if you have a printer, please consider printing a copy and giving it to your elders or citizens who do not have technology. You might even want to call them and read the newsletter to them. We apologize for the inconvenience, but the tribe cannot, at this time, send out the newsletter via snail mail.

Use Your Enrollment Number

Notice to all citizens. It is very important when paying your fees, sending emails, calling the office or handling any tribal business that you include your tribal enrollment number. We can still help you but you will need to eventually know your number. If you do not know your tribal enrollment number, you will be asked to apply for a new tribal ID card and pay the fee to process the card. It is important that you keep up with your card and your number. We are currently developing a database with everyone's information but this will take time.

Great Resource for Cherokee Clothing:



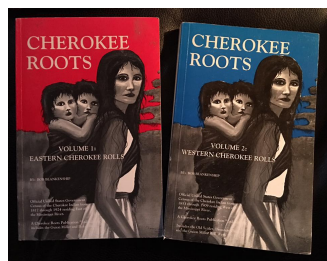
Cherokee Clothing in the 1700s

Museum of the Cherokee Indian Store

<https://museumstore.mci.org/products/cherokee-clothing-in-the-1700s>

This is a well documented resource of what the Cherokee traditionally wore before and after the 1700s. If you are looking to wear traditional Cherokee regalia, this book is a great resource and has instructions as well.

Great Genealogy Resource Books for Cherokee Ancestry:



Website with genealogy resources:

<https://www.weeyacalif.com/genealogy.html#/>

Cherokee Roots Books:

<https://www.amazon.com/Cherokee-Roots-Set-Volumes-Eastern/dp/096337740X>

Echota Business Page:

If you have a business card with your business information or a website address of your business that you would like to share, please sign up [here](#).

Let's shop with our citizens!!!



Weeya Michelle Calif

Artist, Educator & Storyteller

Website: www.weeyacalif.com

Email: weeyacalif@gmail.com

Native American artist who works with traditional art and digital art. She designs logos, flyers, paintings and more. She is also available to teach online classes and in person classes.

She currently works with the Oneida Nation Arts Program and the Woodland Indian Art, Inc., organizations teaching art to Native youth and adults.



**Native American
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We Focus our Creations on our ancestors of the Aztec Mayans Toltecs and Cherokee. Hand Made Traditional Items. Leather bags, Necklaces, Dreamcatchers, Drums, Earrings, Medicine Bags, and much more.

Email: awarren2006@yahoo.com

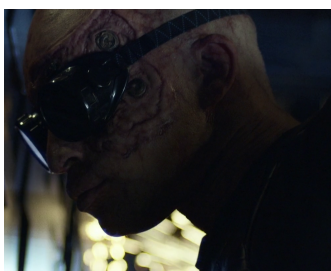
Website: <https://native-american-aztec-creations.business.site/>

Phone: 719-248-3131



**Ron Warren
Native American Flute Player**

Ron offers online (Zoom) lessons in Native Flute playing, music theory and songwriting (discount for Echota Cherokee tribal members). Live Stream performances and workshops are also available. Visit the website, www.ronwarrenmusic.com, for more information.



"Lil Cory"

Cory Edwards

Actor | Musician | Music
Producer

Film/TV/Voice:

Talent Manager: Alison McMahon
alison@vaentertainment.ca

Twitter: [@lilcorymuzik](https://twitter.com/lilcorymuzik)

Instagram: [@lilcorymusic](https://www.instagram.com/lilcorymusic)



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 Huntsville, AL 35811
 wayaoncga54@gmail.com
 Hand Made Native
 American Arts & Crafts

Renegade Creations
Owner: Foy Southard
256-278-6073
wayaoncga54@gmail.com
Hand Made Native American Arts & Crafts

Native Needle Shop
By: Candace West

Etsy shop [@NativeNeedleShop](#)
 Textile art, jewelry and beadwork.

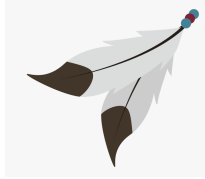


FREEEEEE!!!!



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The Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama

Head Leadership

Principal Chief	Nancy Massey
Vice Chief	Bobby Bolden
Parliamentarian	Position Open
Recording Secretary	Lenela Glass-Godwin

Clan Chiefs

Bird Clan	Jean Chandler
Blue Clan	James Swann, Jr.
Deer Clan	Wayne Smith
Long Hair Clan	Tommy Keith
Paint Clan	Reginald Hughes
Wild Potato Clan	Position Open
Wolf Clan	Wayne Yates

Clan Representatives

Bird Clan	Martha Gann
Blue Clan	Vick Ball
Deer Clan	Gary Parnell
Long Hair Clan	Sharon Keith
Paint Clan	William Gaskin
Wild Potato Clan	Position Open
Wolf Clan	Eddy Bonner
At - Large	Glenn Hardman



Did you know that you can now pay your fees online? Just visit our tribe's website. Click on the Citizens Only tab and choose Assessment Fees.

<https://echotacherokee.org/assessment-fees.html>



Calendar of Events

The tribe is now posting tribal events, meetings, clean up days and more on our calendar which is on our website. If any citizen or clan has important dates they would like us to post on the website's calendar, please forward that information via email to:

theechotacherokeetribeofal@gmail.com

Reminders:

[Update your information online or on paper.](#)

[You can now pay your assessment fees online, click here.](#)





We are excited to share with the tribe that we will be sending out the newsletter every two months via email and posting it on the website. This will help save our tribe a lot of money. However, for our citizens who wish to receive the Smoke Signals, it will be sent out by Ms. Charlotte H. quarterly.

Dates to remember:

Deadlines to submit items to go into the newsletter will be the 20th of the previous month. For example, the next Newsletter will go out on February 1st. All items citizens want posted in the newsletter need to be submitted to the tribe's email by January 20th.

Deadline to Submit	Newsletter Posted
January 20th	February 1st
March 20th	April 1st
May 20th	June 1st
July 20th	August 1st
September 20th	October 1st
November 20th	December 1st

If you have items you would like included in the newsletter, please send it to:
theechotacherokeetribeofal@gmail.com

Your Native American Rights As Echota Cherokee Citizens

Worship in the Manner of Your Ancestors

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act

Public Law No. 95-341, 92 Stat. 469 (August 11, 1978)

These rights include, but are not limited to, access to sacred sites, freedom to worship through ceremonial and traditional rights and use and possession of objects considered sacred. The act required policies of all governmental agencies to eliminate interference with the free exercise of native religion.

Market Your Arts and Crafts as "Native American or Indian Made"

"The Indian Arts and Crafts Act (Act) of 1990 (P.L. 101-644) is a truth-in-advertising law that prohibits misrepresentation in the marketing of Indian arts and crafts products within the United States. It is illegal to offer or display for sale, or sell any art or craft product in a manner that falsely suggests it is Indian produced, an Indian product, or the product of a particular Indian or Indian tribe or Indian arts and crafts organization, resident within the United States.

Under the Act, an Indian is defined as a member of any federally or officially state recognized tribe of the United States, or an individual certified as an Indian artisan by an Indian tribe." -- [U.S. Department of Interior, Indian Art & Crafts Board](#)

The U. S. Census Bureau defines a native American as follows:

American Indian and Alaska Native. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment.