



June 1, 2022

From Chief Wooten:

Good afternoon, my Echota brothers and sisters,

I'm sure by now everyone has noticed the on-line paying for your dues and donations, as well as an on-line newsletter so everyone may keep up with all events, Clan news, and Tribal ground projects.

We are moving to issuing plastic ID cards, which will appear more professional, including having your photo added to the card. Another addition is a device donated to the office to ensure that transactions stay secure—a device called the Square Terminal. If you are at the office and decide to pay your dues, buy something from the gift shop, or make a donation, this device will allow you to complete your transaction quickly and securely and it will print out a receipt for you.

For those who prefer to pay with money orders or checks, and still want a paper card and a smoke signal in the mail, that will not change. We just wanted to make sure everyone has an option.

Last, but not least, we are working towards posting all officers of the tribe's contact information, as well as their picture on the website. This way everyone in the tribe knows their officers and their faces.

In closing, we want to thank everyone who attended our first governing body meeting in person and through zoom. It was a great meeting with tons of positive feedback.

"Under the Cedars" Principal Chief Dennis Redstag Wooten
May 24, 2022

From Vice Chief Majors:

Call for Volunteers for the Administration Office
27 May 2022

Osiyo! Hello

The Tribal Office is planning a call for Resumes from qualifying citizens to assist the Secretary in the Echota administrative office.

Also, taking resumes for the following volunteer positions;

- Enrollment Clerk
- Receptionist
- Gift Shop "Not open at this time"
- Museum "Not open at this time"
- Library

If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please send your resume' to the address below:

The ECHOTA Cherokee Tribe of Alabama
P.O. Box 479
Falkville, AL 35622
ATTN: Rita Majors
Vice Chief

Wado, Thank you

Rita Majors
ECHOTA Cherokee
Tribe of Alabama
Vice Chief





The Little Log Cabin

This is the story of how our tribe received a wonderful donation of a log cabin. The story was related from a tribal citizen who did not want to be mentioned but her and her family were the ones who had knowledge of the cabin and knew the donors.

In 1995, the donors, Tom and Brenda Close, purchased some land from the Thompson's. On this land, there was a small house or so it appeared to be. The Close family decided to tear the small house down but as they removed the siding, they discovered that the small house was an old log cabin. On the inside where sheetrock had been placed over the walls, once torn away, the logs appeared. Having someone come out and look at it, the family was told the log cabin was built before the 1918s because of the hand hewed heart pine logs. Heart pine has a great deal of sap in it and hardens the wood like hardwood trees. They also discovered it was a Cherokee style cabin with a dog trot center in the middle. The Close family wanted the cabin removed off their land, but a moving company would not remove it. So the family began to search for a means to have it removed.

In or around 2004 or 2005, the current Chief of the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama was Chief Billy Shaw. He was looking for a log cabin and found one in Mississippi. But could not gather the resources to have it moved to the tribal grounds. Unknown to him at the time, the teller of this story was in a class with Mrs. Close

and heard her talk about the log cabin on her property. After several discussions, it was decided that the family would donate the cabin to the tribe.

Chief Shaw was extremely pleased and called the citizens together to come dismantle the cabin. Many of our people showed up with equipment and a trailer. Everyone pitched in and they numbered each log, each piece of wood as they dismantled the log cabin. One of our citizens, Bobby B., drove back and forth with the trailer hauling the log cabin, piece by piece.

Once on the tribal grounds and a few days later, our citizens, using the number method, put the log cabin back together. The next summer at the Kid's Camp, the leaders made an old fashioned straw and clay mixture and had the children pack the seams between each log. It was sealed with red clay and straw. As time passed, this wore out and tribal citizen, James W., put chinking in the walls. Later, a citizen asked Lucky B. to build a front and back porch with wide steps. Lucky was thrilled to do it.

Several citizens contributed to the decorating of the cabin. Sue & Marvin donated the rope bed that you see there today. Some citizens installed the windows. The local boy scouts came and helped with the cabin as well. Later, Dennis T. put a tin sink on the back porch. Later the tribe hired someone to build the two chimneys as the original chimneys were not brought to the tribal lands.

The Close family states that there is an abstract that lists all the owners of the log cabin. This would be a great adventure to obtain as additional history for our little log cabin.

We wish to thank everyone who was involved in relocating our log cabin to the tribal grounds. We thank the Close family, the citizens who helped, Chief Shaw and last but not least, the teller of this story. Without her knowledge, we would have lost the history of our cabin.

Chief Wooten Represents the Echota

On behalf of the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama, we were able to represent at the Pow Wow in Pulaski, Tennessee, home of the Trail of Tears Interpretive Center. We were told by our own Foy S., who, by the way, is on the Board of Directors and was in charge of putting on this year's Pow Wow (great job, Foy), that this was the only place where two separate trails of the Trail of Tears connected. Very fascinating. We all met and spoke with many wonderful people who were truly impressed and asked how to go about looking up their heritage. Our tribe is in store for great things.

Pictures of the Event:



Fundraiser:

Blue Clan News

Roof Restoration on Tribal Cabin



The Blue Clan has taken on the endeavor of repairing the tribal log cabin. There are roof and porch issues that need to be resolved. The Clan Chief James S. Is leading the fundraising with the backing of his clan. If you, or someone you know is looking to donate to a worthy cause, please consider this cause.

Please donate here:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/roof-restoration-on-tribal-cabin?utm_source=widget&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

2022 Festival News

The Festival Committee encourages our citizens to attend the next festival planning meeting. It is being held at the tribal grounds on June 18 at noon. They also ask that each clan have a representative at the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The tribe has a new official email address. We will not be using the previous email. Please help us spread the word to others that the email has been updated and changed. The new email is:

theechotacherokeetribeofal@gmail.com



Tribal Grounds Update:

The Tribe would like to thank the At-Large for their donation of \$700 to the Festival Committee. This money was raised to fund the new fencing around the septic tank and to separate the parking from the festival ground. We also wish to thank the Blue Clan who raised money to go towards repairs and upkeep to our log cabin on the tribal grounds.

Every month citizens gather at the tribal grounds to help with the upkeep. We are looking for folks to help clean the buildings, the outside of the buildings, carry off trash, mow the grass, weed eat and anything that helps to keep the tribal grounds looking neat and clean. Check out our calendar on our website to see when clean up day is and come out and help.



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>



Congratulations to Our Graduates



Congrats to Jacob W. - Echota Tribal citizen, graduated last week from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Strategic Communication Management.

Dr. Sarah S., MD, would like to thank her family for their outpouring of support and love. She can't wait to get started and serve her patients to the best of her ability. Congrats Dr. Sarah S.



Thompson High School Class of 2022



Mya Nicole M

Congratulations on your graduation. May your future be filled with joy and success.

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.

Weeya C. Is Awarded the Golden Apple



Weeya C., art teacher at Foxview Intermediate School, has been named a 2022 Golden Apple Award winner. The Golden Apple Awards program, sponsored by the Greater Green Bay Chamber, annually recognizes high-quality educators based on professionalism, leadership and innovation.

Weeya has taught art in the District since 2006. During that time, she has been instrumental in expanding the art curriculum at Foxview to incorporate courses in digital design for 6th grade students, while introducing the principles of design to 5th graders.

"Maya Angelou once said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Weeya took this to heart many years ago and wants every child, when they leave her class, to feel worthy and important.

The Most Rewarding Part of Teaching

"Two things come to mind when I think about how rewarding my job is today. The first would be the excitement each child shows when they learn that they too can draw, paint and create wonderful art. It warms my heart to see their willingness to try with each new project and when their eyes light up, it melts my heart," she says.

"But most of all, it's when they are no longer with me and I run across their artwork somewhere else. I look over it and smile to myself because I see the things I taught them and they use those techniques in their art. To see them grow with their art and to know I am a part of that foundation means the world to me and that is why teaching is so rewarding."

Weeya has a bachelor's degree in art education, and a master's degree in technology integration. In addition, she is a Lifetime Certified K-12 art teacher in Wisconsin and Louisiana and is a frequent guest speaker at elementary, middle and high schools in Wisconsin and surrounding areas regarding Southeast Woodland People, attending living history events and rendezvous representing Southeast Woodland People and the tribe as a storyteller and presenter.



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.

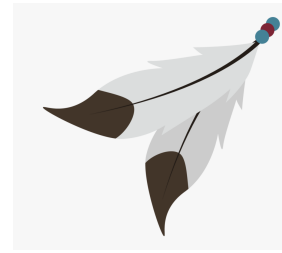
Dates to remember:

Deadlines to submit items to go into the newsletter will be the 20th of the previous month. For example, our first Newsletter went out on June 1st. All items citizens want posted on the newsletter needed to be submitted to the tribe's email by May 20th.

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

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

If you have items you would like to go in the Smoke Signals, please contact Ms. Charlotte at:
chr0842@bellsouth.net



The Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama

Head Leadership	
Principal Chief	Dennis "Red Stag" Wooten
Vice Chief	Rita "Drumgore" Majors
Parliamentarian	Julie Schumacher
Recording Secretary	Position Open
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	Emmett Turner
Deer Clan	Gary Parnell
Long Hair Clan	Sharon Keith
Paint Clan	William Gaskin
Wild Potato Clan	Position Open
Wolf Clan	Wayne Rasco
At - Large	Hans Friedrich



Clan Updates Blue Clan

The Blue Clan met at Ten A.M at the Oakville Indian Mounds and Museum in Oakville,Alabama. We are making plans to meet in our other Home Counties of Walker and Winston Counties in the future! We have decided to adopt a "grow some Acorn Squash to help Squash Hunger in Blue Clan Territory! "This is a pilot program. We eventually hope to supply the Indian Education Program (and other children) with enough squash to feed K-6 (over 3,000 students!!) and teach our Native children about squash and her companion plants corn and beans which constitute the "Three Sisters" !

In the future we hope to sponsor a Community Garden, Food Forest, Food Bank and possibly a Mobile Food Truck for food deserts as well as donating surplus fruits and vegetables to local area food banks ! Blue Clan and the Echotas hope to stomp out hunger!

Some other interesting Facts about Lawrence County ...

As of the 2010 census, the population was 34,339. Of this 5.36% identified themselves as Native American. This county has the highest number of residents who identify as Native American of any county in the state!

For thousands of years, this area was inhabited by differing cultures of indigenous peoples. People of the Copena culture in the Middle Woodland period (1–500 CE) built complex earthworks as part of their religious and political system. Their burial mound and ceremonial platform mound, the largest in the state, are preserved at Oakville Indian Mounds Park and Museum. The museum includes exhibits on the Cherokee, an Iroquoian-speaking people who inhabited the area at the time of European encounter. Other historic Native American tribes in this state were Choctaw and Creek, who both spoke Muskogean languages

Numerous Cherokee and mixed-race European-Cherokee descendants, sometimes called "Black Dutch", have stayed in the Lawrence County area. According to the census, the county has the highest number of self-identified Native Americans in the state. Our Blue Clan has about 4,000 enrolled members.....

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_contamination_in_Lawrence_and_Morgan_Counties,_Alabama

Winston County also Blue Clan Territory...
At the 2010 census there were 24,484 people, 10,163 households, and 7,074 families living in the county, of those... 0.7% identified as Native American.

Blue Clan continued:

During the American Civil War, Winston County gained attention for its opposition to secession, a sentiment so strong that the county is sometimes referred to as the Free State of Winston.The county today plays on its reputation as the "Free State of Winston" to attract tourists. The county's opposition to the Confederacy is briefly mentioned in the novels To Kill a Mockingbird and Addie Pray.

Walker County is in Blue Clan Territory! (and home to our past Chief Wheeler Pounds) At the 2000 census there were 70,713 people, 28,364 households, and 20,478 families living in the county with 0.28% claiming Native American heritage.

.....well our Tribe has an opportunity to fix it !!

Our Blue Clan has been invited by the Oakville Indian Mounds new Director (nothing to do with the Jaycees Halloween event) -Anna McMullen has invited us to provide Seeds, and to help grow some Acorn Squash this year...for our poor, our Native School Food program!

We will need people to grow butternut squash in their own home gardens!! We hope to grow all our own Acorn squash to feed 3,000 children in our Indian School programs! (and hope to get this going in every Clan in our Tribe !!)

Because Hunger shouldn't happen!

Who wants to help ?!

We want to eventually provide every student with some seeds also ... (acorn squash only please!)

-Hans F. - Rain Crow ~DᄁᄁE Aᄁ~HF~
Secretary Blue Clan



Greetings from the Blue Clan from the Warrior Mountains of Lawrence, Winston, and Walker Counties and our kinfolk spread abroad. We had a Blue Clan table set up at the Oakville Indian Festival. A good time was had by all, and several citizens came by to talk and ask questions. We currently have a GoFundMe set up for repairing the log cabin roof at the tribal grounds. Our goal is to raise enough and have it repaired before the Powwow. Our next meeting will be July 9th at the Oakville Indian Mound Park. The meeting will start at 10:00 and all are welcome to attend. Following the meeting there will be a Cherokee language class and a beginner beading class. Contact Hans F. if you are interested in either class.

-Emmett T., Blue Clan Representative

Clan Updates:



Paint Clan

Osiyo,

The next Paint Clan meeting will be Saturday July 16, 2022 at 12:00 noon at the **Historic Train Depot in Guntersville, Alabama.**

Allergies are something that all of us seem to have trouble with year-round these days. At the next meeting we will be studying different plants such as Fenugreek, Thyme and several berberine plants that can be used to help stop a sinus infection and act as an antihistamine. Then how to use those plants to create a combination that will allow you to stop sinus infections and the possibility of preventing the onset of bronchitis that can follow a severe sinus infection.

There is no mailing address to the museum, but it is very easy to find. It is located at the corner of Blount Ave and Greenwood St about a mile South of the big river bridge in Guntersville, and also located just behind Ross Graden Lumber that is on Blount Ave. There is a Historic Train Depot sign on Blount Ave and just follow it a couple hundred feet to the end of the road where the railroad tracks and Depot are located.

Wado,

Paint Clan Chief - Reginald L Hughes
hughes452@att.net

Vice Chief – William Gaskin

Council at Large – William Gaskin

Pow Wow Committee Update (Pow Wow/Festival Flyer on last page)

Our Pow 🌟 Wow Committee met on Saturday and accompanied a good deal !

- Negotiations on hotel accommodations
- T-Shirt design

NEW!

- You can not easily donate, or pay your assessments online at our website!

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

Tribal Grounds Project~

• bridge (for the golf cart traffic) to the trails
Estimates for this project will cost approximately \$600.00!

(You can make a donation for this or other projects on the website!)

“Thank you for your support! May God Bless our Tribe and all our people!”

- Gary P.
2022 Echota Pow Wow

🌿🌿 Chairman 🌿🌿



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

A Fun Fact:

The Blue Clan has adopted a two mile section along 157 in front of Oakville Indian Mounds in Oakville.



The Tribe Adopts a Mile:

The Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama is a part of the Adopt-A-Mile Program in Cullman County.



Work Day on the Tribal Grounds

This past Saturday the Chief and Vice Chief, along with their team worked at the tribal grounds. In addition, tribal citizens came and helped with the grass cutting and cleaning of the grounds. They celebrated with grilled food and socializing. If you or your family are interested in volunteering to help next time, please check our calendar on the website. It will list clan meetings, work days, governing body and state meetings. Thank you to those who participated in helping beautify the tribal grounds.



Reminders:

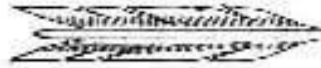
Please spread the word about the [Welcome Home Program](#).

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

[If you need a replacement card, see here.](#)

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

ECHOTA CHEROKEE TRIBE OF ALABAMA



25th Annual Festival

24-25 September, 2022

Grand Entry 12:00 Noon

Gates open at 9:00 a.m.

Echota Cherokee Tribal Complex

630 County Rd 1281, Falkville, AL 35622

Take the Lacon Exit 318 off I65, turn South on US 31, turn right on County Rd 1281.
If coming from Cullman, turn left onto County Rd 1282, then right on County Rd 1281.
Tribal complex will be on the right.

Alabama Native Pride!

Dancers, Drummers, Demonstrators, Numerous Authors, Arts, Crafts, & Food Vendors

Headlady: DeAnna Hudgins

Headman: Jimmy Hudgins

Richard Smith—MC

**Walking Thunder
Drum Team**

**Tom Burke
Flute Player**

**Attending Authors
Dale Casteel
Butch Walker
Cabot Barden**

**Rowland Matthews
20' Tipi**



Miss Indian Alabama

**Storytellers—Weeya Calif
& Foy Southard**

**John Moore II
Men's Fancy &
Hoop Dancer**

**Alabama Wildlife Center
Bird Release**

**Native Dancers in Regalia
encouraged & welcomed!**

**Adults \$5; Children (6-14) \$3;
Seniors (65+) \$3; Military \$3**

Join us in our annual celebration and learn about Native culture and dance!

PLEASE HONOR AND RESPECT OUR TRIBAL LANDS!

No firearms, alcohol, or drugs. Smoking in designated areas only. Service animals only.

Don't forget your lawn chairs, blankets, and sunscreen!

For additional information, please call (256) 734-7337 or email theechotacherokeetribeofal@gmail.com