



The Shawnee Journal

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Points of Interest:

- ▲ Education Assistance Increases
- ▲ Annual Meeting
- ▲ Chief's Update
- ▲ Important Dates

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Education Assistance Increase

In September 2002, the Shawnee Tribe signed a Motor Fuels Compact with the State of Oklahoma. These compacts apportion to the tribes a small percentage of the tax revenues earned from gasoline sales state-wide. Tribes, in return, are to use these monies for health, education, law enforcement, and road repair activities.

In January 2003, the Tribe received its first quarterly apportionment, allowing the Tribe to set up a fund to assist tribal members who are pursuing higher education or technical training at vocational schools.

The Tribe is delighted with the response we have had in the past for education assistance and is very happy to further expand the as-

sistance. The Business Council met in April to discuss the possibility to increase the amount of assistance available to Tribal members for the Fall and Spring semesters. The issue was discussed and it was approved to increase the education assistance from \$400 a semester to \$1,000 a semester for full time students and increase the assistance from \$200 to \$500 for part time students. This assistance will continue as long as funding allows.

The deadline for Fall 2013 assistance will be August 31, 2013 (applications need to be post-marked by this date).

Any tribal member attending an accredited post-secondary school in the 50 United States on a full or half-time basis with a GPA of at least 2.5 is

eligible. If you are a recent high school graduate, we will accept an official copy of your high school transcripts or your GED score. Assistance is also available to tribal members attending vocational or certificate programs.

Applications may be obtained by calling the tribal office and requesting one to be sent to you.

If you would like to make a donation to the Education Fund, please call the tribal office. Your tribal officials and staff feel that investing in the education of our tribal youth is an investment in our future—and one of our most critically important projects.



Maple Sugar Making

Historically, one of the traditional signs of the end of winter and the coming of spring was the flowing of the sap in the maple tree. The Shawnee word for Sugar Maple tree is (Thena`misi). With this impending sign of spring came the much anticipated and loved, making of maple sugar. In order for the sap to flow the nights need to be below freezing and the days have to rise above freezing. This allows the sap to flow from the trees roots up to the branches. Oliver M. Spencer, a white captive among the Seneca-Shawnee in 1790, describes this in his narrative, "It was now near the close of February, when sharp, frosty nights and days of warm sunshine succeeding the extreme cold of winter constituted what in early times was called sugar weather" (Spencer 125). The Methodist minister James Finley describes this same practice over 30 years later in the 1820's in central Ohio. "In February nearly all of the Indians went to the woods to trap and make sugar. They seldom return from these expeditions till the first of April" (Finley 294). Maple sugar was much more than just a source to quench our sweet tooth. It was a very significant life sustaining

food source for our Indian peoples.

The process of making maple sugar is very labor intensive and requires large amounts of firewood and sap collect from the maple tree. The ratio is 40 gallons of sap to make 6-8 lbs. of sugar. Collecting sap entails tapping the tree and placing a vessel under the tap to collect the sap. James Smith, a white captive among the Seneca-Shawnee in 1755, describes the process of tapping, "They cut a notch, sloping down, and at the end of the notch, stuck in a tomahawk; in the place where they stuck the tomahawk, they drove a long chip, in order to carry the water out from the tree, and under this they set their vessel to receive it" (Smith 52). There were two kinds of troughs used to collect the sap under the taps. David Zeisberger, a Moravian missionary among the Delaware and Shawnee from 1760-1800, describes the use of these two types. "Usually, the Indians make them of wood, cutting them out roughly with a hatchet. Some Indians are able to make twenty or thirty of them in a day. Some do not go to so much trouble, but make dishes of the bark of a tree,

which serve quite well, but are good for no more than one season"(Zeisberger 48). "As some of the elm bark will strip at this season, the women, after finding a tree that would do, cut it down, and with a crooked stick broad and sharp at the end, took the bark off the tree, and of this bark, made vessels in a curious manner, that would hold about two gallons each: they made above one hundred of these kind of vessels" (Smith 51).

Once the sap is collected, it stored in large bark troughs until it can be boiled down. "But as they could not at all times boil away the water as fast as it was collected, they made vessels of bark, that would hold about one hundred gallons each, for retaining the water; and though the sugar trees did not run every day, they had always a sufficient quantity of water to keep them boiling during the whole sugar season" (Smith 52). "Once the sap has been collected the next step is boiling.

The sap boiling process has two steps. First the sap must be reduced to syrup, and then it

can be further reduced to the actual sugar. “The sap, becoming darker the longer it is boiled, it is boiled until it gets to be of the consistency of molasses, it is then poured off and kept. When a sufficient quantity of this consistency has been secured, it is boiled over a slow fire until it becomes sugar. It is important to boil this over a slow fire, for the sap readily boils over and is easily burned” (Zeisberger 49). Each family usually had one or two large brass kettles and couple of smaller ones in which to turn



their sap into sugar. The larger ones were used for reducing sap to syrup and the smaller ones used to reduce the syrup to sugar. “They had two brass kettles that held about fifteen gallons each and other smaller kettles in which they boiled the sap” (Smith 52). Once enough water had been boiled off the syrup that it could harden into a sugar cake, it was poured off into wooden or bark molds.

Once the sugar was made

it was used in a few different ways. It was added to stews to sweeten the meat, and also to dishes made of ground corn-meal and hominy. The main way that it was used at this time of year was to add the ground sugar to some bear grease to make a sauce. This mixture was then used as a dipping sauce for meat that had been cooked or dried. While the women and children work to make the maple sugar, the men’s jobs are to supply their families with meat and skins for trading.

“The women make the sugar, and stretch the skins. The men trap and hunt” (Finley 296).

Zeisberger states, “Sugar boiling is chiefly the employment of women. While the women are thus engaged, the men hunt and supply meat.

I am very thankful that for the past 5 years my family has been able to make our own maple sugar and experience a little bit of what our ancestors did as described in these journals as we participated in the National Maple Syrup Festival in Medora, IN. During the festival, which is the first two weekends in March, we set up a sugar camp based on these written descriptions and demonstrate for the visitors how Native Ameri-



cans made maple sugar. Other tribes are starting to do this as well. Paul Barton (Seneca-Cayuga tribe), and members of his language group are tapping maple trees and making syrup and sugar. They are doing this in order to help complete the set of ceremonies that was given by the Creator to the people. The sugar and syrup that is being made is then used during the Thanking of the Maple Tree Ceremony. By doing this we are re-learning and renewing ways of life that were vital for our ancestors. I have included some photos taken of our historically inspired sugar camp as well as some from the Seneca-Cayuga language class making maple syrup. It is my hope that this article will spark an interest in tribal members to learn more about sugar making and maybe even give it a try for yourselves. Article by Shawnee Tribal member Jeremy Tuner.

Children and Family Services Program Update

CCDF Program

The Tribe's Child Care Development Fund Program currently is serving 106 children in 69 families and has provided quality improvement funding to over 46 different child care facilities and programs. Families from 16 different tribes are enrolled in the program.

Based on an average of 96.21 hours in daycare per child each month, the average monthly cost per child contributed by the CCDF Program was \$275.47 while the average monthly cost per child paid by parents was only \$21.90.

The CCDF Program serves Indian families who live in the four-state region within 100 miles of Miami, Oklahoma. Families where parents work or are in school (both full and part-time) and who qualify under the program's income guidelines may apply for assistance. To be eligible, children must be placed in a state-licensed facility and be no more than 13 years old. Income guidelines also apply, which are correlated with a sliding fee scale for the family's share of their child care expenses. Please call the Children and Family Services Program at 918-542-7232 and ask for Tena

Booth or Diana Baker for more information.

Week of the Young Child

The Children's and Family Services Department just participated in the National Week of the Young Child (April 20–26).

Activities included a performance by award winning Steven Fite on April 22nd and 23rd at the Coleman with over 2,400 children in attendance from local daycare and elementary schools, a family fun day and picnic for children, parents, and child care providers at the Miami Civic Center on April 24th with 300 children and adults in attendance. A petting zoo (including fishing ponds, camel rides, and pony rides) at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College on the 26th concluded the week long activities.

Services Offered

This Program also offers special activities as well as classes and training for day care providers. Staff have been very busy with many activities this fiscal year. This fall the local nine tribal CCDF programs held the Child Care Mini Conference

for day care providers at the local community college. Another focus has been to provide the local day care providers many opportunities to attend seminars on topics related to child care.

These seminars allow them to obtain the required continuing education credits that are required to maintain their day care licenses as well. The trainings are also free to early childhood providers, public school educators, college students majoring in early childhood education and faculty in teacher education programs. Our Children and Family Services Director, Tena Booth continually holds at least 2 classes per month to certify day care providers in CPR and first aid. Tena is also offering these classes for free for tribal members, call her for more information on how to



School Supply Handout Date Set....

The Shawnee Tribe is offering school supplies on July 30th and 31st and August 1st from 4—7 p.m. at the Shawnee Tribe Community Services building. Tribal children living within 100 miles of Miami, Oklahoma and attending Pre-K through the 8th grade are eligible to receive supplies. Backpacks stuffed with fundamental required by schools in the area will be distributed. To pick up school supplies, please bring each child's enrollment card to be presented at the time of pick up. Tribal staff will mail reminder postcards to Tribal households within the service area in July. Please make sure that any family members who are moving this summer remember to change their address with the Tribe's Enrollment and Genealogy Department. Please call the tribal office at 918-542-2441 if you have any questions.



Other News and Updates

Tribal Roll Update

As of April 1, 2013, 2,467 people are enrolled with the Shawnee Tribe. It is estimated that perhaps another 2,000 or more people are eligible to enroll. If you know of someone who would like to have an enrollment application please call Agnes Sappington at the tribal office (918-542-2441). If you or anyone you know may need help in filling out the enrollment application you can call Greg Pitcher at the tribal office as well.

Application packets include forms for general data, genealogy, and relinquishment of other tribal membership. Additional supporting documentation must be submitted with the completed forms. Such documentation may include certified birth certificates, CDIB cards, and other records that prove an appli-

cant's lineal descent from Shawnee ancestors listed on the roll of 9 June 1871, the 1883 Wallace Roll, the 1889 Roll of Shawnee Cherokees, the Cherokees' Dawes Allotment Roll, or certain allotment records from the former Shawnee Reservation in Kansas.

The Enrollment Committee makes recommendations regarding applications to the Tribal Business Committee, which gives final approval.

Having Trouble With High Utility Bills?

The Shawnee Tribe still has Low Income Home Energy Assistance money available



to those households that qualify. All applicants must live in the state of Oklahoma, belong to the Shawnee Tribe, and qualify under the income guidelines. The Tribe offers \$100.00 for assistance to pay for heating or cooling costs. Please contact Diana Baker at 918-542-2441 for more information.

Announcements

If you would like to announce births, marriages, graduations, deaths, or family reunions, please let the office staff know so that we can include the information in the next newsletter, which is scheduled for August publication.



ITC Provides Diverse Services to Tribal Members

The Inter-Tribal Council, Inc., (ITC) was created in 1967 by the leaders of the Ottawa County tribes to enlighten the public about American Indians, to preserve cultural values, and to enhance and promote general educational and economic opportunity among tribal members. The ITC building, constructed in 1978, is located at 21 North Eight Tribes Trail, just east of Miami's city limits and just north of the Miami exit off the Will Rogers Turnpike (I-44). ITC is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation.

Since 1978, ITC has provided health, education, employment and training, welfare, and economic development services to area tribal members. Shawnee Tribe members are welcome to participate.

The governing body for ITC is its Administrative Board, which is composed of the chief or chairman—or other tribal designate—of each member tribe. The Board sets policy, and Administrative Director Helen Christie oversees daily operations. Member tribes are the Eastern Shawnee, Shawnee, Ottawa, Seneca-Cayuga, Peoria, Modoc, Quapaw, Miami and Wyandotte.

The ITC building houses the

administrative department, various education, training, and job placement programs, and the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program. ITC also operates various federally-funded programs that assist American Indians in attaining a self-sufficient standard of living.

The ITC Planning and Workforce Development Department coordinates economic development projects among member tribes and provides employment and training services. The Department offers adult education (GED) classes and provides comprehensive training for unemployed and underemployed American Indian youths ages 16-21 and adults. The Department's Native Employment Work Program offers job development activities to help individuals obtain sustainable employment, and its Welfare-to-Work Program moves TANF recipients into permanent, unsubsidized employment through training, job placement, and post-employment supportive services. The Department also runs a gift shop, which supports Indian artisans through

craft sales and encourages entrepreneurship activities, including marketing and inventory management.



The WIC Program provides supplemental food for Indian and non-Indian women who are pregnant, breast feeding, or post

partum, and their infants and children up to 5 years old. For information about WIC, call the receptionist at 542-4486.

The ITC Food Distribution Program (the commodity program) provides both food and nutrition education. The program currently serves 500 households by distributing 80 pounds of food monthly to each household member (about 1,300 participants). The Program is located in the Ottawa-Peoria Community building (Marilyn Mayfield, 542-3443). The ITC Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center, which provides the tribes of northeast Oklahoma and the general public help with chemical addictions, family counseling, youth delinquency prevention, is also located in the Inter-Tribal Council building. For more information call James Brunhuber at 542-5543.



craft sales and encourages entrepreneurship activities, including marketing and inventory management.

Environmental Program Update

The Environmental Department staff has been busy completing deliverables for FY 2013. At the beginning of the year a tribal questionnaire was mailed out to all tribal households to provide an opportunity for tribal members to determine and prioritize their environmental concerns and to provide them an opportunity to suggest future activities. Of the 1,190 surveys sent out, we received 130 completed questionnaires (11%). Of the surveys received, the following states were represented: Virginia, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Illinois, Minnesota, Maryland, Texas, Arkansas, Idaho, South Carolina, Alabama, Kansas, Iowa, Florida, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Colorado, New York, Wisconsin, and Tennessee. The highest tribal representation coming from Oklahoma, California and Missouri.

Staff also mailed out an education outreach project in the form of a pamphlet educating Tribal members on the reducing the amount of plastic usage in their daily lives. In May, the department will host a 1-day training workshop on GIS/GPS capabilities and equipment training for the Shawnee Tribe and other local tribal environmental departments. Another deliverable for this fiscal year is the implementation of an education project for Tribal children and their parents in the form of a downloadable project on the Tribal website. The project will focus on environmental activities to educate and restore our ancestral connection with nature.



Update from the Chief

The next few months could make some major changes in the operation of your Tribe. First and foremost is budget cuts. Presently we are not sure as to what effect this will have on our programs. Your Business Council has managed your money wisely. We should continue operations with minimal interruptions.

I am very proud of the tribal Business Council for increasing the Education Assistance for our young people. We wished it could be more. It has always been the unspoken policy of your government body to help our youth and to take care of our elderly. I think this is a great policy and we will continue to work in that direction.

Another item that is going to make a lot of headlines is the negotiations of compacts with our state government. There is a lot of unrest between the Tribes and the state government. We must remember Tribes were here before there was a United States. Against all odds we have managed to survive. We are not going away so it is imperative that we protect our resources, both physical and spiritual. Like in the past as our ancestors did, we will work through our problems. I wish you and your family a good spring and summer. Keep in touch.

Ron



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**THE TRIBAL OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED THE
FOLLOWING DAYS:**

MEMORIAL DAY

05/27/2013

4TH OF JULY

07/04/2013

**Business Council
Meetings**

6 May 2013

3 June 2013

1 July 2013

5 August 2013

**APPLICATIONS NOW
AVAILABLE FOR:**

**CCDF
DAY CARE
ASSISTANCE**

**FALL 2013
EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE**

**NAHASDA
EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE**