

Upcoming Events

- Spring School Day— Occaneechi Tribal Grounds, Mebane, NC— April 24 2008
- Occaneechi Saponi Pow Wow— Occaneechi Tribal Grounds, Mebane, NC June 13-14, 2008
- 6th Annual Occaneechi-Saponi Golf Classic— August 2008 (Date TBA)
- Fall School Days— Occaneechi Tribal Grounds, Mebane, NC— Oct. 9-10 2008

Inside this issue:

- Tribal Chair Statement 2
- Office Updates 3
- Conservator's Center Visit 4
- Occaneechi Eagles 5

Unity Conference Held in Raleigh

The thirty-third annual United Tribes Unity Conference was held on March 20-22 in Raleigh NC.

Members of North Carolina's eight recognized tribes come together each year to discuss issues vital to Native interests, to appreciate our cultural legacy and to see old friends and make new ones. The theme of this year's conference was *Honor, Integrity, Distinction: Stitched*

Together Though Threads of the Past.

The three-day event was marked by a pow wow, a number of panel discussions, a banquet and a dance. There were also several art shows and a quilting competition.

The OBSN once again officiated the Amateur (non-juried) art competition. The competition was open to NC tribal mem-

bers of all ages with divisions for youth, juniors and adult. The turnout was impressive this year with more than 130 submissions.

The attendance this year was remarkable considering that the conference was scheduled during Easter weekend as well as during the first round of the NCAA Men's basketball playoffs also being held in Raleigh.



OBSN Voice

This publication is produced by the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Tribal Council

The newsletter features items of interest to enrolled Occaneechi-Saponi people and is distributed FREE of charge to these members.

G.J. Hill, Editor

DEADLINE DATES:
Dec. 30 (Jan/Feb/Mar)
Mar. 30 (Apr/May/Jun)
Jun. 30 (Jul/Aug/Sep)
Sept. 30 (Oct/Nov/Dec.)

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**ALL DONATIONS
ACCEPTED**

VISION STATEMENT

Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation will be a unified and self-reliant tribe.

TRIBAL MISSION STATEMENT

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation is continuously committed to the preservation, protection and promotion of our history, culture and traditions; while providing social, economic and educational resources, opportunities and services that will contribute to the well being of the tribal community.

TRIBAL COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

As advocates for the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, the Tribal Council is committed to provide excellent leadership according to the constitution.

Message From the Tribal Chair

Dear Tribal Members,

Spring is here and the weather is finally breaking! We are coming into the Tribe's busy season. I am excited about spring and to be able to get out and do things for the tribe.

We have several events, such as the Pow Wow coming up in June and we are looking to make this one the best ever! There is also the Pow Wow in Clarksville, VA on the weekend of May 9 and 10. We are continuing to push forth our fund raising efforts and our social programs for our people and our youth.

Please contact the office for more information on the happenings. We welcome your help and your participation in tribal activities. Let's have some fun together this year, come on out and do some good for yourself and the tribe!

We continue to strive for all the benefits and programs that will make a difference for the people. Your Tribal Council is working on new and fresh activities to bring awareness and new approaches to our efforts in the community and the areas surrounding.

If you are interested in helping or bringing new ideas please come see us.

I look forward to seeing you,

Tony Hayes, Tribal Chair

OBSN Calendars

Now 50% off

**Low price of \$10.00
Pictures of past and present.**

Makes a great keepsake
Proceeds benefit the G.C. and

Ruth Whitmore Memorial
Scholarship Fund

Order Form available at
www.occaneechi-saponi.org
or contact the tribal office

Office Updates by Sharn Jeffries

I hope everyone is well. Hunting season went pretty well for me, and I am eager to start planting my garden. Things are pretty busy for the Tribe, and we have initiated some new and exciting projects:

Occaneechi Eagles: Our official Tribal Youth Group is in full swing. I have attended a couple of their meetings, and the turnout has been great. Do not hesitate to contact the Tribal Office for details, and please encourage your youngsters to participate.

OBSN Tribal Health Circle: The Tribal Health Circle is gearing up for our first full-blown Health Initiative specifically for Occaneechi Tribal Members. Be on the lookout for information and future presentations that will be a part of this groundbreaking project.

Hillsborough Village Project: The Hillsborough Village Project is underway, and the Tribe has secured an agreement with Orange County to erect a historically accurate portion of the Occaneechi Village and an information kiosk. This project will promote OBSN and direct more tourism to our Tribal Property. This project should be completed by mid-May.

In addition;

Please stop by and visit the Tribal Office in Mebane, and Tribal Property in Pleasant Grove. I think every one will be pleasantly surprised by the Tribe's progress at both locations.

Birth Certificates: Enrolled Tribal Members can choose to have their birth certificates corrected by NC Vital Re-

ords to reflect their American Indian Heritage. It is a 4 month process, but it is a means to correct the racial discrepancies commonly found on our birth certificates. The cost is \$30, and the total cost goes to the State. Please stop by the Tribal Office to pick up the printed requirements and limitations.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our June Pow Wow, and encourage all Golfers, Families, and Businesses to support our upcoming Golf Tournament.

In conclusion, the Tribal Council is here to serve the Occaneechi Tribal Members. Do not hesitate to contact us with your concerns or suggestions. The Tribe cannot exist without your support.

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**June
13-14
2008**

Occaneechi
Tribal
Grounds,
Daily Store
Rd,
Mebane, NC

REPRESENT!!!

All roads lead home. If you or someone you know is involved in presentations, conferences, workshops or committees as a representative of the tribe or Natives as a whole, please let us know. Include your name, event title, location and any other pertinent details such as your participation and any other notable attendees. We'll take care of the rest. You work hard...share your experiences.



One of 14 lions that were rescued from a breeding facility in Ohio

“I would like to think that our peaceful nature as the protectors of mother earth was a welcome energy to our animal friends.”



Jacob Tiger

Conservator's Center Visit by Tammy Hayes-Hill

On a chilly, rainy afternoon in March, the Occaneechi Eagles youth group came together to tour a local animal rescue. This is no ordinary rescue because the animals that call The Conservator's Center home are very extraordinary because they are not indigenous to North Carolina and most not even to the North American continent.

We started off our tour of some very impressive tree dwellers, the binturongs, that are very fond of bananas and we moved on to the jungle cats and servals. Then we came to the home of Taz, a peppermint-loving Lynx.

This experience was so amazing because of the opportunity to get to know the animals by being told their story of survival. Our guides were Kim & Donald Pyne and Kim Barker. They captivated us by the in-depth descriptions of the animals' personalities and the success stories of their rescue. It was not hard to become entranced as you are aware that you are walking beside of Lions and Tigers. The sounds that the animals make cannot be duplicated; you will need to visit the Conservatory in order to experience the full effect. As you walk the paths of the 45-acre compound all of your senses are alerted to the smells, the sounds and the amazing visual majesty of these exotic animals.

We were thoroughly educated before starting our tour about the power of the ani-



mals and how to behave being careful not to provoke these formidable creatures. Our youth group displayed a high level of respect and restraint even the little ones. As I trailed behind taking notes and pictures I was very moved at the connectedness of our group. I would like to think that our peaceful nature as the protectors of mother earth was a welcome energy to our animal friends.

I felt like a little kid again discovering feelings of awe and amazement especially as I felt a connection to Jacob Tiger. He likes naps and he is a bit jumpy, I feel like that was my link to him. He napped the whole time we were there unaffected by me snapping pictures of him and his roomie Solida. He is definitely my favorite and I have the screensaver picture of him on my computer to prove it.

Also, I have a profound respect for Keisha Enoch who takes time out of her busy schedule to go care for the animals at The Conservatory. Keisha was in her ele-

ment and loving every moment of it. Thank you so much Keisha for sharing this part of your life with us, your tribal family. I feel like The Occaneechi and The Conservatory are great resources to our community. Please take time to check out The Conservatory website at

www.conservatorscenter.org and if you are able to attend their fundraisers and/or donate time and money this will ensure continued support to provide homes for the animals. For more information call (336)421-0883. The mission of The Conservator's Center Inc. (CCI) is *Conservation: Education: Sanctuary.*



Occaneechi Eagles Camp Out and Stargazing by Tammy Hayes-Hill

On a beautiful starry night out in Pleasant Grove the Occaneechi Eagles gathered at the village readying themselves for a night of making s'mores, camp fire stories and being apart of traditions that are so carefully communicated and passed on to them by some of most dedicated and knowledgeable people in our tribe. John Blackfeather and family were all there to take part in the festivities. The village was not only a perfect place for a camp out but proved to be a great spot for a night of stargazing.

The Alamance County Astronomy Club (ACAC) came out to share their knowledge of the night sky with our youth. It was



amazing as we all got to view Saturn, constellations, star clusters and nebulas. Also, the laser pointers were fun to watch as objects were pointed out in the sky. ACAC had several different telescopes including a huge Dobsonian mounted scope. Plus a generous donation of a Celestron Astromaster telescope was made to the Occaneechi Eagles. As the night wound down for the astronomers and the equipment was packed up, the

Eagles went back to the village to settle in for a night of camping and resting up for drum practice and dancing lessons the next morning.

A huge thank you to Brice Watkins and Rose Clay Watlington plus all the volunteers who worked so hard to provide a fun filled evening. Also, thank you to the Alamance County Astronomy Club for showing us the wonders of the night sky.



One of the telescopes brought out by the ACAC.

“The village was not only a perfect place for a camp out but proved to a great spot for a night of stargazing.”



From the Staff of the *Voice*

Spring time...new beginnings, sleepy hibernators emerging from stuffy dens, greening foliage and exploding flowers.

Whew...sorry about that.

Anyway, spring is here and its time to take the first tentative steps into the sun and rejoin the rest of the world.

As I hope you have seen in

this issue, the Tribe has found a great many things to get interested in.

With graduations fast approaching, we know that you want to recognize the achievements of your scholar. Please send in your grad's info, including a picture if possible and we will give them the loudest possi-

ble shout out.

Also, if any tribal member is involved in anything that you would like for your tribal family to be aware of, please send us the particulars for our upcoming "Good News" segment.

As always, please feel free to send us your comments or questions at OBSNVoice@triad.rr.com



Astronomy club member Alex Armstrong assembling the telescope donated by the ACAC.

Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation
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Thank You For Your Support!

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