



Chucalissa Arboretum Dedication

Friday, October 3, 3:30 PM

Join Dr. Shirley Raines, President, University of Memphis, Dr. Kenneth York, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and others as we formally dedicate the Chucalissa Arboretum, created by the Southwind Garden Club (SWGC). Through the Club's work, this past May the Chucalissa Arboretum was certified by the Tennessee Forestry Council and the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs. The certification places the Chucalissa Arboretum among only a handful of venues in our region that meet the rigorous standards.

In 2006, the SWGC began the task of creating a Level 1 Arboretum at Chucalissa. The SWGC spent considerable time and effort in identifying and labeling 30 different species of trees. The goal of the project is to present a representative sample of trees from bottomland forests as an educational experience for both school groups and the general public during their visit to Chucalissa.

Guided tours of the Chucalissa site, arboretum, and nature trail will be offered every hour, on the hour, on Saturday October 4. Be certain to pick up Arboretum Brochure, available at the Museum reception desk, for an easy to follow map and detailed information about each tree specimen and its use by American Indians of the past and modern industry today.

..... from the Director

We anticipate that October will be our busiest month of the year at the C.H. Nash Museum. Besides the dedication of the Chucalissa Arboretum on October 3, we will host two of our regular annual events - Heritage Days for schoolchildren October 21st through the 24th and the Southeastern Indian Heritage Festival on the weekend of October 25th and 26th. Both events have long been favorites of Memphians who visit the C.H. Nash Museum. See Page 2 of this newsletter for more details on the festivities.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - If you can provide a few hours of your time to assist at either Heritage Days or the Heritage Festival, Please contact Jenn Graham at jmgramham@memphis.edu for more information on our volunteer needs.

In November we will launch our audio tours at the C.H. Nash Museum, thanks to a generous gift from the Friends of Chucalissa. The audio tour will enhance our visitors experience beyond the regularly scheduled guided tours of the museum and site. A tremendous advantage of the system we purchased is the ability of the individual visitor to determine how much detail they wish to receive at any station along the tour. For example, at the Sinti garden, the visitor can learn about basics of plant use by the American Indians who lived at Chucalissa, or if they choose, "drill down" deeper into the station's audio information for the latest on the origins of domesticates not just in the Southeastern United States but throughout the New World. We believe this audio tour system will allow us to address the interests of the diverse range of visitors to the C.H. Nash Museum.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you with suggestions or comments about the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa. I can be reached by phone at 901-785-3160 or via e-mail at: rconnolly@memphis.edu

- Robert Connolly



Upcoming Events

Heritage Days - October 21 -24

Heritage Days are an opportunity for school children to experience the rich traditions of the American Indian cultures of the Midsouth. In addition to craft activities, students participate in demonstrations of Indian weapons, and other aspects of daily life. Each day features a program of regional wildlife, American Indian dancing and storytelling. Only a few spaces remain for this event - make your reservation now by calling 901-785-3160 ext. 10.

Southeastern Indian Heritage Festival - October 25 - 26

This year we moved the Southeastern Indian Heritage Festival to October to avoid the August heat and provide a more pleasant visitor experience for this outdoor event. As always, the festival will feature a stickball tournament, social dances, traditional music, artist booths, children's games, and Native American food. This year's Festival schedule is as follows:

Saturday October 25, 2008

9:00am	Gate Opens
9:15am	Opening Remarks
9:30am	Storytelling/Flute Music
10:30am	Plains Style Dance Demonstration
11:30am	Stickball Demonstration
12:00pm	Choctaw Indian Gospel Singing
1:00pm	Choctaw Indian Social Dance
2:00pm	Plains Style Dance
3:00pm	Choctaw Indian Stickball Game
5:00pm	Museum Closes

Sunday October 26, 2008

12:30pm	Gate Opens
1:00pm	Plains Style Dance Demonstration
2:00pm	Choctaw Indian Social Dance
3:00pm	Choctaw Indian Stickball Game
5:00pm	Museum Closes

Black Indians film showing - November 9, 2:00 PM

Black Indians: An American Story, narrated by James Earl Jones will be shown in the Museum Theatre, followed by a discussion. This award winning film explores the past and present relationships of the African American and American Indian communities. The film focuses on the dynamics that have both brought the groups together in common bond and also driven them apart. The *Black Indians* was given the Award of Distinction at the Indian Summer Festival of 2005 and the Best Documentary Award at the Native American Music Awards. The showing is free and open to the public



Chickasaw Exhibits Opening

On the evening of September 5, three new exhibits featuring the Chickasaw Nation made their debut at the C.H. Nash Museum. A set of banner exhibits in the main hall feature text and photo displays of many aspects of the Chickasaw Nation culture. A second exhibit, pictured above, highlights objects of the Nation's material culture. A third exhibit in the Museum Theater traces the history of the Chickasaw Nation from creation to the present day.

We are honored that the first two exhibits were especially created for permanent loan to the C.H. Nash Museum. The third exhibit will remain at our Museum through November of this year.

On the evening of the opening, Regina Berna, Director of Museums and Historic Sites for the Chickasaw Nation spoke on renowned Chickasaw artist Tom Phillips who portrayed many critical historic junctures in Chickasaw history in his paintings. Ann Fink, Manager of the Council House Museum, led us through a virtual tour of the Tishomingo museum that highlights the contributions of prominent members of the Chickasaw Nation from the early historic period to the present day.

For more information about the Chickasaw History, Museums and Culture visit: <http://www.chickasaw.net>

Our Mission - As an integral component of the University of Memphis, the mission of the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa is to protect and interpret the Chucalissa archaeological site for the benefit of the University community and the public, to provide high quality educational experiences on past and present Native American cultures of the Mid-South, and to pursue new knowledge of these cultures through research as part of the University's explicitly multicultural and multiethnic educational orientation.