



ITEC NEWS

"The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council"

Volume 21 Issue #2

June 2016

9th Annual Environmental Festival

ITEC MEMBER TRIBES

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribe
- Apache Tribe
- Caddo Nation
- Cherokee Nation
- Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Comanche Nation
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Delaware Nation
- Delaware Tribe
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe
- Fort Sill Apache
- Iowa Tribe
- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Kaw Nation
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Kickapoo Tribe
- Kiowa Tribe
- Miami Tribe
- Modoc Tribe
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Osage Nation
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- Ottawa Tribe
- Pawnee Nation
- Peoria Tribe
- Ponca Tribe
- Pueblo of Laguna
- Pueblo of Pojoaque
- Pueblo of Santa Clara
- Pueblo of Taos
- Pueblo of Tesuque
- Quapaw Tribe
- Sac & Fox Nation
- Seminole Nation
- Seneca-Cayuga Tribe
- Shawnee Tribe
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- Tonkawa Tribe
- Wichita & Affiliated Tribes
- Wyandotte Nation
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
- Zuni Tribe

The Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department hosted their 9th Annual Environmental Festival at the Tribal Pow-wow Grounds on Thursday, May 5th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There were 12 booths, with representation from 8 tribes (Miami, Ottawa, Eastern Shawnee, Peoria, Seneca Cayuga, Cherokee, Quapaw, and Wyandotte), 2 State Parks (Bernice and Twin Bridges) NRCS, and The Missouri Audubon Society.



There were a total of 25 employee volunteers from the Wyandotte Nation that assisted throughout the day. The various tribes, agencies and volunteers are what help continue to make the festival a huge success.

The weather was beautiful and a great day was had by all. Wyandotte Public Schools are always enthusiastic about having their students participate in this event. There were 26 teachers, 7 teacher aides, 3 bus drivers, 487 students, and 8 general public attendees at the event.



Each year the Tribe tries to expand the festival and have something that is suitable for all ages. This year the Peoria Tribe brought their FEMA Safety Trailer and talked to the students grades 4 – 8 about tornado safety. NRCS brought a portable soil erosion table that showed the students the importance of proper crop planting and the prevention of soil and crop erosion.



19th Annual Tribal Environmental Summit

The 19th Annual Tribal Environmental Summit was held on April 13-15, 2016 at the Wyndham Dallas Suites Hotel in Dallas, TX. The General Assembly opened with the presentation of colors being posted by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard. Opening songs were performed by Jimmy Reader.

Ron Curry, EPA Region 6 Regional Administrator, provided the welcoming address. Governor Michael Chavarria with the Pueblo of Santa Clara provided the RTOC update. Evaristo Cruz with Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo provided the NTOC update and Curtis Munoz with Kiowa Tribe provided the Tribal Science Council update.

EPA presented the EPA Environmental Excellence Awards, which recognize individuals who have conducted outstanding service in environmental areas. This year's recipients included: Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Pueblo of Tesuque, Pueblo of Zia, Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, and Choctaw Nation. There were approximately 225 attendees which included representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 Tribes, various tribal organizations, environmental consultants and environmental organizations. Equipment manufacturers displayed exhibitor booths at this year's Summit.



2016



2016



IN THE DIRECTORS CORNER:

By—Bernardino Chavarria

Santa Clara Pueblo Environmental Programs

Where is the Santa Clara Pueblo Community located? Santa Clara Pueblo is located in Northern New Mexico on the west side of the Rio Grande, approximately 30 miles north of Santa Fe.

How many community members are served by the Environmental department? There are 2544 persons in the service area of Santa Clara Pueblo in 450 homes. The land base is 55,000 acres.

How long have you been the Environmental Director? I was appointed acting director in September of 2013 and was hired as full time director in June 2014. Before that I worked in the Office of Environmental Affairs in various capacities since June of 1996. I began as a part time Solid Waste Technician. There are currently 9 other staff members in the office who each contribute to carrying out the duties and functions of the programs in a professional manner. The staff are: Gilbert Gutierrez – Field Team Leader, Ernestine Naranjo – GIS/GPS and Data Management, Jake Naranjo – Field Technician, Brian Suazo – Ground/Surface Water Technician, Kevin Tafoya – Air/Soil Technician, Rose Suazo – Budget Analyst/Contracts Manager, Orville Garcia – Transfer Station Operator, Benedict Tapia, Transfer Station Operator and Shawn Chato – Water Quality Coordinator.

What are the primary environmental concerns that affect your tribal community? We border a National Nuclear Laboratory which poses many concerns. Santa Clara Pueblo is one of 4 Pueblos with an accord signed with the Department of Energy which outlines programs to conduct environmental surveillance. The Pueblo has had 4 Presidential declared disaster declarations due to catastrophic fire and flooding. The impact from these disasters is immense and it will take many decades to recover. Our office plays a small role in a very large comprehensive recovery effort led by the Governor and Los Conchas Fire team. Our high quality cold water fisheries were devastated by the fire and flooding so Water Quality monitoring is vital to determining how the waters are adapting. Non-point Source Pollution Prevention projects are a key component to helping improve water quality. The Pueblo is also impacted by the North Railroad Avenue Plume Superfund site. Illegal dumping is a big issue in the rural areas of Santa Clara Pueblo.

As an Environmental Tribal Director tell us what you enjoy most about your work? The best things about work are working together with the staff to address some highly complex issues regarding the environment in Santa Clara Pueblo. Occasionally we get to work with the Senior Citizen Center or Santa Clara Pueblo K-6th grade school and see the students burst with energy and enthusiasm about making the environment better in the community. Being able to directly help a community member by answering a question, accepting their electronic or hazardous waste, serving as a repository for recycling plastic containers or servicing as a resource for a school project are all tasks that give value to the work we do in the Pueblo.

Interacting with other tribes is one of the best ways to increase technical capacity and meeting other staff and learning of their programs and projects is always inspiring.



What are some of your future plans for your tribe's environmental programs to address tribal environmental needs or concerns? The office will be looking at acquiring more resources to do further restoration in the tributaries to the Santa Clara Creek to help further with the Las Conchas Fire recovery efforts. Also we are entering into the second 5-year phase with remediation of the NRAP Superfund site and will continue working with the New Mexico Environment Department to monitor the plume.

What have been your biggest challenges? I think the biggest challenges as a program are balancing the administrative requirements necessary for grants management with the field work and community interaction that is needed for onsite implementation. These tasks might seem to go hand in hand but they often conflict with each other. Lack of resources is a common barrier for so many programs so in that regard we are not unique. Protecting the water, land and air in a manner which enhances the culture and traditions of the Pueblo is an ongoing challenge which has been taken upon by our ancestors and is something we continue with strength and conviction.



Celebrate National Pollinator Week, June 20- 26, 2016!

These hard-working animals help pollinate over 75% of our flowering plants, and nearly 75% of our crops. Often we may not notice the hummingbirds, bats, bees, beetles, butterflies, and flies that carry pollen from one plant to another as they collect nectar. Yet without them, wildlife would have fewer nutritious berries and seeds, and we would miss many fruits, vegetables, and nuts, like blueberries, squash, and almonds . . . not to mention **chocolate** and **coffee**...all of which depend on pollinators.

WHY POLLINATORS ARE IMPORTANT

Pollinators, such as most bees and some birds, bats, and other insects, play a crucial role in flowering plant reproduction and in the production of most fruits and vegetables.

Examples of crops that are pollinated include apples, squash, and almonds. Without the assistance of pollinators, most plants cannot produce fruits and seeds. The fruits and seeds of flowering plants are an important food source for people and wildlife. Some of the seeds that are not eaten will eventually produce new plants, helping to maintain the plant population.

In the United States pollination by honey bees directly or indirectly (e.g., pollination required to produce seeds for the crop) contributed to over \$19 billion of crops in 2010. Pollination by other insect pollinators contributed to nearly \$10 billion of crops in 2010.

A recent study of the status of pollinators in North America by the National Academy of Sciences found that populations of honey bees (which are not native to North America) and some wild pollinators are declining. Declines in wild pollinators may be a result of habitat loss and degradation, while declines in managed bees is linked to disease (introduced parasites and pathogens).

How You Can Help

Pollinators need your help! There is increasing evidence that many pollinators are in decline. However, there are some simple things you can do at home to encourage pollinator diversity and abundance.

- 1) **Plant a Pollinator Garden**
- 2) **Provide Nesting Sites**
- 3) **Avoid or Limit Pesticide Use**

<http://www.pollinator.org>

<http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/>



TRAINING

8 Hour HAZWOPER Refresher



The 8 Hour HAZWOPER Refresher training was held at the Santa Clara Pueblo on June 15, 2016. There were 18 participants from the Pueblo of Tesuque, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Santa Clara Pueblo, Pueblo of Acoma, Jemez Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh, and Pueblo of Laguna. The focus of this training was Medical Monitoring, Toxicology, Chemical Safety/MSDS, Placards and Labeling, Spill Control, Emergency Procedures, Office Safety, Ergonomics, Personal Protective Equipment, and Decontamination.

Radon - "What is it?"



The Radon training was held at the Pueblo of Pojoaque on June 28, 2016. There were 13 participants from the Pueblo of Cochiti, Nambe Pueblo, Pueblo of San Ildefonso, Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Pueblo of Sandia, Santa Clara Pueblo, and Ohkay Owingeh. The focus of this training was physical/health effects of Radon, mitigation overview, Radon in New Mexico, and demonstration of test kits/monitors/sampling forms.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT INFORMATION
July 19-21, 2016	21st Annual ITEC Conference, Catoosa, Ok	www.itecmembers.org
August 15-18, 2016	2016 Tribal Lands & Environment Forum, Uncasville, Connecticut	http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_tlef
August 30-September 1, 2016	Region 6 Brownfields Conference, Dallas, TX	https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/epa-region-6-south-central-brownfields
September 20, 2016	19th Annual OKSCAUG Conference, Oklahoma City, OK	http://www.scaug.org/



REGION 6
BROWNFIELDS CONFERENCE
DALLAS, TEXAS
2016

Addison Conference Center

Plans are underway for a three-day event to bring together our grantees, interested communities and organizations, state and tribal partners, technical assistance grantees (selected to assist our communities), and federal partners for a interactive, learning and "growing your Brownfields program" event.

Mark your calendars, start planning your trip and be watching for more information.

Save the
AUGUST 30 — SEPTEMBER 1, 2016
Date

EPA

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*The Cherokee Nation Environmental Program (CNEP) publishes **ITEC News** each quarter. The mission statement is to protect the health of Native Americans, their natural resources, and their environment as it relates to air, land and water. To accomplish this mission, ITEC provides technical support, environmental services, and assistance in developing Tribal environmental programs to the member Tribes.*

The viewpoints contained in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the USEPA or the CNEP/ITEC. Free and open discussion of all environmentally related issues is strongly encouraged. We also encourage submission of letters, comments, and articles from readers so as to promote a greater awareness among our people about environmental issues and to foster the free exchange of information, technology, and culturally relevant values of Tribal people.

Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs

Inter-Tribal Environmental Council

P.O. Box 948

Tahlequah, OK 74465

Phone: 918-453-5009

Fax: 918-453-2904

The ITEC NEWS gladly accepts and encourages your Tribal environmental information for upcoming issues and events. If you wish to contribute any articles in the next issue or for questions about this newsletter, please call 1-800-259-5376 to contact Karen Dye (Karen-dye@cherokee.org).



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PO Box 948

Tahlequah, OK 74465

918-453-5009

Fax 918-453-2904

