

*“The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council”*

**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 Tribe  
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 Nation  
Sac & Fox Nation  
Seminole Nation  
Seneca-Cayuga Nation  
Shawnee Tribe  
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town  
Tonkawa Tribe  
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes  
Wyandotte Nation  
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo  
Zuni Tribe

## **Otoe-Missouria OMED- Network Exchange Program**

Host Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System (AWQMS) Update/ Refresher Training

*Courtesy of: Garland Kent, Jr., Otoe- Missouria Tribe*

Garland Kent, Jr., Network Exchange Assistant, along with Teresa Turner, Quality Water Specialist, and contractor Gold Systems, has worked the past year to organize South-Central Environmental Data Exchange Network, (SCEDEN) Tribal Consortium. SCEDEN currently consists of 7 tribes, Tonkawa Tribe, Iowa Tribe, Comanche Nation, Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes, Kickapoo of Oklahoma, Kickapoo of Kansas, and Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians.

Reaching out to the consortium, each tribe was asked what was needed since everyone has experienced over a year of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Each tribe had used or at was at least familiar AWQMS Data System for their water data throughout the Pandemic period. However, they felt the need for an AWQMS Refresher.

On August 24-25, 2021, at First Council Casino and Hotel, Newkirk, OK, the OMED Network Exchange program hosted a long awaited, AWQMS Update/Refresher. We were fortunate and honored to have Kayla Gower and Molly Dolan, from Gold Systems, make the long trip from Salt Lake City, to be our instructors.

The training was well represented by 5 of the 7 tribes, Tonkawa Tribe, Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribe, Kickapoo of Oklahoma, Kickapoo of Kansas, and the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians. COVID precautions were taken by the OMED, First Council and attendees. With the many new faces, everyone greatly appreciated the one-on-one support and the opportunity to meet Gold Systems and other consortium members. From all the tribes and Gold Systems, their response was that the AWQMS Update/Refresher training was a great success.

Network Exchange Program and Gold Systems recently had a follow-up on the August 2021 AWQMS Refresher. It was decided, with the excellent response from the consortium, the Network Exchange Program, along with Gold Systems would host another 2-day training in the Spring of 2022, at First Council Casino, Newkirk, OK. We are putting out an invite to other tribes to come and attend this 2-day training to see what Gold Systems, (AWQMS), has to offer. For further information, contact Garland Kent, Jr. at 580-723-4466, ext.- 197, or email [gkentjr@omtribe.org](mailto:gkentjr@omtribe.org).



AWQMS Training, Front Row: (L TO R), Halla Rezgui, April Warrior, Alicia Redhat, Chieko Buffalo, Kara Davis, Teresa Turner, Nestoria Wright, Tiffany Flores, Molly Dolan, (Gold Systems). Back Row: Darren Shields, Garland Kent, Jr., Not pictured, Kaya Gower, (Gold Systems).





## **United Keetoowah Band Wood Recycling**

*Courtesy of: Julie Brison, United Keetoowah Band*

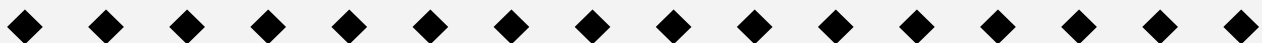
The United Keetoowah Band (UKB) Environmental Services & Historical Preservation Department is currently aiding citizens with fallen trees. If you have a tree that is down due to a natural disaster and/or is impairing access to your home, we can help. We have a trained crew that will come and cut your fallen trees and then recycle them to those in need. If you or anyone you know could benefit from the Wood Recycling Program, please contact the UKB Environment Services & Historic Preservation Department.

All wood that is cut and collected by our Wood Recycling Crew becomes the property of the UKB Environmental Services and will be used for our UKB Recycled Wood program. Please contact us at 918-871-2825 for more information. The UKB Environmental Services Department is also in search of hickory nut donations for our use in teaching the practice of making kvnvchi. Kvnvchi (Kuh-nuh-chee) is an ancient nut soup made by Southeastern Indians for thousands of years. Nut soups proved to be a stable food source in winter months for early hunter gatherers, providing vital fats and nutrition. Made from the nuts produced by hickory trees, kvnvchi is considered a delicacy that today has become difficult to find.

Accomplished kvnvchi-makers are few and far between, making procurement of kvnvchi balls challenging. Because kvnvchi is not sold in stores, you have two choices, (1) Seek out a kvnvchi ball maker or (2) gather your own hickory nuts and make your own.

It is the goal of UKB Environmental Services to create new opportunities for kvnvchi makers to gain access to hickory trees and hickory nuts so that tribal members will have more opportunities to make kvnvchi and teach the next generation the skills needed to keep this ancient tradition alive and in practice among the Keetoowah people.

If you know where some hickory trees are located or would like to donate to us for teaching how to process and make the oldest meal in this country, please let us know. Donations are greatly appreciated for both hickory nuts and wood.



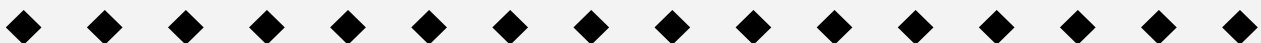
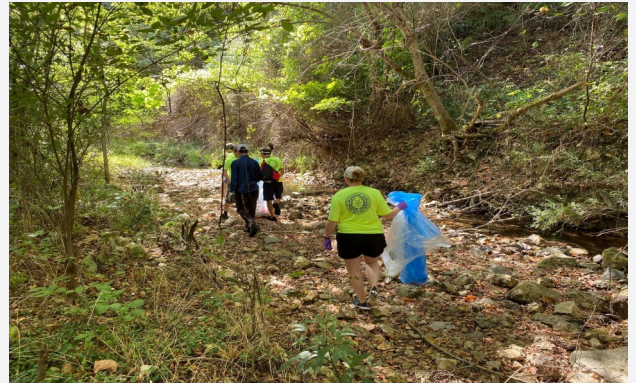




## Litter Cleanup Event 2021

On Friday, September 24, 2021 the Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs, Cherokee Nation Natural Resources and the City of Tahlequah held a litter cleanup event. The volunteers cleaned up the Tahlequah Town Branch Creek from the Community Garden behind the NSU Science Building to the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge at Felts Park. (Approximately a 1 mile stretch)

There were 380 pounds of trash collected, 40 pounds of plastic and 46 pounds of aluminum were also collected to be recycled. "It was a pleasure being able to work with Cherokee Nation in efforts to help keep our parks, streams and creeks clean! We only get one Earth so let's take care of it!" stated Mohamed Bassime, Tahlequah City Stormwater Manager. Thank you to all the volunteers and we hope to have another event in the future.



## **Cherokee Nation Battery Recycling**

During the last year, Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs (CNEP) has offered a battery recycling event as part of Earth Day and then recently started an in-office recycling program. Due to the success of these programs, a battery recycling station has now been set up at the Cherokee Nation – WW Keeler Main Complex located in Tahlequah, OK. Environmental Programs staff monitors the recycling boxes in their office and at the Main Complex on a regular basis. When the boxes are filled, they are mailed to a well-established recycling company that accepts all batteries and sends a copy of the recycling record to CNEP.

Offering this recycling option provides employees a place to safely dispose of used and unwanted batteries and cell phones while decreasing the amount of toxic materials that could potentially contaminate our landfills. Recycling batteries also promotes the reuse of materials to create something new and helps conserve our natural resources. Since October 1, 2021 Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs has already collected approximately 100 pounds of used batteries for recycling.

For more information on battery recycling please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle/used-household-batteries>







### Radon Action Month

January is National Radon Action Month. What is radon? Radon is a radioactive gas produced when uranium in soil decays; it can be found all over the United States. Radon gas moves up through the ground into your home through cracks and holes in the foundation, becoming trapped inside. The EPA estimates that about one out of every 15 homes has elevated radon levels. You can't see, smell, or taste radon, but it can be harmful—it is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States among the population as a whole, and the primary cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

Winter is a good time to test your home for radon. When windows and doors are sealed tightly, radon levels inside your home can rise. Testing is easy, inexpensive and only takes a few minutes. If you find high levels of radon in your home, the problem can be fixed! Some radon reduction systems can reduce levels in your home by up to 99%.

<https://www.neefusa.org/weather-and-climate/weather/radon-action-month>







## SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 2ND - 5TH, 2022  
TULSA, OK



## 22ND CONFERENCE

# National Tribal Forum on Air Quality

Hosted by the Muscogee Nation, a national conversation on how Tribes are implementing the Clean Air Act in partnership with the US EPA to improve air quality for our communities.

**Take the pre-registration survey [here!](#)**

- Tribal Professional Development
- Information-sharing
- Networking opportunities
- Current regulatory initiatives
- Technical information
- Share practical knowledge relevant to Tribal programs



## Upcoming ITEC Trainings:

**Phase I Assessment Training**—Virtual, January 11, 2022.

**Drone Registration and UAS Pilot Certification Process Training**—Virtual, February 2, 2022.

**Solid Waste Dump Assessment Training**—Virtual, March 3, 2022.

*More information about trainings will be sent out at a later date.*



**For more information about ITEC trainings contact:**

Karen Dye

Phone: 918-453-5109

Email: Karen-dye@cherokee.org



## **Check out ITEC's YouTube Channel:**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42GM\\_3wppOEPkgFEUj\\_CgQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42GM_3wppOEPkgFEUj_CgQ)

## **ITEC on the web**

Check out the ITEC webpage for information on upcoming events, training and newsletters.

*Please visit us at:*

**[www.itecmembers.org](http://www.itecmembers.org)**







## ITEC NEWS

*“The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council”*

*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.*

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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 1-918-453-5109 or contact Karen Dye at: [Karen-dye@cherokee.org](mailto:Karen-dye@cherokee.org).

