Inter-tribal Canoe Journey - for Our Past, Present & Future

The Inter-tribal Canoe Journey is an annual event that brings together thousands of travelers, more than 15 tribal canoe groups, and at least 20 Native American and First Nation communities. It is an opportunity to foster unity and healthful living through culture with a special emphasis on Native youth. In his article, The Great Canoes, David Neel writes, “The canoe is a metaphor for community: in the canoe, as in any community everyone must work together. Paddling or “pulling” as a crew over miles of water requires respect for one another and a commitment to working together, as the old people did.”

Last year was the first year the Chinook Tribe participated in the Inter-tribal Canoe Journey. We began in Squaxin Island and concluded in Lower Elwha. This was done as a combined canoe family with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Many Chinook Tribal Members participated in making our first splash at the journey a success. Diana Ray, Chinook Tribal Member, had this to share of her experience in the 2005 Canoe Journey, “It was so moving to sit respectfully in a canoe at Tse-Whit-Zen village after 10 days of paddling. Such physical effort was worth the honor of supporting the Lower Elwha’s struggle to preserve the remains of their ancestral village. Learning about how to ask permission to land and being able to participate in presentations at each host site was a profound experience. My hope is that Chinook youth and families will find the strength and courage to participate and carry on this vital tradition. Ancestors ride in the canoe with you.”

Planning for our participation in the 2006 Canoe Journey is already underway. This year the Inter-tribal Canoe Journey will culminate with 4 days of presentations by participating tribes at Muckleshoot near Seattle. It is yet to be determined where the Chinook/Grand Ronde Canoe Family will begin their 2006 journey. Some of the possibilities include starting at: Lower Elwha (where the journey ended last year), Neha Bay or up in Vancouver, BC with the Squamish Nation. You will need to keep the following dates in mind if you need to schedule time off from work and/or make other household arrangements: final destination and presentations at host tribe Muckleshoot during July 31st, 2006-August 4th, 2006 and 1-2 weeks traveling time to Muckleshoot from starting point (to be determined).

If you are interested in participating in the 2006 Inter-tribal Canoe Journey, please contact the tribal office at (360) 777-8303 or chinookt-n@willapabay.org to find out more about the journey and when the next Chinook/Grand Ronde Canoe Family meeting is scheduled. We will need support boats (fishing or cruise boats with facility are best) and committed ground crew members in addition to a steady crew of canoe pullers.

The Pink Paddle Project: There is also an inter-tribal all-female Breast Cancer Survivor canoe organizing for this year’s journey. If you or someone you know has been affected by breast cancer, and you’d like to get involved with the Pink Paddle Project, please contact: Roberta Kimberly • 3080 Lower Elwha Rd. • Port Angeles, WA 98363 • 452-8471 x205

Honoring Marcheta ‘Keta’ Van Patten

While serving as our Enrollment Officer, Marcheta dedicated many hours towards ensuring that tribal enrollment stayed on track. Her mission to eliminate unresolved enrollment cases was cut short when Marcheta was diagnosed with cancer last year, which forced her to step down from her position with the tribe. In her usual good-natured persevering spirit, Marcheta is beating cancer and has completed treatment cancer-free. It’s that same good-natured persevering spirit that we’ve all come to know and love.

Anyone who has met Marcheta knows what a wonderful person she is. Jen Lagergren recently had this to share about her co-worker and friend. “I have had the pleasure of working with Marcheta for a total of 1 1/2 yrs now. I can honestly say that she is the sweetest, most honest person I have ever known. She has been the most helpful and trusted co-worker that anyone can ask for. I’ll miss you in the office Marcheta, but I know that your family can’t wait to spend more time with you! Thanks for your friendship and caring. Love you, Jen.” — continued on the next page

Chinook Commemoration - A Huge Success

This past November, the Chinook Indian Nation hosted a hugely successful 4-day Chinook Nation Commemoration Festival on the grounds of the old Chinook School. The festival opened with a ceremony in honor of our Veterans during which the gym was packed to standing room only. That same day, we served 500+ free alder-smoked dinners to our guests.

Each and every day of the festival was filled with the songs of a large Chinook/Grand Ronde drumming group. There were special presentations of Chinookan culture and language by tribal members, guest performances by two separate Lewis and Clark re-enactment groups, an exceptional copper ring honoring ceremony for the participants in the 2005 Inter-
Chairman’s Update - March ‘06

It is important to celebrate the good news that comes to Chinook Indian Country everyday

The Chinook Nation Commemoration Event that was held from November 11th through November 14th was the biggest Event held by the Chinook Nation in many, many years. Hundreds of volunteers made thousands of visitors welcome to our office building, the Chinook gymnasium, and a very large tent. Featured activities included a Veteran’s Honoring, the Copper Ring Ceremony for tribal canoe journey participants, Chinook Cultural Speakers, visits by three Lewis and Clark re-enactments groups, daily gifting, cultural displays, daily Salmon Dinners, and many songs by the Chinook 100 drum group.

The Chinook Preservation Fund received a twenty five thousand dollar anonymous gift on February 23rd. The tribe will continue fund raising so that we can clarify our status with the federal government. The tribe has been pushing the Office of Federal Acknowledgement to return all Chinook Nation Records. The OFA has returned seven boxes of tribal records in recent months and has committed to mailing more documents in March. The money and documents will be used in our re-recognition efforts.

The Chinook Cultural Committee held our Annual Winter Gathering at the Cathlapotle Plankhouse on January 21st. Drummers and singers from Grand Ronde, Duwamish, and Cowlitz joined us to celebrate our Chinook Winter Gathering. The ways of our ancestors were brought forward with story, songs, drums, dancing, and traditional foods.

On January 7th a General Council Meeting was held to discuss tribal options regarding our Middle Village and the construction of the new Lewis and Clark (Station Camp) National Park. The Chinook voted to protect our old village site and the newly discovered graves by stopping a new highway realignment. On February twentieth and twenty-first work was completed that protects our ancestor’s graves. Members of the Tribal Council met with Congressman Brian Baird on February 23rd to discuss re-recognition and Middle Village issues. On March 6, a meeting will be held with the Governor and several state agencies regarding this park project.

Marcheta Van Patten has recently retired from the position of Chinook enrollment officer. Keta represents all that is good about our Chinook elders. She is a caring, quite, thoughtful, giving person who is highly capable at her chosen work. We have been blessed to have Keta work in our office and then volunteer countless hours to making our activities and events successful. Husband Ray Van Patten has been the ultimate volunteer always working hard to support the needs of the Chinook. We will always be grateful for the good hearts and the good ways of our friends: hayu masie Marcheta and Ray.

With respect, Your chairman, Gary Johnson

Honoring ‘Keta’ - continued

We’ve not only been extremely fortunate to have Marcheta’s extraordinary contributions to the tribe but have also benefited tremendously from her husband Ray Van Patten’s support. Both Marcheta and Ray have helped the tribe whenever and wherever they could. Council Representative, Sam Robinson, had this to say about these two incredible people.

“I feel honored to have friends like Marcheta and Ray. They are warm and have very caring hearts. It is people like this young couple that not only make it enjoyable being in the Tribe but also make the world a better place. I would like to say MASI MASI to you both!”

It’s in this spirit that we wish both Marcheta and Ray well in the times to come. You’re in our hearts and prayers. We are honored to have you in our lives. We love you and take care! Many, many thanks from your friends and relations at the Chinook Tribe.

Job Opening - Office Assistant

The Chinook Tribe is working with Western Washington Indian Education & Training Program to provide temporary training for tribal members. This position is available to any Native American, including Alaskan Indian or those of Hawaiian descent, 18 years +, who live in Washington State. Presently, this position will be assisting the office manager. This position is clerical in nature, and will involve typing, filing, phones, mail, minor reports, and copying. Additional duties will include assisting with the food bank clients, stocking shelves, preparing food boxes, and general office maintenance.

There are no benefits available. Hours and days of this position will be discussed at the interview. This job will pay $7.63 per hour.

For more information or an application, contact the tribal office at 360-777-8303 or email at chinook-n@willapabay.org

Chinook Health Update

The Health/Social Service Committee has been working on several projects this year. Since the Murdock Grant did not materialize through the SW Washington Health Alliance the Health Committee has been looking at some other options to provide health care to our Tribal People. Because we are not a Recognized Tribe we are somewhat limited for resources. The SW Washington Health Alliance is looking at other options that they might also be able to assist us with. One option is to have a multi functional building set up with aspects of Cultural, Education, Wellness, Elders Center, Child Care, a Tribal Office and Health and Wellness all in the same building. Another option is for a Mobile Health Van.

The Health/Social Service Committee is also working on a Health and Social Services Resource Manual to be placed in the office and updated regularly. This is for anyone who is in need of Health and Social Services and can be helped by the counties that they live in until we have our own Health/Social Service Clinic. You will be able to call the Tribal Office to find out information that might be available in your county.

The Health/Social Service Committee also continues to monitor the social service issues of our children in the Chinook Tribe.

The Health Alliance has also written a letter of support for Chinook Recognition. The Health Alliance is made up of delegates from the Nisqually Tribe, Chehalis Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Cowlitz Tribe as well as our own Tribe. The Health Alliance is sending this letter to Senators of Washington & Oregon, Senators Patty Murray, Ron Wyden, & Gordon Smith, the Representatives of Washington and Oregon, Representatives Brian Baird, Adam Smith, David Woo, Earl Blumenhaur, and also Representative Frank Palone from New Jersey. Dr. Charles Grin, Director of Indian Health Service, Governors Christine Gregoire of Washington & Ted Kulongoski of Oregon and the National Congress of American Indians.

We continue to serve the Tribal Members to promote the health and well being of our Tribal Community.

We encourage all Tribal Members to send personally written letters to these people (BOLD type above) to encourage their support of the Chinook Tribe’s recognition. You can get many of the address by calling the Congressional Switchboard at 202-225-3121 or e-mail Jane@NautilusDesign.biz and she’ll be happy to send you a list of addresses.
Who Owns the “Quinault” Reservation?

Did you know that the land was intended to be owned exclusively by individuals and was never intended to be owned by a tribe. It was given to individual Indians from nine different tribes so they might live more like the whites.

The Treaty of Olympia in 1855 - 1856 created the original 10,000 acres for the Quinault Reservation. It was made between the United States and the “Qui-nai-elt and Quil-leh-ute” people. In that treaty Article 2 provided for a reservation; Article 3 provided the right of taking fish at usual and accustomed places; Article 6a) said that the U.S. Government could consolidate the Quinaults and Quilleutes with other friendly Tribes and Bands; and Article 6 h) said that the whole or any portion of the lands reserved could be surveyed into lots and given to Individuals.

President U.S. Grant signed an Executive Order on November 4, 1873 that ordered that the reserve created in accordance of the Treaty of Olympia be expanded to 220,000 acres and be “set apart for the use of the Quinaielt, Quillehute, Hoh, Quit, and other tribes of fish eating Indians on the Pacific coast.”

In 1887 congress passed the Dawes Act or General Allotment Act. This act divided Native American reservation land into parcels that were to be given (allotted) to individual Indians, not tribes. This was intended to weaken tribal structures by encouraging the development of individually-owned farms. The act was also supposed to protect Native American ownership of reservation lands.

Allotments of land on the Quinault Reservation began in 1907. It is interesting that many Allottees are erroneously listed as Quinault when in fact they are not.

In the 1924 Supreme Court case United States v. Payne confirmed that the Quilleutes were eligible for allotments. It says that the allotments may be used as a place to build permanent homes. “Payne, an Indian of the Quillehute (Quilleute) tribe, brought suit in the federal District Court for the Western District of Washington to determine his right to an allotment of an 80-acre tract of land in the Quinaielt (Quinault) Indian Reservation in that state... The treaty with the Quillehute and other Indians, made in 1855, among other things, provides for the removal and settlement of these Indians upon a reservation to be selected for them by the President, and for the payment by the United States of $2,500 to clear, fence, and break up a sufficient quantity of land for cultivation... The President is authorized by Article 6 of the treaty, at his discretion, to cause the reserved lands to be surveyed and assign the same to individual Indians or families for permanent homes on the same terms and under the same conditions as are provided in Article 6 of the treaty with the Omahas, concluded in 1854.”

Halbert v. United States 1931. Says that Chehalis, Chinook and Cowlitz tribal members, the other tribes of fish eating Indians, are eligible to receive allotments on the Quinault reservation.

Preparing for the Canoe Journey

by Jeanne Johnson

For centuries, whenever our people faced something challenging, scary or difficult, they prepared and strengthened themselves so they would be successful. Our Canoe Family is already in the planning stages for the annual Tribal Canoe Journey this August. There will be some things required that you will need to do in preparation for your own safety and success. Attend our canoe family meetings and/or contact the tribal office to get your name on the list as a puller or part of the ground crew. We can’t get there without the pullers or the ground crew. Look for every opportunity to practice paddling from now until then. Learn our songs. When we are pulling for hours in open water battling the tide, the wind, the ferry schedules and their chop, you need to be strong, focused and brave by pulling and singing together with your crew.

Join us for a day, a week, or the entire journey. Camp at a different reservation each night. Sing and dance with all the tribes. Experience first hand what our people did for centuries. Reclaim your heritage. It is a life changing experience.

Canoe Journey

by Diana Ray

Blue but red and black
sun’s rise hello
I love you.

Pumping
hour after hour still pumping
I love it.

Strange no!
novel sight
I know it.

Don’t tell me
tell me Yes

I am ancient I am new

Transcendent
in a word
transporting
all know it – you know it.

Commemoration - continued

tribal Canoe Journey, gifting by the Chinook Nation and the Potlatch Circle, raffles, door-prizes, and delicious alder-smoked salmon dinners served daily.

The Chinook Indian Nation hosted several thousand visitors over the 4-day celebration of our people. The success of this event wouldn’t have been possible without the help of a long list of Chinook Tribal Members, our family and friends.

Hiyu Masi [Many Thanks] for your generous donations and volunteer contributions! See the list of our generous donors and volunteers on the next page.
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Johnson & Son Excavation
Riparian Productions, Inc
Beacon Charters
Tom Brown
Naselle Rock & Asphalt Co
Safeway
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Arise & Shine Ministries
Cynthia Briggs
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The Evergreen State College
Diane & Steve Gervais
Hamilton Engine Sales
Lewis & Margaret Jeaudoin
Charity Kersteller
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Jeanne Johnson
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Tony Johnson

Hiyu Masi [many thanks] For Your Generous Donations and Volunteer Contributions!

Special Thanks to: National Park Service and the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration’s Circle of Tribal Advisors (COTA) for providing grant support for the Chinook Nation Commemoration Festival.

Chinook Tribe • Chinook Nation
P.O. Box 228
Chinook, WA 98614

Important Dates...
May 6th - Council Meeting*
11 am Ilwaco Heritage Museum, Ilwaco
*Brief meeting due to Loyalty Day Dinner on same day.
June 16th - First Salmon Ceremony
11 am Chinook Point (Ft. Columbia)
June 17th - Annual Meeting
11 am South Bend School cafeteria