



# ITEC NEWS

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

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September 2016

## 18<sup>th</sup> National Tar Creek Conference

Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs Staff attended the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tar Creek National Environmental Conference. The conference was held at the Miami Civic Center on September 12<sup>th</sup> - September 14<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year's conference was "The Creek Runs Through It". Some of the topics that were discussed during the conference were: EPA Updates, Fracking and Earthquakes in Oklahoma, Quapaw Tribe Remedial Efforts on Tribal lands, Quapaw Bee Project, Environmental Climate Issues and Standing Rock, Lead Discussion and Subsequent Criminal Behaviors, and Reading of the Comanche Contemporary Coyote Tale "Coyote Visits Home". There was a wide variety of different topics, and many of great speakers. During the conference, there were several different awards given out to individuals recognized their efforts to make a difference. There were great door prizes too! This conference is a great way for people to learn a little more about what is going on at Tar Creek, and what the Tribes and EPA are doing to manage the issues.

### 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



# 21st Annual ITEC Conference

The 21st Annual Inter-Tribal Environmental Council Conference was held on July 19-21 2016 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Ca-toosa, OK. The General Assembly opened with the presentation of colors being posted by the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard. Opening songs were performed by Robert Crowles and Singers.

Ja-Li-Si Pittman, Miss Cherokee 2016, provided the welcome by signing a hymn in Cherokee. Shawn Howard with the Citizen Potawato-mi Nation provided the NTOC update. ITEC staff provided various ITEC program updates during the Annual ITEC Meeting.

There were approximately 213 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 conference.



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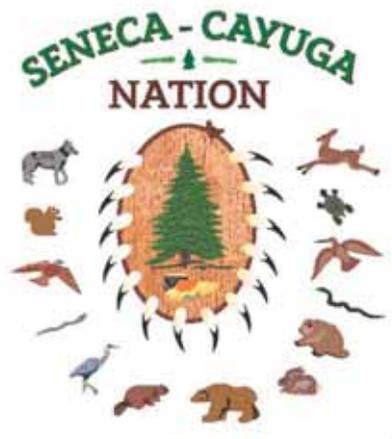
## **IN THE DIRECTORS CORNER:**

*By— Rick DuBois*

### *Seneca Cayuga Nation Environmental Programs*

#### **Where is the Seneca Cayuga Nation Community located?**

*In the Northeast corner of Oklahoma, bounded by the Wyandotte Nation on the North, Missouri on the East, Grand Lake and the Cherokee Nation on the West, and the Cherokee Nation to the South.*



#### **How many community members are served by the Environmental department?**

*The Seneca-Cayuga Nation has approximately 5,000 enrolled members, approximately 1,000 of whom reside within the Tribal Jurisdiction.*

#### **How long have you been the Environmental Director?**

*I accepted this position in August of 2015, so I have been Director for just over 1 year.*

#### **What are the primary environmental concerns that affect your tribal community?**

*Water quality is the number one environmental issue that affects the Seneca-Cayuga community. Our tribal lands and waters are downstream of the Tri-State Mining District and the Tar Creek Superfund Site. Toxic heavy metals in the water and sediments pose health risks not only for direct human contact, but also impact culturally significant plants and animals. Secondary to water quality, Indoor Air Quality is a concern, Involving Mold, Radon gas, Asbestos and Lead-Based Paint. Climate Change Adaptation is a growing concern that will be addressed beginning this year.*

#### **As an Environmental Tribal Director tell us what you enjoy most about your work?**

*I enjoy the opportunity to work in a field that I'm passionate about, and to do my small part to protect and restore the natural environment to the benefit of the Seneca-Cayuga people and the entire community. The knowledge that the work I am doing now may benefit generations to come is immensely satisfying.*

#### **What are some of your future plans for your tribe's environmental programs to address tribal environmental needs or concerns?**

*In the future we will be planning for Climate Change Adaptation, as well as pursuing Culturally Significant Waters status for the waters that contact our Ceremonial Grounds. This year we are also expanding our Indoor Air Quality and Recycling programs. GIS services will also be expanding.*

#### **What have been your biggest challenges?**

*My biggest challenge thus far has simply been the learning curve over the last year, as I came into this position new to the Environmental field, and new to tribal government. I am indebted to the many folks within the Seneca-Cayuga Nation and the Environmental Departments of neighboring tribes for their mentoring and patience as I learned the ropes of working with EPA, NRDAR, etc.*

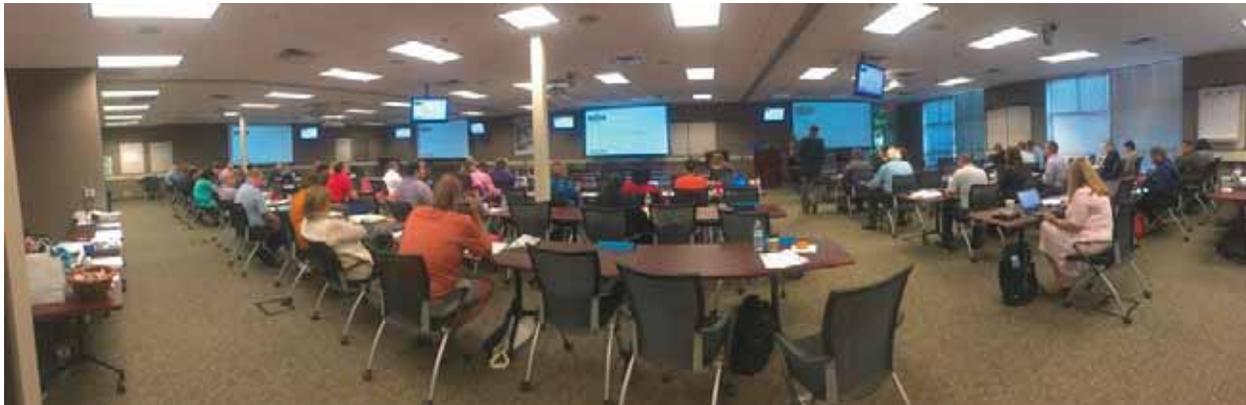


## Region 6 Brownfields Conference

The Region 6 Brownfields Conference was held August 30<sup>th</sup>-September 1<sup>st</sup> at the EPA Addison Conference Center in Addison Texas. The Region 6 Brownfields Conference had hands-on networking exercises, which were a great way for everyone to become familiar with one another. For example, each day there were 3- 5 sheets of paper on the wall and each one had a different word. And attendees were all told to put something on the sheets. A message was put on the blank sheet with sticky notes and there were two different colors: green and blue. The green sticky notes listed what the organization needed help with or what challenges they were facing. The blue notes were for accomplishments based on some of the challenges. At the end of the day the people that had wrote on the blue sticky notes meet up with the people that wrote on the green sticky notes, and they found ways to overcome their challenges with the help of other individuals and Programs in Region 6.



During the conference, attendees learned about different grants to help build communities, receive Technical Assistance Brownfields (TAB) help, and how to start a Brownfields program. On Tuesday, the Tribes that were in attendance were able to get together and share the progress of their Brownfields programs. Amber Howard and Blasé Leven were available for questions on different Brownfields topics. This was a great question answer session where the tribes received one-on- one participation. The community success stories were especially interesting. The restoration stories of downtown Little Rock were some of the best. Overall this conference was a great learning experience.



## IBRP Wants Your Sites

The ITEC Brownfields Response Program (IBRP) is here to help you. In order to do a better job at that, ITEC needs your help gathering site information. Staff is currently making a master list of all the possible Brownfields sites within the ITEC member tribe's service areas. If your tribe has a site that may be a potential Brownfields site, ITEC wants to know about it. Tribes are the ideal information source for the inventory since they are the most familiar with their own communities. Even if you are not sure what qualifies as a Brownfields site, send ITEC the site information and we can help determine if it is one. This is an ongoing list; so feel free to send site information to us now as well as in the future. For more details, please contact Sheila Sevenstar-Horn at [ssevenstar@cherokee.org](mailto:ssevenstar@cherokee.org) 918-453-5108.



# TRAINING

## PRP Search Training



The Inter-Tribal Environmental Council hosted a PRP Search Training for Tribes in Tahlequah, Oklahoma on August 9, 2016. EPA Region 6 Superfund Program Staff members Lydia Johnson, Lance Nixon and Stephen Capuyan presented this training to the Tribes. The training included 14 participants from 8 different Tribes. The training covered several topics such as title searches, corporate research and records management.



## Phase I Assessment Training



The Phase I Assessment training was held at the Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs Office on August 10-11, 2016. There were 13 participants from the Kickapoo Tribe, Apache Tribe, Cherokee Nation and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. The focus of this training was ASTM E-1527-13/AAI Standards, and the basic steps in conducting a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**DATE** **EVENT** **CONTACT INFORMATION**

November 14-17, 2016	7th Annual Northwest Climate Conference, Stevenson, AZ	<a href="http://pnwclimateconference.org/">http://pnwclimateconference.org/</a>
January 25-26, 2017	California Climate Change Symposium, San Francisco, CA	<a href="http://www.californiascience.org/">http://www.californiascience.org/</a>
March 8-10, 2017	National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program, Washington, DC	<a href="http://thenejc.org/">http://thenejc.org/</a>



<http://www.awra.org/meetings/Orlando2016/index.html>

## **ITEC News**

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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.*

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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 1-800-259-5376 to contact Karen Dye (Karen-dye@cherokee.org).**



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