

Kawé?kye 2014

SKARU:RE? MONTHLY



Energy Assistance Sign-Up Dates

Friday, February 7, 2014: 11AM-7PM

Saturday, February 8, 2014: 12PM-3PM

Tuscarora Nation will be providing annual energy assistance to help offset residential utility costs. Sign-ups are just around the corner.

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TUSCARORA ENVIRONMENT

Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force

SKARU:RE? MONTHLY

Volume 5, Issue 1 - January

COMING UP...

January 2014: *Interested in learning Cayuga language?* Classes starting this January in Niagara Falls, NY. FMI: Call Allan Jamieson at 716.603.4546 or email ajamieson1@roadrunner.com

January 25, 2014: *Snowshoe Adventure Hike Series with Earth Spirit*, Delaware Park, Buffalo, NY. 10:00am-12:30pm. \$15/non-members. Snowshoe through a variety of habitats focusing on showshoe skills, wildlife tracking and general winter ecology. Snowshoes will be provided. Registration limited. In the event of no snow, you'll walk. FMI: Earth Spirit, #716.941.6267.

February 27-28, 2014: *Sustaining the Reservation: Creating the Tribal Economies*, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. \$275, register by January 25th. This conference will continue the conversation and explore viable solutions how tribal governments and citizens can create sustainable economies that will help them preserve their reservations as permanent homelands for their families, governments and cultures. FMI: conferences.asucollegeoflaw.com/tribaleconomies/

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The **SKARU:RE? MONTHLY** is the official publication of the Tuscarora Environment Office. You can submit articles, artwork, photographs, editorials and letters of admiration to:

SKARU:RE? MONTHLY
c/o: Tuscarora Environment
5226E Walmore Road
Tuscarora Nation
Via: Lewiston, NY 14092
Or call: #716.264.6011

Visit the TEP website at:
www.tuscaroraenvironment.org
or
our Facebook page
"Tuscarora Environment"

Tuscarora Environment

Haudenosaunee Grand Council

Tuscarora Council of Chiefs and Clanmothers

HAUDENOSAUNEE ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE (HETF)

Oren Lyons, Political Co-Chair
Henry Lickers, Scientific Co-Chair

David Arquette, HETF Director
Noah Point, Assistant Director

TUSCARORA ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (TEP)

Neil Patterson Jr., Director
Rene Rickard-Printup, Administrator
Bryan Printup, GIS/Planning
Patti Fischer, Habitat Restoration
Waylon Wilson, Technician

Following the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Haudenosaunee held a Grand Council to discuss the environmental degradation of our communities. In accordance with the Great Law of Peace, the Grand Council passed and agreed, based on Haudenosaunee protocols and cultural beliefs, to establish the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force (HETF).

ON THE COVER:

Glances of Shenandoah Valley in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia. These photos were taken the first day of the hiking segment during the 2013 Tuscarora Migration Project. Elevation levels exceeded 4,000 feet and temperatures this day were between 30-40 degrees fahrenheit. For more information on this project visit www.TuscaroraMigration.org



TEP in the News

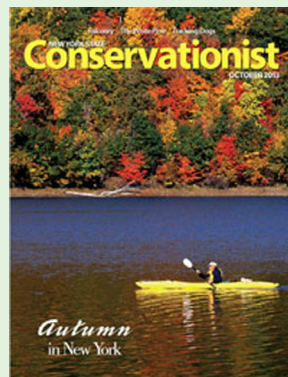


The December 2013 issue of **Canoe & Kayak Magazine** featured an article on the Two Row trip that TEP staff and interns participated in this summer. It features a nice picture of Director Neil Patterson Jr., Owen Chapman and Kimmy Hill, TEP interns who made the paddle.

<http://www.canoekayak.com/canoe/inside-line-onondaga-nation-chief-jake-edwards/>

The October 2013 issue of the **New York State Conservationist** features an article from TEP Director Neil Patterson Jr., entitled "Great Tree of Peace: The White Pine." The article is the first written by a Haudenosaunee author in The Conservationist in almost forty years.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/93445.html>



The **2013 Adirondack Life, Annual Guide to the Great Outdoors** features a six page article on the Native Earth Environmental Youth Camp in Cranberry Lake, NY, where TEP interns and Tuscarora community members have been attending since 2010. Two-time TEP Intern Owen Chapman is featured in the article photos entitled "Where the Land Is the Teacher," written by Robin Kimmerer, one of the camp's organizers.





By Bryan Printup



Gentlemen holding the Temperance Flag. Date unknown. Location unknown. Courtesy of G. Biron.



Canandaigua Treaty Celebration. Date unknown. Courtesy of S. Goater.

Water Testing Update

The environment program recently distributed results from private well water testing completed last winter. We found some errors in the letters issued to home owners regarding the sampling results. We apologize for this mistake and have issued additional notifications to verify results. If you have any questions about your results do not hesitate to call the environment program at 716.264.6011.

UNTITLED PROJECT

By Waylon Wilson



Send us your own comic submissions and see it published in our next newsletter! Stop by our office or email submissions to wwilson@hetf.org

Tuscarora Grassland Habitat Restoration Operation and Maintenance By Patti Fischer

Earlier this year, TEP was awarded a grant from the Habitat Ecological Restoration Fund (HERF) to restore and maintain, over the next 45 years, 200 acres of native warm season grasslands (NWSG). To date, 70 acres have been restored to NWSG.

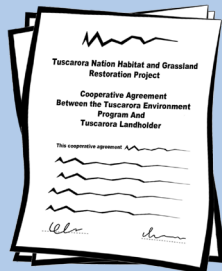
Benefits of restoring fallow ag fields to warm season grassland sites are:

- They were once native to Haudenosaunee territories
- Improve soil with organic matter
- Deep root systems (4-8 feet) stabilize soil
- Grow well on poor soils and do not require fertilizers or mowing
- Drought tolerant
- Provide high-quality wildlife habitat
- Provides quality pasture forage late in the summer
- Can help reduce soil erosion
- Improves the aesthetic quality of your land

Methodology

Tenant Agreement. Landholders are asked to allow sites to remain unused for a minimum of ten years. This amount of time follows Haudenosaunee agricultural practices and assures establishment of warm season grasses.

Cost: TEP will **restore** and **maintain** the site for a minimum of ten years or longer. Your cost: \$0, just an agreement not to use the field for 10 years.



Preassessment. To develop a data reference, each location will have parameters identified using a GPS (global positioning system). Sample plots (about 5 ft dia.) on the site will be



- photographed,
- assessed for trees, stumps and brush cover to determine amount of heavy equipment needed;
- and surveyed for vegetation type, soils, hydrology and wildlife.

Preassessment of a site is important because it provides a reference base to show field progression as it undergoes restoration.



Site Preparation. If the site has heavy brush/scrub growth and/or small trees, appropriate equipment will be used to clear the field before plowing.

Warm season grass seeds such as Switchgrass, Big bluestem, Little bluestem and Indiangrass, are typically very light and fluffy, therefore require a special seed drill when planting to ensure good seed to soil contact.



Maintenance and Management of Grassland Restoration Sites.

There are several phases to maintaining and managing restored grassland sites over the next several years.



These include assessing, replanting, mowing, and noxious weed control as necessary. The second to tenth year consists of replanting as needed and mowing to promote warm season grass growth. Assessments are taken during years 4, 6 and 9 to monitor and document growth of the restored grassland site.

Performance standards. How do you know if a grassland site has successfully been restored? According to the NRCS guide Vegetating with Native Grasses in Northeastern North America: “If a warm season grass stand has two strong plants per square foot (20 per



square meter) in June of the second year, the stand will be successful in the great majority of cases.” Assessments taken to determine success of warm season grass growth as well as other plant growth will be quantitative (percentage of growth) as well as qualitative (plant vigor). *~~~~~*

Water samples obtained from the Tuscarora Nation

By Chad Leading Fox

Recently, Tuscarora Environment Program (TEP) partnered with the US Indian Health Service (IHS) and provided testing for water delivered to homes via well. The major concern with the groundwater on the Nation is contamination that can affect the health. The tests evaluate water samples taken from taps within the household that use a well. Well water systems are dynamic and can have various results within a single day. The tests give people a general picture of water quality. Samples were analyzed for multiple elements, compounds and bacteria in 138 scattered wells throughout the reserve. Every well was tested for coliform bacteria (including *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)), pH levels, conductivity and salinity.

The presence of *E. coli* in drinking water has been the main concern for many residents. In a publication by *Environmental Health Perspective*, *E. coli Exposed*, writer W. Conard Holton describes *E. coli* as “a normal inhabitant of the intestines of all animals, including humans. It serves a useful function in the body by suppressing the

growth of harmful bacteria and by synthesizing vitamins. Holton expresses *E. coli* as a natural part of our digestive system and in its natural state can be beneficial. However when the bacteria is ingested in food or water it can be harmful to individuals with compromised immune or digestive systems, especially in children and elders. Several wells showed the presence of *E. coli* and were provided instructions on how to complete a shock of the well using bleach.

Sampling results also showed that volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are present in some areas of the Nation ground water, including benzene, a derivative of gasoline. Fortunately, the amount of VOCs found in most wells did not exceed the Maximum Contaminant Limit established by the USEPA. IF YOU HAVE ANY HEALTH CONCERNS RESULTING FROM YOUR DRINKING WATER SAMPLING RESULTS CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY! If you are interested in a copy or have questions about the results please feel free to contact TEP. ☎☎☎☎☎☎☎

[1] - Holton, W. Conard. “*E. coli Exposed*” *Environmental Health Perspectives*, Vol. 110 No. 10 (Oct., 2002), pp.A588

Is there drinkable water for all Tuscaroras?

By Chad Leading Fox

Do you ever wonder where your water comes from? What is the best source of water that is available to the Nation? Can Tuscarora support a public water distribution system? During the summer of 2013 Indian Health Services contracted with Kewegong Engineering Services, Inc. to determine the best sources for drinking water on the Tuscarora Reservation. A preliminary report was presented to discuss alternative sources for drinking water for the Nation.

There are four different sources proposed by Kewegong:

1. Do nothing.
2. Improve current wells.
3. Develop a water supply and distribution network for the Nation.
4. Purchase municipal water and construct a distribution network.

The first “solution” is exactly as it sounds, do nothing. This static approach has a minimal cost to the Nation but leaves individual households responsible for obtaining their own water. The second proposal is to improve current wells to deliver safe drinking water by installing scattered treatment systems. The responsibility of the system would be left to residents at a monthly operation and maintenance cost of around \$22 per month. The third alternative would be to create a source large enough to supply drinkable water to the entire Nation and develop a distribution system to deliver it to each home. This alternative allows the Nation

to keep its sovereign identity and become a more efficient society. If the water supply comes from a drinkable source there will be no need for a treatment plant. If this is the case, the monthly charge to each home is estimated at \$47. In the case where a treatment plant is necessary the monthly charge increases to \$56. The responsibility of the system/network would be turned over to the Nation. The final proposition is to purchase water from surrounding local sources. This would ensure homes on the reservation receive drinkable water and limit the responsibility to of the Nation to water mains and connections located on the reservation. The monthly charge for each house in this scenario is estimated to be \$62.

These practical solutions to safer drinking water offer progression, stability and above all safety for our Nation and generations to come. It is up to the members of this Nation to discuss and come to an agreement on the best course of action. To see further details on this report a copy is held at the TEP office. Please feel free to stop by and take a look, questions and comments are more than welcome. ☎☎☎☎☎☎☎

“The fruits of your labors may be reaped two generations from now. Trust, even when you don’t see the results.” - Henri Nouwen

Tuscarora Energy Assistance

The Tuscarora Nation will be providing annual energy assistance for enrolled Tuscaroras to help offset residential heating, electric, and other energy costs. The amount provided per individual per home will be \$400.00 this year. This amount is subject to change in the future and is based on Nation energy revenues and changing energy priorities.

Residents already enrolled in the Low Cost Power Program will automatically be issued checks. They do not need to sign up to receive assistance. Those not already enrolled in the low cost power program must apply in person.

Energy Assistance Sign-Up Dates
Friday, February 7, 2014: 11AM-7PM
Saturday, February 8, 2014: 12PM-3PM

at the Tuscarora Environment Program Office
 in the Tuscarora Health and Community Center
 5226 Walmore Road
 Lewiston, NY 14092

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS FEBRUARY 8, 2014 AT 3PM.

Individuals not already enrolled in the low cost power program must meet each of the following criteria:

1. The individual must be an enrolled Tuscarora. They do not have to reside on the reservation.
2. The Individual must present an original utility bill related to household energy costs incurred during 2012 or 2013 with corresponding name and current address printed on it. Eligible utility bills include: electricity, heating oil, propane, natural gas, wood pellets, cord wood, coal or other utility bills related to residential energy costs. The bill must be clearly related to household energy costs. **No tax, water, or garbage bills. No bank statements or other proof of energy purchases. (NEW)**
3. **Renters must provide a copy of the lease agreement or an official letter from their landlord stating utility costs are included in the cost of rent. (NEW)**
4. The individual must apply in person. If the enrolled Tuscarora cannot apply, they must designate, in writing, a proxy for the sign-up and provide the required documentation at the sign-up.

Those who do not meet the criteria above will be notified and provided thirty days to submit additional or missing documentation. If you have any questions please see your Chief or Clanmother. ¶¶¶¶¶

NEW This year we are offering **FREE** energy audits for all homes on the Tuscarora reservation. A home energy audit determines the specific type of energy upgrades available for your home. The audits take about 2-3 hours and are performed by a certified contractor, who will require access to the home heating, cooling, electric and insulation features. Homes that complete the audit may be eligible, based on household income, for assistance to implement the audit recommendations through our partner NYSERDA. Low-income households and those already receiving HEAP have a greater chance of receiving discounted energy upgrades.

Energy Assistance FAQs	Answer
How do I know if I am receiving low-cost power already?	Your electricity supplier should be listed as "ECA" on your National Grid bill, and the cost for your electric should be \$0.02/kWh.
Am I eligible for more than one energy assistance check?	No. The assistance is intended to help Tuscarora families pay for their utility costs at their primary residence only.
Could my house receive two energy assistance checks?	Yes. Only if there are apartments with separate energy costs for two different Tuscaroras, otherwise only one check will be issued per person, per household.
Can I submit someone else's (children, friend, relative) name at the sign-up?	Yes. The relative must provide all necessary documentation, meet all criteria, and you must have a signed note from the enrolled Tuscarora as their proxy on the day of the sign-up.
Can I mail in my information and bill?	No. If you cannot appear in person, write a permission note for a proxy to sign you up. These are the same procedures for distribution of Treaty Cloth.
What if I don't meet the requirements?	You will be notified of the reason at the time the checks are mailed. You will have thirty days to resubmit information requested.

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Tuscarora Environment Program

5226E Walmore Road

Tuscarora Nation

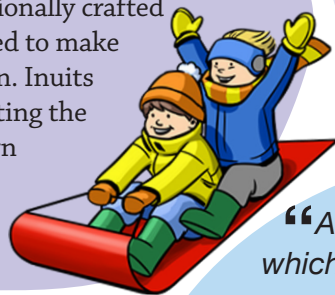
Via: Lewiston, NY 14092



Skaru:re? Resident

Did You Know...

Toboggans were invented by Native Americans. North Eastern nations used multiple forms of toboggans to carry game over ice and snow. Traditionally crafted from strips of bark, the materials used to make toboggans vary from nation to nation. Inuits created runners from whale bone, lifting the sled from slushy surfaces. The modern day pronunciation stems from the Algonquian word *odabaggan*.



http://www.tipatshimuna.ca/1215_e.php

Numerous words in today's English language are colonized pronunciations of words that already exist in indigenous languages. *Barbeque* is an adapted form of the word *barbacoa*; from Arawak speaking people, the Taíno. *Barbacoa* is a form of cooking meat, traditionally in a hole dug in the ground and covered with leaves.

<http://www.aquietexcoco.com/about-aqui-es-texcoco/history-of-barbacoa/>

“Actually it's pronounced *Me-lay-wah-kay*, which is *Algonquin* for ‘the good land.’”

~Alice Cooper,
film, *Wayne's World*, 1992

Utah is named after the Ute tribe.
Kansas is named after the Kanza (Kaw) tribe.
These and 25 other state names in the US are derived from Native American meanings. More than 50% of US state names are Native American in origin or based on Native American words.

<http://www.legendsofamerica.com/na-facts.html>

