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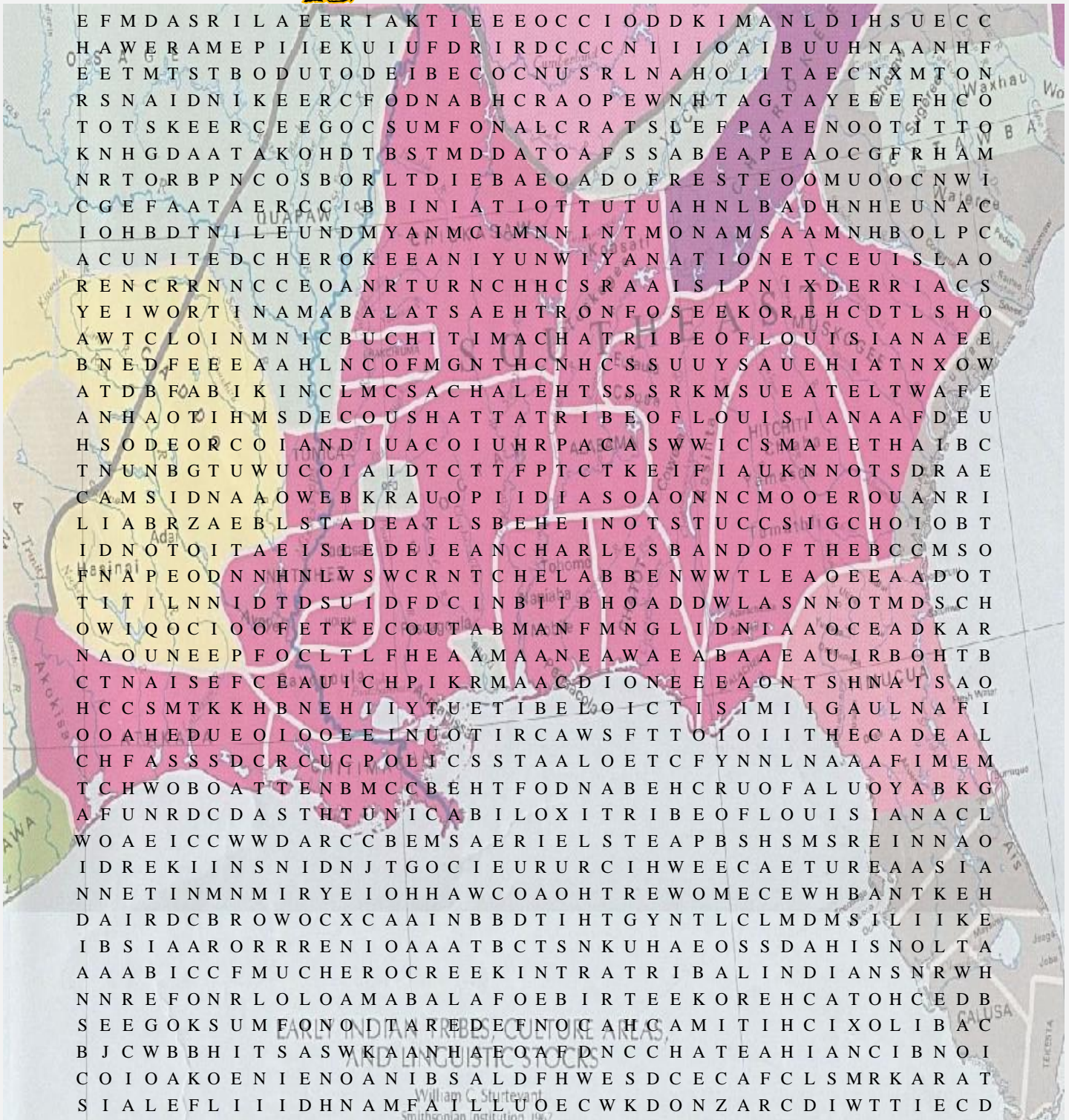
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From the Director

I've traveled quite a bit lately recruiting for Southern Miss, attending festivals, and otherwise enjoying the varied and numerous opportunities to meet other Natives, see old friends and learn more about the people who are the Southeastern American Indians. We are a diverse people with histories that, if they could be told in their entirety, would rival any epic adventure known in literature. Our cultures differ from tribe to tribe; our beliefs differ. And even within the same tribe we are some of us traditional, some of us more modern. We have this in common though—we have remained. We are here in the Southeastern U.S. just as were our ancestors, and theirs as well. We are the people of this place. Our ancestors lived, not in teepees, but in mud and straw homes. They lived and died, farmed and fished and hunted, prayed to the Creator and saw visions, right here in this ordinary place. We know because there are remnants of their existence in the mounds, because of the pottery shards and arrowheads, because of our languages and stories, because of our traditions. We know of our ancestors and their lives here because of who we are, because of what was left, because of their legacy. I was reminded, just recently, of how all of this happens, the leaving of a legacy. On a very cold day at the end of December, some friends in North Mississippi took me to see Mr. Tom Hendrix, who built a stone wall in Florence, Alabama to memorialize his great-great-grandmother's journey back from Oklahoma to her Yuchi home at the place by the "Singing River." The stones in this mile-long wall were carried in a pick-up truck, hauled with a wheel barrow, and placed one at a time. It warmed my heart to be there, among all of those stones, among all of those ancestors, listening to the story of a Yuchi woman and her journey home. I was impressed with the massiveness and beauty of the wall, touched by the devotion to his great-great-grandmother's memory, as well as inspired by how one person's vision was made manifest through hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I will remember what Mr. Hendrix has done, what our ancestors have done, as we build this Center and Minor, one "stone" at a time. I am grateful to be reminded that we should take our time and do it right. We will do our best. ~Tammy Greer

Let's Get Educated



Southeastern State- and Federally-Recognized American Indian Tribes

Adai Caddo Indian Nation, AL Coushatta Tribe of TX, Biloxi Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogees,
 Bayou La Fourche Band of the BCCM, Chero Creek Intratribal Indians, Cherokees of Northeast AL, Chitimacha Tribe of LA,
 Choctaw Apache of Ebarb, Clifton Choctaw Indians, Coushatta Tribe of LA, Four Winds Tribe of the LA Cherokee,
 Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of the BCCM, Isle de Jean Charles Band of the BCCM, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians,
 MaChis Lower AL Creek Indian Tribe, Miccosukee Indian Tribe, MS Band of Choctaw Indians, Mowa Band of Choctaws,
 Piqua Shawnee Tribe, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Pointeau Chien Indian Tribe, Seminole Tribe of FL,
 Star Clan of Muscogee Creeks, Tunica Biloxi Tribe of LA, United Cherokee Ani Yun Wiya Nation, United Houma Nation,

Selected Historical Tribes of the Southeast

Alabama, Atakapa, Bayougoula, Calusa, Chatot, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Hitchiti, Muskogee, Natchez, Timucua, Tunica, Yuchi

Who's Who in the Southeastern American Indian Tribes

Miko Beasley Denson was born in the Conehatta Community and raised in the Standing Pine Community. He graduated from Choctaw Central High School and completed his post-secondary education at Hinds Community College and Mississippi State University. A fluent Choctaw speaker, Miko Denson is Tribal Chief of over ten thousand members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Miko Denson undertook the responsibilities of the office in 2007, becoming the third democratically-elected Chief since the adoption of the Tribe's modern constitution. Upon entering the office, he assumed the title *Miko*, which is the Choctaw term for leader.

Miko Denson has extensive experience in Tribal government and Tribal industry. He was first elected to the Tribal Council in 1975. During his five terms, he served as both Secretary-Treasurer and Vice-Chief. He has served on numerous Tribal boards and has acquired positions on the National Indian Education Board and the Board of Directors for the United South and Eastern Tribes.

Miko Denson prides himself on being an open and accessible leader and believes in putting Choctaw first. His adherence to this philosophy can be seen across the Reservation. He is passionate about improving life on the Reservation for Tribal members and in his two years as Chief, despite the country's economic recession, he has made progress in reducing the backlog of Tribal housing, improving the healthcare system and upgrading educational facilities.

Supporting him in his duties is his wife of 38 years, First Lady Lena John Denson. Miko and First Lady Denson have two sons, a daughter, and six granddaughters.

For more information about Miko Denson or the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians see www.choctaw.org.





Our Mother the Earth

We have a garden here on the Southern Miss campus that was built in 2005 in the shape of a Medicine Wheel. Just last summer, we began the process of transforming this garden into a heritage garden, containing only plants native to this area. I guess it was long overdue

because help arrived, and quickly. In the Fall we were gifted with 75 native plants, then another 75 or so. Tribal members brought plants to the CAIRS dedication ceremony. And the native plants keep coming. We now have Common Yarrow, Buckeye, White Snakeroot, Switch Cane, Swamp Cane, Yaupon Holly, Iron Weed, Blueberry, Chokecherry, Flameleaf Sumac, Smooth Sumac, Panic Grass, Camphor Weed, Sweet Bay Magnolia, Southern Magnolia and Pitcher Plants. In a month or so I'll head to Crystal Springs, MS to dig up and transplant a toothache tree. What I thought would take quite a lot of time—populating the garden with 200 or so native plants—took just a few short months to accomplish. It turns out that native plants like the slightly acidic soil, the climate, the sporadic rain. Go figure: this garden of native plants already requires less tending, less weeding, less watering. With just a little attention, some coffee grounds, some ashes, this garden will thrive. I believe that is true of the Southeastern American Indians as well. We are at home here. We can thrive again in this place.

Cook's Corner: Pokeweed or Pokesalad

1. In midspring, gather young shoots (6"-8" tall)
2. Wash and trim
3. Boil in 2 changes of water for 5 minutes each
4. Cover with water, Boil until tender, Drain
5. Season with oil, salted bacon, small onions with green tops, or vinegar as desired
6. May add scrambled eggs or sliced boiled eggs on top

Properly precooked pokeweed shoots can be added to soups, stews, and other greens.

Mature leaves and all other parts should not be eaten.

Berries can be used as purple dye.

What's Going on among the Southeastern Tribes

F MS; Feb 13. **Valentine Powwow**. Petal Civic Center, Petal, MS. (601) 307-7188 email: cdeewaites@aol.com or www.petalpowwow.webs.com

e GA: Feb 19-20. **INAS Conference: Southeastern Indians Through Time: Land, Geography and Environment**. University of Georgia, Athens, GA. 706-542-5356. jweaver@uga.edu

b FL; Feb 19-21. **Vero's Thunder on the Beach Powwow**. Indian River County Fairgrounds, Vero Beach, FL. 772-567-1579 Email: deedee1579@aol.com Website: thunderonthebeachpowwow.net

M FL: Mar 5-7. **2010 Thundering Spirit Family Powwow**. Renningers Market ~ 20651 Hwy 441, Mount Dora, FL. 352 636-4271 or 352 589-0045. Email: .Thunderspiritfam@yahoo.com. Website: <http://www.thunderingspiritfamily.com/>

a TX: Mar 6. **NASA Powwow**. Texas State Technical College, Waco, TX. 254-867-3622. Email: wacónasa@tstc.edu. Website: <http://www.waco.tstc.edu/activities/NASAclub.php>

r FL: Mar 26-28. **F.I.H.A. 45th Annual Powwow**. Savannas Recreation Area, 1400 Midway Rd., Ft. Pierce, FL. 561-215-0811. Email: GAGNEHS@YAHOO.COM www.fiha.info

c MS: Mar 27-28. **Annual Natchez Powwow**. Grand Village of Natchez, Natchez, MS. (601)442-0200. <http://mdah.state.ms.us/hprop/gvnievents.html>

h TX: Mar 27. **Texas Indian Hobbyist Assn. Spring Powwow**. Galloway Hammond Recreation Center, Burnet, TX. pandpriley@gmail.com. Traders: mtwidal@aol.com

A GA: April 1-3. **Cherokee Of Georgia Spring Powwow**. Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Grounds, Saint George, GA. (912) 843-2230 / (912) 285-2738. Email: fmmcgaher@bellsouth.net or hathaway_tribe@yahoo.com. Website: www.cherokeeofgeorgia.us

P MS: April 9-11. **Southern Miss Golden Eagles "Honor our Military" Powwow**. Southern Miss Campus, Hattiesburg, MS. 601-466-0948. Email: Tammy.Greer@USM.edu. Website: www.usm.edu/geis

r TN: April 10-11. **Pow Wow on the River**. 1st Tennessee Pavilion (aka Chattanooga Market Bldg.), Chattanooga, TN. Phone: 423 240-7270. Email: NASofTN@aol.com

r AL: April 16-18 **United Cherokee 12th Annual Festival & Native American Powwow**. National Guard Armory; 3550 Creek Path Road, Guntersville, AL. Phone: 256-582-2333. Email: ucanonline@bellsouth.net Website: <http://www.ucan-online.org>

i LA: April 16-19. **43rd Annual LIHA (LA Indian Heritage Assn) Powwow**. Lamar-Dixon Expo Center, Gonzales, LA. Info: (504) 367-1375. or www.liha-news.com or email djpm2@cox.net

i TX: April 17-18. **Big Spring Powwow**. Howard College, Big Spring, TX. Phone: 432 263 3255. Email: powwowbigspring@suddenlink.net

i AL: April 23-25. **10th Annual Cherokee River Homecoming Festival**. Bankhead National Forest, Moulton, AL. Phone: 205-221-3873 or 205-271-2493. Email: Kbagwell1@gmail.com. www.webjam.com/hogohegeeindiancenter

