



“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

Lost Creek Water Festival Event

by Debbie Dotson (Eastern Shawnee Tribe)

The Lost Creek Water Festival was held on September 9, 2022, at the Eastern Shawnee Tribe's Powwow Grounds, at the state line of Oklahoma and Missouri. Approximately 500 fourth and fifth grade students from four different schools attended the outdoor educational field trip. Several tribes from northeast Oklahoma provided education stations for the event including Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Wyandotte Nation, Cherokee Nation, Peoria Tribe, Quapaw Nation, and Seneca Cayuga Nation. Other stations were provided by Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Missouri Stream Team, Grand River Dam Authority, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildcat Glades Friends Group, including two stations on the banks of Lost Creek. Every station provided information and demonstrations on water quality, wildlife, fish, macroinvertebrates, and pollinators





Yard By Yard Project

by April Hathcoat (Cherokee Nation)

The Yard by Yard Project encourages residents in cities and towns to manage their yards to improve soil health and contribute to clean water, which will in turn add strength and resiliency to our communities. A nature friendly lawn will save time and money, and will attract pollinators and other wildlife to the habitat that is created. A typical lawn is short turf grass with a short root system that does not capture rain events and contributes to runoff, and it typically requires frequent fertilization and mowing. Allowing an existing lawn to grow a little taller will allow more water infiltration. Also, replacing some of the lawn with native plants with deep root systems will create more pathways into the soil for rain. The native plants will also provide food for wildlife.

You can visit <https://www.okconservation.org/yardbyyard> to watch an introductory video and download a project packet that outlines everything required to certify your yard. Participants must utilize five practices across three out of four categories, which include soil, water, food, and habitat. Examples of practices include the use of organic mulch, utilizing rain barrels, the presence of an herb or vegetable garden, and the presence of rock or brush piles, just to name a few. Many people find that they have already qualified! I certified my yard in July 2022 and really enjoyed the process (see picture below). A representative from the local conservation district (determined by county) will visit your site and take note of the practices provided on the application checklist and make suggestions on additional enhancements that can be initiated around the property. Owners are encouraged to not just maintain their location, but continuously look for ways to improve the habitat. Also remember, businesses are encouraged to join as well! Schools, churches and anyone willing to put forth an effort to improve yards to support wildlife is welcome to participate! Once certified, participants will be given a yard sign to display, some native plant seeds, and you will receive alerts about educational opportunities.



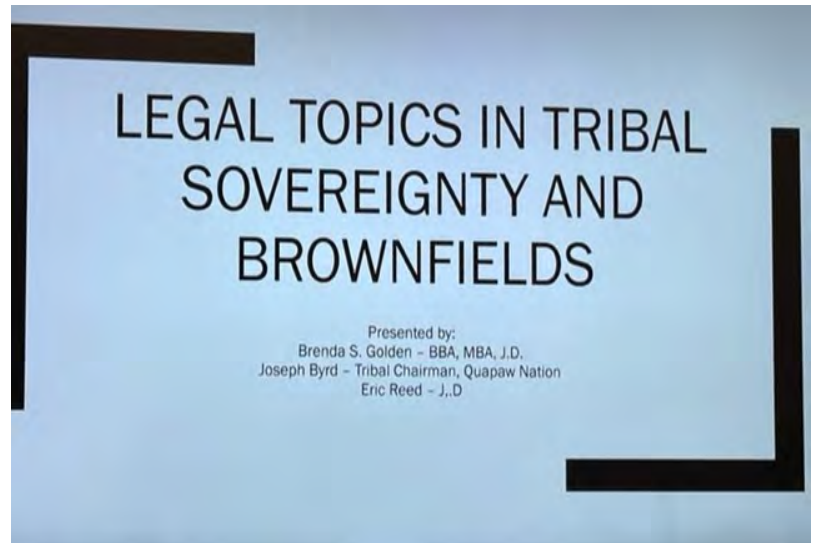
L to R April Hathcoat CNEP, Suzy CCCD, Les CCCD



National Brownfields Conference



Brenda Golden



The National Brownfields Conference was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma from August 16-19, 2022. There were over 100 sessions presented during the conference with approximately 2,000 people in attendance. Tribes were well represented during the conference with several sessions including: Tribal Ecological Knowledge, Legal Issues in Tribal Sovereignty, Restoring Tribal Lands (Presented by TAB KSU), and Redeveloping Contaminated Tribal Housing. This nationally renowned conference with an excellent attendance was a great way of showcasing Tribal efforts to promote their Brownfields projects.



Chairman Joseph Byrd



Joseph Erb



IN THE DIRECTORS CORNER:

By— Sarah Lundstrum Seneca-Cayuga Environmental Programs

Where is the Seneca-Cayuga 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. The Environmental Office is in Grove, Oklahoma.

How many community members are served by the Environmental department?

Our services are open to all community members which number approximately 5,000.

How long have you been the Environmental Director?

I am still very new to my position and to the tribe. I took on the role as Environmental Director in April of this year and have now been in my position for 6 months.

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.

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

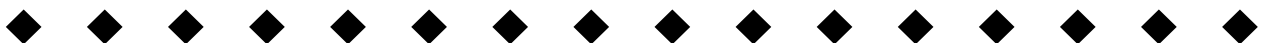
I enjoy that no two days are alike. One day you may be water sampling while the next day could be doing a site clean-up or participating in a conference call. I enjoy the people and the opportunities that we encounter to implement programs that serve the community. The Environmental Department currently consist of a small, 2-person team. While we're somewhat limited in scope, we're constantly striving for positive and impactful things to serve the community to make a difference.



Sarah Lundstrum and D.J. Shield

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

Our department will continue its efforts on water quality and stream monitoring. We have recently just expanded our recycling program by refurbishing an old horse trailer into a recycling trailer for cardboard for Grand Lake Casino. We currently are developing a tire and E-waste recycling collection event for later this year. Additionally, we have participated in multiple site cleanup and are organizing a shoreline cleanup soon. We are in the process of developing a composting program which will be used to develop community gardens.



PFAS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHAT ARE PFAS CHEMICALS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS and GenX chemicals. Since the 1940s, PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the globe, including in the United States. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. Both are very persistent in the environment and in the human body. Exposure to certain PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.

PFOA & PFOS

U.S. manufacturers voluntarily phased out PFOA and PFOS, two specific PFAS chemicals.



GenX Chemicals

GenX chemicals are a replacement for PFOA.



HOW ARE WE EXPOSED TO PFAS?

PFAS include a large number of important chemicals that can be used in some food packaging and can make things grease- and stain-resistant. They are also used in firefighting foams and in a wide range of manufacturing practices. Unfortunately, some of these substances don't break down over time. That means they build up in the environment and in our bodies.

Drinking water can be a source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example,

- an industrial facility where PFAS were produced or used to manufacture other products, or
- locations where firefighting foam was used such as oil refineries, airfields or other training facilities for firefighters

If you are concerned about the possibility of PFAS in your drinking water, contact your local water supplier and ask for more information about PFAS.



STAIN/GREASE
REPELLENT



FIREFIGHTING
FOAMS



INDUSTRIAL
USES



27th Annual ITEC Conference

The 27th annual ITEC conference was held virtually from July 26, 2022 to August 4, 2022 on the WebEx platform. There were a total of 12 sessions with 37 speakers from the Tribes and EPA. Topics included were many established programs such as: Air Quality, Solid Waste, Surface Water, Brownfields and Pesticides. At the same time, there were many new topics presented such as: Sustainability, Species of Interest, Cultural Activities and Drone Usage. This year's virtual ITEC Conference averaged 70-100 attendees per session for the 12 session event.



For the recorded event click on the ITEC YouTube channel at:





Radon and Radon Testing Webinar

A radon informational and testing webinar was held on September 28, 2022 on the WebEx platform. Topics of discussion were What is Radon, Health Effects, How Radon Enters a Home,, Testing methods and Radon Removal. The class was presented by Radon Measurement certified staff and there were attendees from 11 Tribes and Pueblos that participated on this event. The webinar and it's contents can be accessed on the ITEC YouTube channel.



Radon “What is it ?”

Shaun West, NRPP 100975RT, NRPP
100974RMT
Cherokee Nation
Environmental Programs





2022 National Lead and Healthy Housing Conference



Plan on attending the 2022 National Lead and Healthy Housing Conference scheduled for October 18 – 20, 2022 in Baltimore, Maryland.



AARST International Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium is NOW OPEN!

Join us in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, Bellevue, Washington October 24th through 26th for the 36th annual AARST Symposium!



August 24, 2022

Consumer Health Service
Oklahoma State
Department of Health
123 Robert S. Kerr Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

P: 405-426-8250
F: 405-900-7557

CHSLicensing@health.ok.gov

2022 Annual Education Conference Oklahoma Society of Environmental Health Professionals

OSEHP is pleased to announce our annual in-person conference is scheduled for October 26 & 27 in Durant at the Choctaw Casino & Resort!



[Home](#) [Register](#) [Schedule](#) [Attendee Information](#) [WASTECON Participant Access](#) [Exhibit & Sponsorship Info](#)

WASTECON 2022 Transforming the Waste Management Industry through Pioneering Leadership

December 5–8, 2022
San Diego Convention Center

WASTECON is where leaders in the waste management industry gather to find solutions to challenges and discover opportunities.

Our industry needs forward-looking leaders and managers who can respond to the changes impacting us today—and into the future.



Upcoming ITEC Trainings:

Be looking for the annual training questionnaire coming In October.



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

For more information about ITEC trainings contact:

Jurene Collis

Phone: 918-453-5148

Email: Jurene-Collis@cherokee.org



Check out ITEC's YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42GM_3wppOEPkgFEUj_CgQ

ITEC on the web

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

Please visit us at:

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.

*Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs
Inter-Tribal Environmental Council
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465
Phone: 918-453-5009
Fax: 918-453-2904*

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 1-918-453-5148 or contact Jurene Collis at: jurene-collis@cherokee.org.

