

## *Hummingbird Medicine Clan Activities*

The Hummingbird Medicine Clan of the South Eastern Cherokee Council is based in the city of Springfield, Missouri. This is in the heartland of this country where various different Native descendants live. This clan is composed of 29 members under the leadership of Jack White Eagle Shryock and his wife Titiwohali.

The Southeastern Cherokee Council is well represented by this clan as it rubs shoulders with members of other tribes and Native cultures. Here is one example of the good influence this clan has been on others of Native descent in the area:

During the month of October of 2012, clan chief Jack White Eagle received a call from a woman of Cherokee descent who lived in a nearby town. She and her family belong to the Cherokee Nation Of Oklahoma, and her son had been given the body of an Bald Eagle that had died of unknown causes. It was acquired by the local Fish and Game agency and the officials of this agency knew the importance of Eagle feathers to Native peoples. Most traditional Natives perceive spiritual medicine in the eagle and even the feathers and bones maintain this spiritual medicine even after the death of the Eagle. Cherokees never used Eagle feathers during times of war as part of regalia, but often use them in peaceful ceremonies. It is important that they be properly cared for and protected at all times. Some native ceremonial leaders possess bones of the eagle wings that have been made into ceremonial whistles.

The official gave the body of the bald eagle to this Cherokee family, but they felt the need for guidance and assistance in properly preparing these feathers for ceremony and maintenance. The woman asked Jack White Eagle to prepare the feathers to make a ceremonial fan as well and individual prayer feathers for ten of the family members. So, in behalf of the Hummingbird Medicine Clan, Jack White Eagle agreed to take on this responsibility. He constructed wooden boxes to hold and protect the feathers when not in use. This required the boxes to be made of the sacred Cedar wood. White Eagle considered it an honor to make these ceremonial Cedar boxes for this Cherokee family. He also felt the solemnity and spirituality to be dealing in Eagle Medicine for the benefit of the family.

Later, this family requested that White Eagle come and do ceremony as these gifts were presented to the family. Upon arriving at their home, it became apparent that this family had little knowledge of how to do ceremony of this type with the various protocols of smudging, the use of Cedar and tobacco, and so forth. They asked many questions and White Eagle answered them all to the best of his ability.

Thus we can be proud of the legacy we seek to preserve in our doing of ceremony and guiding others of Native Heritage to learn and preserve that which we still know and practice. The Humming Bird Medicine Clan stands as a good example for other bands in our tribe, to not be shy about rubbing shoulders with other Native tribes, nations, and organizations and sharing with them that which we know of our history, traditions, and spirituality. # # #

## **Turtle Moon Band Activities:**



Above we see Ken Quiet River Fisher of the Turtle Moon Band. He was attending a Pow Wow along with other members of the band during the month of May. This was the Mittie Wood's Mother's Day Pow Wow in Dade City, Florida. The band members ate Indian tacos, danced, played flutes, shopped, laughed, hugged and even cried a little! The day was filled with love and fun. Present were Anita White Horse Hansen, Jennifer Gentle Thunder Seney, Jesse Davis, Ken Quiet River Fisher, Joyce Spirit Wind Bugaiski, along with guests Utah Farris, Jame Blackwolf Hansen, and Sherry Ashworth (who experienced her first Pow wow and first Indian taco!

One another page of this edition of Talking Leaves is pictured the artistry of Joyce Spirit Wind Bugaiski. "Amazing Grace" will be featured in the upcoming edition of the Cherokee Heritage Calendar which, for several years, has featured the artwork of the most outstanding Cherokee artists.

