

YURT GOES UP AT BEAR SPIRIT

A yurt has been set up on Bear Spirit Grounds in north-eastern Tennessee. These grounds are sometimes used by members of the Buffalo Creek Band and the Chota Band for the purposes of ceremony and socialization.

Not everybody knows what a yurt is. A yurt is an ancient type of mobile structure used for shelter by the nomads of Mongolia. It is round in shape with a cone shaped roof. Most yurts are heated with wood burning stoves. In old times the Mongolians and Turks built yurts out of poles and animal skins sewn together. Now days, modern yurts are made of state-of-the-art durable materials. The shape of the yurt makes it very resistant to storms and high winds. The round shape is very harmonious with Native American ideas of the Sacred Hoop and Medicine Wheel.



Jim Howling Wolf Allison, Rick Runningbear, and Mike Stonecarvr prepare platform to support center roof ring.

This yurt is built on top of a 24 by 24 foot deck with railing around it. The yurt itself is slightly smaller, being 20 feet in diameter. The frame-work of the circular walls is made from sturdy wooden lattice. A cable is stretched on top of the walls to support the 48 rafters of the roof.



Howling Wolf and Stonecarvr lift wooden ring up onto temporary platform.



Ceiling ring in place ready for insertion of rafters.



Putting the top roof cover on was the hardest task according to Howling Wolf.

The roof and walls are made of a high tech material called "Duralast" which is resistant to deterioration due to exposure to sunlight and the elements of Nature.



A sky-light sets on the very top. A chimney pipe will go through it.



View of skylight and rafters from inside.



Yurt set on top of deck in wooded area.

Now when members of SeCCI come to Bear Spirit Grounds in inclement weather they will have a place to keep warm. A kitchenette in the yurt provides for cooking. A Jotul Norwegian wood stove heats the yurt.