

THE GREEN CORN FESTIVAL AT NATIONAL TRIBAL GROUNDS

The Ceremonial Leader, Don Standing Bear (Yona Gadoga), arrived Friday afternoon on the eve of the Green Corn Ceremony. Earlier, Rick Runningbear and Tony Keeper Of The Home Fire had arrived and had begun preparing the tribal council house for ceremony. Brightly colored ceremonial feather adornments had been hung on the outer and inner posts to add more power and pageantry to the upcoming ceremony.



Don Standing Bear, Vice Chief and Ceremonial Leader

The Northern Alter was also prepared with various ceremonial items, such as crystals, a carved wooden Eagle, and the skull of a bear. Everyone got together with Chief Panther for a pleasant social visit in her lodge.

Shortly before 8 a.m. on Saturday, the sacred ceremonial fire was started by fire keepers by casting sparks into natural tinder and utilizing 7 sacred kinds of wood which pertain to the 7 ancient Cherokee clans. At 8:30 a.m. all entered the Council House after going to water and participating in the smudging preparation. Standing Bear led out in morning prayers, giving thanks to the 7 sacred directions.

Earlier, in the wee hours of the morning, Standing Bear had gone to the market to get breakfast supplies of fruits, pastry, and coffee. Running Bear made up the common fire for the people, near the elder's table to set up a good ambiance.



Breakfast foods, compliments of Yona Gadoga (Standing Bear)

After a hearty meal at mid day, the Green Corn Ceremony was celebrated in the early afternoon. Thankfulness was expressed to Creator for a bountiful harvest of new corn and all the other bounties provided for our life and health and well-being.

On Sunday morning the last of the visitors to the Tribal Grounds departed to return to their various lodges. All were looking forward to returning to celebrate the remainder of the traditional ceremonies which occur before the onset of the Cold Moons.

