

MAN PREPARES TO BE FIRE KEEPER



Brian Barns (above) was present on the National Grounds of SECCI during the Fall 2012 gathering. He aspires to become a Fire Keeper. An apprenticeship for Fire Keeper usually lasts for one year.



Bear Spirit Band Has Trading Blanket Event



Above is seen Bear Spirit Band activity around the trading blanket. From left to right are Mike StoneCarvr Utz (Chief of Bear Spirit Band), Ann Quiet Waters Chadwell, Gary DancingBear Bitler, and Rick Runningbear Dunifer.

On October 21, the Bear Spirit Band, located in Claiborne County, Tennessee, held its Atahoon Ceremony. After the ceremony and feast were over, a trading blanket was placed and participants put items that had to trade on the blanket. To make it more fun and festive, Mike Stone Carvr, (Bear Spirit Band chief) utilized "gambling buttons" made from elk antlers. These are used in a similar fashion to our modern day "dice". The buttons are shaken up in a container and then cast on the table. According

to predetermined rules, the one casting the highest arrangement of game buttons has the right of first choice of an item on the trading blanket. Several attractive items, some handmade, were thus acquired by the luckiest participants.



Rick Runngbear telling a story at Bear Spirit Grounds



Ceremonial Circle at Bear Spirit Grounds



Taking Care Of Our Own

There is sickness in the Tribe. Several of those in positions of leadership within the SeCCI are afflicted with illness, some of it is of a serious nature. One of these is Chief of the Buffalo Creek Band, Starr Thunderfoot Macauley. Starr owns and operates a business by the name of Spirit Of The White Buffalo which sells Native style hand crafts, many of which are made by members of her band located in Sevier County, Tennessee. Let's remember her in our prayers and always do what we can to help our tribal brothers and sisters that are in any kind of need.

BROTHER OF CHIEF HOWLING WOLF CROSSES OVER:

Chota Band chief Howling Wolf lost a beloved brother (an SeCCI member) this past November. Howling Wolf made the following announcement:

My brother, Michael Strong Bear Allison, passed on November 15, 2012. His prayers were for God to release him from prison walls and his suffering. Mike was an outstanding artist. Many of his drawings were in the Talking Leaves two and three years back. He was always looking for the next copy which brought him comfort and hope, a moment which allowed his mind to escape his environment.

Mike was allowed to phone me every Friday and we would talk, laugh and sometimes cry about our journey in life. It was so hard to encourage him at times, yet he would lift me up. Through all the hardships, he kept his faith in his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I will miss the phone calls, but we will talk again when I too pass through the Western Gate.

To all my brothers and sisters, may God smile upon you and may you be blessed going out and coming in.

Jim Howling Wolf Allison of Chota



Remembering "Strong Bear Allison"

