

Fall Gathering scheduled for this Autumn:

This Calendar year of 2014 is now well underway. We have already experienced the Spring gathering of March 15 in which we addressed the election process for new leaders within the tribe. Now we look forward to the Fall gathering which will take place on the weekend of October 11.

All members who can see their way clear to do so, are invited to come to our National Ceremonial grounds and participate in the ceremonies, council meetings, and socialization with fellow tribal members during the Fall Gathering at Ochlocknee, Georgia. The strength and vitality of our people lie in central "hub", so let's all try to give it our support and come with ideas and enthusiasm to promote the growth of our tribe.

Ochlocknee, Georgia is about 7 miles north of Thomasville, Georgia which in turn is a few miles north of Tallahassee, Florida. It is believed that the name Ochlocknee is derived from the Muskogee Indian word meaning "Yellow Waters". It is also believed that our National Grounds are located in the area of an ancient Native burial grounds.



Native Drum Protocol

By Jim
HowlingWolf
Allison



The Native drum must be approached with prayer and meditation. To give the drum its voice, the people must lay hands on it to feel its energy. Then the drum is struck one hard beat to give it its voice. The drum is never to be used as a table, furniture, and the like. The drum is never to be left uncovered or sat on the bare ground. If the drum is not shown respect and honor, anyone can claim that drum for their own. The drum is to be used in dance and ceremonies to bring the people together, in love, respect, and harmony. There is a women's drum, a men's drum, and a community drum for both men and women. The drum keeper has the authority to call for which ever drum he chooses for any particular event.

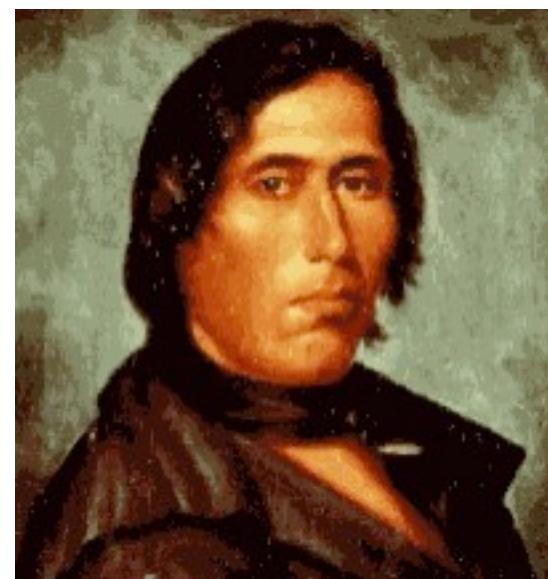
To open the drum, players and a drum leader must be chosen. To be chosen is a great honor. Players are to be smudged first. The drum leader is to smudge the drum clockwise, all the way around the drum. Tobacco is placed on the center of the drum head. All players are to take some of this tobacco and hold it to their heart and have a silent prayer then return the tobacco back to the drum. The lead drummer is to strike one hard beat. This called awakening of the drum. If you are the last one to leave the drum you must cover her. You never leave the drum uncovered or unguarded. You treat her as if she is your mother.

This was taught to me by John Night Eagle Curtis.

Walk in peace,

Jim "HowlingWolf" Allison

Tecumseh, The Shawnee



"Hear my words: So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart. Trouble no one about their religion; respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours. Love your life, perfect your life. Beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people.

Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide. Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, even a stranger, when in a lonely place. Show respect to all people and bow to none. When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies only in yourself. Abuse no one and nothing, for abuse turns the wise ones into fools and robs the spirit of its vision.

When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song and die like a hero going home.

No tribe has the right to sell Mother Earth, even to each other, much less to strangers. Sell a country? Why not sell the air, the great sea, as well as the whole earth? Did not Great Spirit make them all for the use of His children?

Brothers, where today are the Narragansett, the Mohican, the Pakanoket? They have vanished before the oppression of the White man like snow before the summer sun."