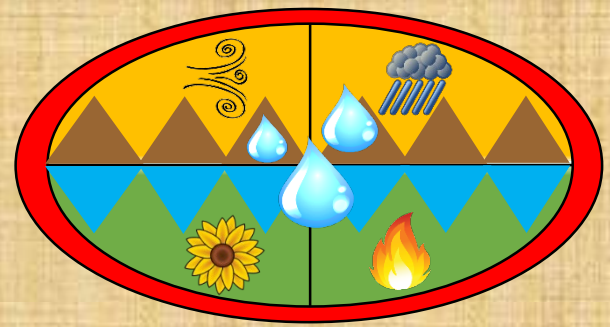


# United States Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Nations Technical Center Of Expertise (TNTCX)



## TNTCX NEWSLETTER

April 2019 Issue No. 7



### TNTCX Director's Message

Yes, time again for the new issue of the Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise newsletter for April 2019. We at the TNTCX hope you all are enjoying the fine spring weather. We have a number contributions that I think you'll find interesting in this month's newsletter. Once again we have a contribution from our partners at the Chickasaw Nation. The TNTCX has lots of updates including the recent SAA's, the Environmental Research and Review Group (eRARG), and working with our partners across the enterprise.

TNTCX staff kept busy during the month of April continuing our support of USACE around the country. National PAS Program Manager, Beverley Hayes, met with teammates from around the country on the USACE Non-Structural program in early April. Ms. Hayes finished out the month of April working with national teammates on coastal erosion. I met earlier this month with representatives from the Navajo Nation Tribal Council and the Navajo Technical University to discuss future partnering between USACE and the Navajo Nation as well as exploring potential partnerships between the TNTCX and educational institutions around the country. In April, we continued our support of IWR as their project prepares a report on the results of their investigation.

Check out our list of upcoming training and other events, consultation tips, and as always, we're looking forward to receiving news of your successes across the enterprise.

Due to the high volume of submissions, we plan on moving our publication schedule to a bi-monthly schedule beginning next issue.

**Ron Kneebone, Ph.D.**  
**Director**  
**Tribal Nations Technical Center**



**Editors Note:** Everyone be sure to congratulate Dr. Kneebone on his recent nuptials!!! The TNTCX wishes the happy couple many years of happiness and love!

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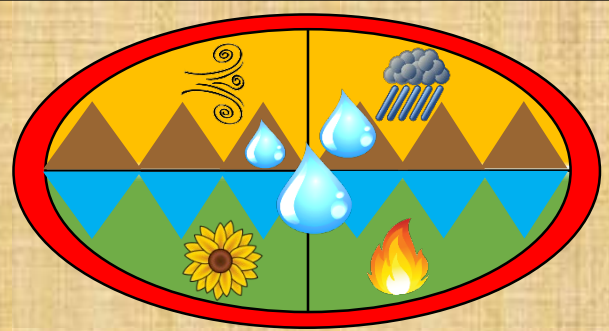
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### Tribal Perspectives



### Tribal Perspectives Chickasaw Nation

Submitted by  
**Brady Davis, Joseph Smith and Brad Lieb of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma**

## Chickasaw Summer and Winter Homes

Before our first encounter with Europeans, our ancestors transitioned from living along major waterways to living on the upland prairie ridges overlooking lowlands and water sources within the Blackland Prairie of today's northeast Mississippi. Our villages were dispersed across the ridge line in clusters of house groups made up of summer homes, winter homes, corn cribs, brush arbors, forts and additional structures. Our house groups consisted of a matrilineal family including a matriarch, her daughters, their husbands and their children. In 1708, Thomas Nairne, an English explorer, visited our villages and noted that house groups dotting the ridges were around a pistol shot apart. Each village house group cultivated small plots and assisted with large communal agricultural fields. Traditionally, we built two types of houses, winter and summer homes, which persisted for generations.

Our winter homes were large, often 18-20 feet in diameter, circular and framed with wooden posts around four inches in diameter and placed two-three feet apart in post holes. Our ancestors built winter houses with an overlapping entryway similar to the shape of a snail shell, by extending an exterior wall six-eight feet past the line of posts. This design ingeniously kept the cold northwest wind at bay during the winter months, but also made it harder for invaders to enter our homes. We forked most wall posts at the top to link it to the top framing poles. A set of four interior posts in the center of the structure supported the roof framing, which were also linked to the exterior ring of posts. We laid on heavy rafters, extending up to a meeting point at the top of the roof and down past the top wall plate to create an overhang. Purlins of smaller poles up to two inches in diameter or double or triple bundled river canes were fastened every few feet up the wall and across the rafters. Our ancestors interwove laths of split cane into the walls and roof and covered it all with a mixture of clay and grass (daub). Walls were daubed thicker than the roof, and a small hole was left at the top for smoke to escape. Our thick clay walls helped keep our homes warm but were also bullet proof, so we could keep people protected during times of war. We placed portholes in the walls of our winter homes so we could fire guns to protect our families. When the daub was dry, grass bundles, sheets of cypress or pine bark from very large trees were used as thatch to cover the roof daubing. The thatching extended down past the exterior walls to create a soffit which protected the external daub from rainfall. The color of the daub after it dried was consistent with the tan or yellowish tone of local clays, but the daub could easily be whitewashed with a slurry of the white cretaceous chalk marl clay found in the Homeland. Our ancestors decorated the exterior with symbols or a wooden sculpture representing the house group or clan. Inside, we lightly daubed or covered the interior walls with split cane matting and the floor with hardened clay or split cane matting. We built benches and beds that lined the interior walls and were supported by smaller posts.



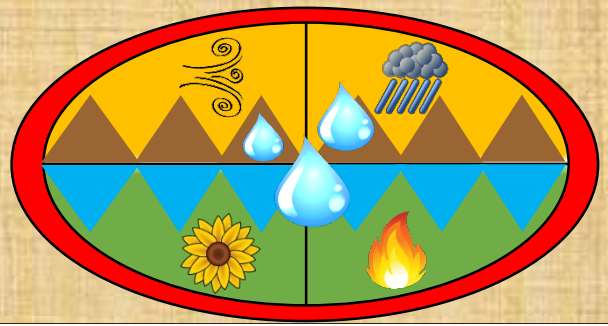


Chickasaw Winter House



Chickasaw Summer house with Winter houses in background.

### Tribal Perspectives



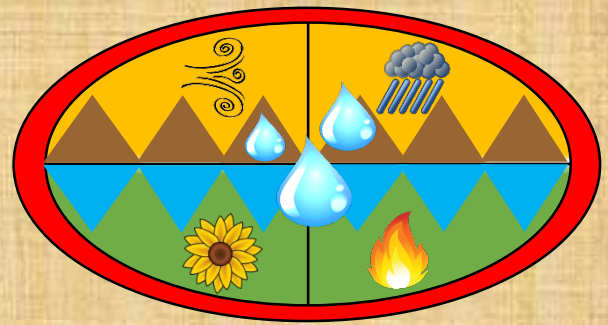
Summer houses were made with a simpler, more open design. Our summer homes were usually shaped like a rectangle measuring about 12 x 22 feet. We set pitch-pine, black locust or sassafras logs in the four corners. The wall posts were roughly placed four feet apart in individually dug post holes similar to the wall posts of our winter homes. Our ancestors notched the wall posts to receive the beams supported by the low ends of the rafters. We rested the upper ends of the rafters on the ridge pole at the roof peak and secured the upper and lower ends with white oak or hickory splints. Once all the rafters were built, split saplings or bundles of river cane, similar to the winter house, were laid horizontally to maintain equal spacing between the roof timbers and served as laths to support the outer roofing. We secured crooks on the beams that served as wall plates to elevate the outer edge of the eave-boards and to keep the underside level with the roof laths. Eave-boards were often made from a single plank of tulip poplar, because it is a soft wood and easy to manipulate. These boards were longer than the house, extended a foot beyond the side walls and were anchored to the roof frame with hickory or oak splints. Made from Pine or bald Cypress boards, the clapboard was applied to the outer side of the wall posts along the side walls and gabled ends. Bernard Romans, an early European chronicler, mentioned that our summer houses and Choctaw houses were almost identical, which may suggest the siding was vertical in two tiers with the upper laid over the other like a shingle. There are some accounts that the gabled ends of the roof were open to allow the cooling breeze to enter during the warm summer months. Some records note that our summer houses may have had removable walls or walls made of split cane matting, and other sources state that some summer houses had raised floors with storage areas underneath.



Choctaw Summer House (Bushnell 1920)

By the early 1800s many families had moved out of our historic villages and spread out across the country side raising cattle and planting crops. Some continued to build traditional homes, while more began shifting to a frontier style log cabin. Some families constructed large plantation homes on their farms. While living on farms, our ancestors used buildings such as chicken coops, tool sheds, storage houses and cattle pens. Our people adapted quickly as times changed. Although our homes have changed greatly over time, we still honor our ancestors' building traditions as functional structures that sheltered our families from the elements and protected us from our enemies. Today replicas of these ancestral house types can be seen at some of our cultural sites, including the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma, where we continue to honor their memory for generations to come.





## TNTCX Update

### TNTCX Update



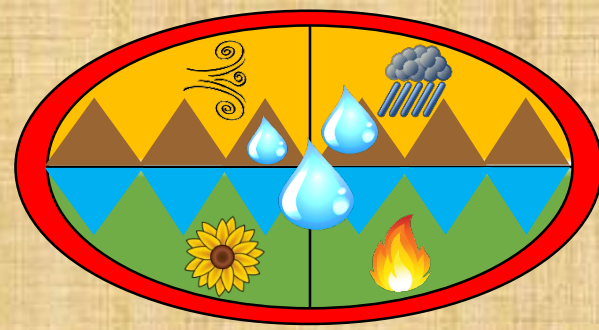
TNTCX Deputy, Mr. Mike Fedoroff participates on a panel discussing the advantages of the archaeological community working with Tribes to produce knowledge of utility to both communities.



TNTCX Director, Dr. Kneebone and Mobile District Senior Biologist, Mr. Brian Zettle exchange ideas at the USACE ERARG meeting in Albuquerque.

The TNTCX stayed very busy the month of April. Deputy Director, Mr. Mike Fedoroff was a discussant at the Society for American Archaeology 64<sup>th</sup> annual meeting held in Albuquerque New Mexico. The panel Mike was part of discussed topics including involving Tribal people in the formulation of archaeological work and research. Mr. Fedoroff has been an advocate for working with Indigenous communities since he first started a career in anthropology, and continues to work with Tribal communities across the country promoting this approach.

Dr. Ron Kneebone met with members of the Environmental Research Area Review Group (ERARG) at their annual review group meeting in order to discuss Tribal needs in areas of ecosystem restoration and Tribal contributions to Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Dr. Kneebone has long been involved with working with Tribal communities to solve tough environmental challenges.



## Partnering Tips

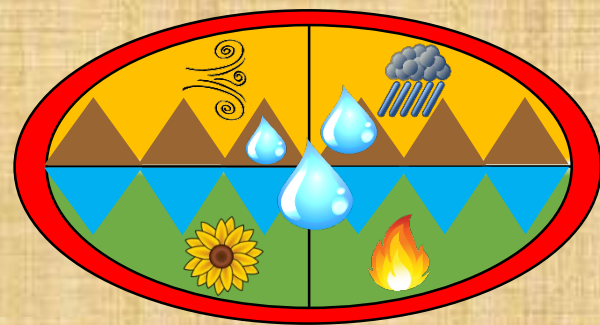
### Partnering Tips

- Be empathetic when listening to Tribal concerns, however, do not make promises that you cannot keep or overextend your authority.
- Solicit input from Tribes on how to solve complicated resource challenges.
- Do not mistake kindness, silence, or politeness for consent or agreement.
- Find a meeting place that appears neutral in order to make the balance of power equitable.
- Pay attention to not only what is said, but what is left unspoken as well.



*Tribal stickball exhibition game at Moundville Festival (photo courtesy of University of Alabama, Moundville)*





## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Liaison Community of Practice Meeting

Walla Walla, WA

June 17-21, 2019

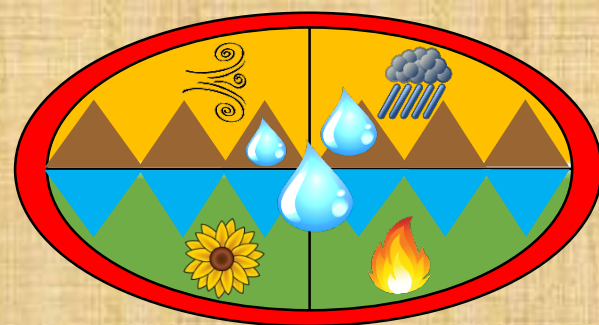


**Please RSVP to Dean Holecek and CC: Lisa Morales  
NLT MAY 31, 2019**

### Summary

The first portion of the meeting will center on a visit to the Nez Perce Tribe Reservation, including tours of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facilities - Dworshak Dam and Dworshak Fish Hatchery – both of which have important connections to the Nez Perce Tribe. The remainder of the week will be spent in Walla Walla, WA at the District Headquarters office with agenda items to include 203 partnership program studies, Consultation training, national issues, a poster session and more.

**If you have any logistical or travel related questions please contact Dean Holecek  
([dean.holecek@usace.army.mil](mailto:dean.holecek@usace.army.mil)) at 509-527-7240.**



## SPK TRIBAL FLOOD WORKSHOP-RENO, NEVADA SACRAMENTO DISTRICT USACE (23 APR 19)

Submitted by Mr. Mark Gilfillan, SPK Tribal Liaison

**Who:** Sacramento District (SPK) Planners Patricia Fontanet Rodriguez and David Sobel, CPCX-IWR Collaborator Seth Cohen and District Tribal Liaison Mark Gilfillan; Tribal representatives of the Pyramid Lake Paiute, Walker River Paiute, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, and Ft. McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribes; and other state and federal agencies attended.

**What:** Conducted an interagency flood preparedness and emergency management Tribal Workshop.

**Where:** Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Health Center, Reno, Nevada.

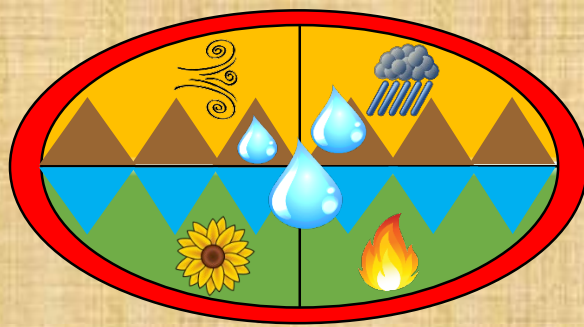
**Why:** To enhance flood communication between tribes and government agencies by exchanging knowledge to identify flood challenges facing tribal nations and government opportunities to tackle those challenges. The event generated strong interest from Tribes in exploring future partnerships with USACE, in addition to fostering inter-agency collaboration.

**What's Next:** SPK will use lessons learned and training gained during the Nevada Workshops to prepare for Workshops in northern and southern California, Utah and Colorado.

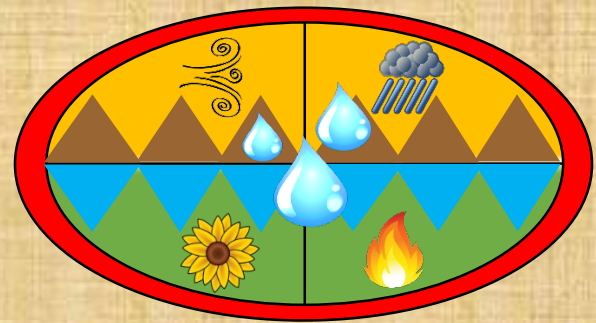




## District Spotlight Sacramento District



Members of the Corps' Planning Division team and the District Tribal Liaison collaborate with tribes and agencies in Reno, NV during a floodplain management and emergency management workshop on 23 April at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.



## SPK TRIBAL FLOOD WORKSHOP-ELKO, NEVADA SACRAMENTO DISTRICT USACE (25 APR 19)

Submitted by Mr. Mark Gilfillan, SPK Tribal Liaison

**Who:** Sacramento District (SPK) Planners Patricia Fontanet Rodriguez and David Sobel and District Tribal Liaison Mark Gilfillan; Tribal representatives of the Te-Moak Shoshone (Battle Mountain, Elko, Wells and South Fork Bands) Ely Shoshone, Duckwater Shoshone, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone, Duckvalley Shoshone Paiute and Yomba Shoshone Tribes; other state and federal agencies attended.

**What:** Conducted an interagency flood preparedness and emergency management Tribal Workshop.

**Where:** Great Basin College, Elko, Nevada.

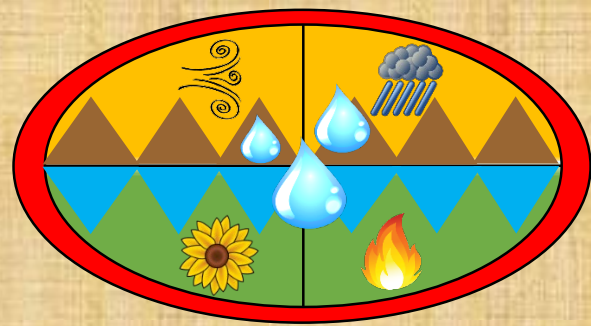
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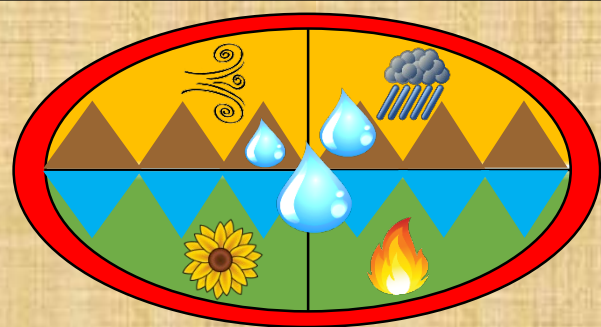


Patricia Fontanet of the SPK Planning Team presenting to tribes in Elko, NV for USACE program and funding opportunities on 25 APR, at the Great Basin College.





Attendees of the Corps' Planning Division team workshop in Elko, NV during a floodplain management and emergency management workshop on 25 April at the Great Basin College.



## HOW TO REACH US

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