

The Chief Says.....

I have been Chief of the Wyandotte Nation for 23 years. These opinions are my own. They are not influenced by anyone or anything except my observations of the American Indian world.

Our Indian world has never been a pleasant place to be. Our past, present, and future appear to be a never changing picture. We cannot change the past and the present seems to be following along the same pathway. The future cannot be left alone to stumble along without direction.

The best way to handle our future is to take over the leadership of our world ourselves. Strong leaders are needed, planned objectives should be established, and down-to-earth good hard work needs to be the order of the day.

One of my first observations is that the majority of Indian tribes are small. Many of them do not possess the capability to compete with the rest of the world for contracts or small or large business ventures. Some Chiefs operate their tribes out of their homes. They do not have attorneys, grant writers, or secretaries to assist them. These facts should be made known to Congressmen, the Secretary of Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Services, State governments, and community governments. All policies and procedures developed for American Indians should take this into consideration. We all don't have casinos or huge contracts with the federal government. We barely exist with scarce assistance from the federal government. Our unemployment status is far above the norm. Our health statistics are deplorable. I was taught by the United States Air Force that one of the best incentives for success is proper planning for obtaining any major objective.

I believe that the Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Indian Health Service should have a long-range plan for fixing the problems of our Indian world. To my knowledge, there has never been any planning accomplished to even find out



Chief Leaford Bearskin

what our problems really are. I have always heard that our world has numerous problems, but I have never heard any of the above-named agencies define those problems. You cannot fix anything if you don't know what you are attempting to fix.

I believe that a long-range plan should be developed that defines the source of our problems and then adopt a 25 or a 50-year-plan for solving those problems. This should be accomplished by the Secretary of Interior, BIA, IHS and tribal leaders. In my opinion we still have the same problems we had some 200 years ago when our lands were taken from us and we were placed behind barbed wire. It is also my opinion that most of those in power don't care or give a damn!

Are there solutions to our problems? I believe there are.

I believe that our biggest problem is that we are our own worst enemy.

In 1983 when I was elected Chief, I heard other tribal leaders complain that our worst problem was we don't get together to fight for our people. I have heard this for 23 years. We are still saying the same thing. Unity is paramount to success. If there are 600 tribes in the United States, there should be 600 tribal leaders speaking in unison.

There should be a communication system developed to keep us all updated on our efforts. It should be directed upstairs and downstairs. Governors and Attorney Generals should be included. Many of our States have large numbers of Indians in their populations. In those States we have two powerful weapons at our disposal. Those two weapons are the pen and the vote. The pen can be used to publicize our efforts and to advise the powers that be of our objectives as well as our wants and needs. The pen can tell our side of the story.

The other power is the most potent weapon that now exists - the power of the vote. Every adult American Indian must not only be registered to vote - they must vote!

In those areas where our votes count we should be electing our people to public offices. This includes local governments, state governments, and the Congress of the United States. It is my opinion that candidates get elected because most people don't vote. If people who do vote have a well-organized vote-getting effort, their candidate can be elected. Our own elected officials can represent us better than anyone else. We can have our own people helping run counties, states, and congress. Let's elect American Indians to these offices.

This brings another important thought to mind. We have several Congressmen in Washington, D.C. that have been our friends over the years. These Congressmen are reaching an age when they are likely looking to retirement in the not too distant future. When that happens, our friends in Congress will be practically nil. We need to start immediately to be prepared to replace them with people of our own choice.

There are other things that should be looked at and corrected. We need to clean up our own act. There are some people among us that create situations that gives us all a bad reputation...embezzlers, crooks, thieves, etc. We need to take care of these types

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ourselves. We cannot be successful with people of that nature on board.

It is my opinion that every person in the United States who holds an elected position should be a role model for children -- Presidents, Congressmen, State officials, and County officials. Others who should be role models for the children are movie actors and actresses, professional football, baseball, and basketball players, Hollywood directors and writers--especially those folks; teachers, moms and dads, grandmas and grand-

pas, and all tribal leaders. Myriads of others could and should be included.

There are many tribes that have become successful in gaming, contractual economic projects, etc. who set a fine example for all the rest of us. If those folks have any surplus money, it could be spent on upgrading our laws that govern our Indian world. It would be the greatest assistance they could provide to all Indians.

Can all this be accomplished? I believe it can. Dedication, sacrifice, teamwork, proper planning, and hard

work are essential. The time frame must start today. The handwriting is on the wall.

All the above are the writings of an old man. I am proud of my ancestry. I am proud of my Wyandotte Nation. I am proud to be an American. You might say, I am the proudest Chief in the Indian world.

P.S. There really is a Great Spirit.
Leaford Bearskin, Chief
Lt. Col. USAF (Ret)

From Earlene Roskob - Second Chief

Kweh Everyone,

I am happy to see Spring is here and the winter freeze is behind us!!

We are having changes in our Nation, good changes. Economic Development is busy and always working on new projects. There have been changes in staff. New staff has been added. We are growing. As Chief says, and I am proud to agree, we have the best staff in the world!!

I wasn't able to attend Employee Appreciation day, but understand everyone had a wonderful time. Our staff can play as hard as they work!!

I am looking forward to our Second Annual Culture Week the end of May and first of June. I do hope you can make it also. Last year was so informative and fun, as well as a serious time getting back to our roots. It was also wonderful to meet so many new people and make new friends, along with getting in touch with some of our old friends and family.

Once again, I am bragging about our Web Site. Lloyd Divine won a prestigious award for his work. However it takes help from everyone to keep him advised of current and correct information. Don't forget to send information regarding your family or activities you want him to include.

Write me on email anytime and I will respond. If you prefer to call me, leave a message with Tiny and I will be sure to call you back. Don't forget to send us articles about your family members to

put in our Turtle Talk. We are so proud of all of you and want everyone else to know your accomplishments and activities.

Hope to see you in May!!



Chief Leaford Bearskin honored

The Tahlequah Church of the Nazarene will be hosting Veterans' Appreciation Day on June 12, 2005. They are honoring veterans and their families in the community. Chief Leaford Bearskin will be the Honored Guest. Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors, tribal members, and employees of the Nation are cordially invited to attend the service. It is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. A section of the sanctuary will be reserved to accommodate seating for any Board members, tribal members, or employees who plan to attend. If you are sure you will be attending, please call Tiny, Wyandotte Nation Executive Secretary, at 800-256-2539 Ext. 218 by June 1st so she can send a count of the number of people attending for seating and a meal following the service. Directions to the church are to go through Grove, Jay, and at Kansas and turn right on Hwy 51 going east into Tahlequah. Go about one mile and you will see the church as you top a hill.



Petting Zoo during the National Week of the Young Child (April 4-8, 2005)



Funfest (National Week of the Young Child)



Nation Employee Review - Get Acquainted !

Julie Wills, daughter of Jim and Anna Belle (Brown) Wills, was born in Grand Junction, Colorado in 1955. Julie is one of three siblings. Her sisters are Karen Bowman of Independence, MO and Brenda Murray of Neosho, MO. She grew up in rural Seneca, Missouri and is a graduate of Seneca High



School. Julie also attended Missouri Southern State University and Crowder College. Julie is a Wyandotte Tribal Member and her Indian name is "Running Turtle". Her sister, Karen Bowman of Independence, MO is employed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in Kansas City and represents her office in the American Indian Federal Executive Council; Brenda Murray of Neosho, MO is currently employed as a nurse.

Julie, a resident of Seneca, MO, is currently employed with the Wyandotte Nation as the Facilities Manager within the Planning and Development Department. This position supervises the maintenance and custodial staff, maintains inventory of tribal assets, and serves as purchasing agent for all supplies, equipment and other needs.

Julie has two children, Jamie Gerhard, age 20, who plans to attend Franklin Technical School this fall and John, age 17, who is in the 11th grade at Seneca High School.

Julie first began her employment with the Nation in 1999 as an Environmental Trainer/Monitor. Julie is very knowledgeable in water testing procedures and secured a Class D License in Water/Wastewater from the State of Oklahoma, which was needed to maintain her qualifications in that area. Julie later accepted the position as Facilities Manager. This position was responsible for an entire audit of tribal assets, which

required a great deal of time and effort. Julie's strong work ethic and constant determination proved to be an added asset to the Wyandotte Nation.

Julie serves on the Health Advisory Board for the Bearskin Health Care and Wellness Center; she also serves as a volunteer on the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Committee; and is a member of the Newton County Historical Society. Julie attends St. Paul's Methodist Church in Joplin, MO.

Julie enjoys spending time with her pets (a collie named Lassie and 3 horses, Ginger, Rascal and Chief). She is also a country music fan, especially George Strait and reads self-help books (which she claims hasn't helped, yet). Julie has a great personality, is a dedicated tribal member and enjoys serving the Wyandotte Nation in the capacity of Facilities Manager. Julie may be contacted by calling 918-678-2298, x 222.

Great Job Julie !!!!

Wyandotte Nation Housing IHS - 121 Program

The Tribe has an Indian Health Service - IHS - 121 Program, which is a program for wells, septic-septic drainfield systems, rural water hookups, sewer line hookups, etc. These are provided for Tribal Members within a specified service area. If you are in need of any of the above mentioned water/sewer projects, please check with this office to see if you are in the specified area.

We would be happy to assist you with an application and any information you might need for the above program.

Please call either Reba or Kathy at 918-678-2297 ext, 239 or 236.

Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

**Wyandotte Nation
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Gyah'-wish Atak-ia is published quarterly for tribal members by the Wyandotte Nation at its headquarters in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. Inquiries may be addressed to:

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(800) 256-2539
fax (918) 678-2944

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Bearskin Diner

**Open Under New
Management**

Daily Specials

**New Hours:
5:30 a.m. to 10:00
p.m.**

**Takeout Orders:
678-3740**

Lucky Turtle Celebrates Approaching First Anniversary!

By Tom Colgan

On May 17, the Lucky Turtle Casino will pass its one year anniversary milestone. Celebrations will be going on May 16-20, and will culminate on Friday, May 20, with one lucky player's name being drawn, and with the giving away of a new Kawasaki jet ski. The coming anniversary is sparking a lot of pride in the Wyandotte Nation community and among those involved in the planning and operations of the facility. And for good reason, because it has been an exciting year of positive growth with many changes and continual expansion in all areas. "Moving forward successfully" has been the dominant attitude that has propelled the Lucky Turtle in their first 12 months. Constant striving for the highest customer satisfaction through friendly and caring service has created a reputation of being the best place to play in the area. The ever-increasing numbers, the high volume of play on all machines, and the many jackpots being paid out, also show that it well deserves the reputation as a hotbed of activity for the players who really want to win. Winners love to play at this hospitable place.

Several players have recently enjoyed their play at the Lucky Turtle by being the winners of major promotions. Doug Cavagnarro recently had a picture taken of himself, standing on a balcony in Cancun, with the beach and waves



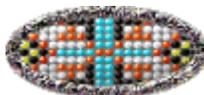
behind him. He was smiling while holding a sign that said, "Gracias, Tortuga Suertuda". He was saying, "Thanks,

Lucky Turtle" for the prize that sent him to that beautiful spot.



Sheila Zabel, of Miami, Oklahoma, won a grand prize drawing on March 26, and received a 42" plasma screen television for her home. Another winner was Elaine Huebner, of Cherokee, Kansas, who won the first of four trips being given in the month of April. Her trip is to Branson, Missouri, area and tickets for the attractions there. Congratulations to these excited players, who are just representatives of many who have enjoyed the first year's happenings of the Lucky Turtle Casino. A new addition to the casino (seen in the pictures with some of the winners) is the occasional appearance of "Lucky", the real life turtle mascot, who makes the casino's logo and sign come alive.

It has been a year of good beginnings, but is, indeed, only the beginning. More shall come and the future is even brighter. And all of this gives the Lucky Turtle a reason to be proud, a reason to smile, and a reason to enjoy the celebration of its first anniversary.



PLEASE SEND YOUR MEMBER NEWS TO:
TURTLE TALK
P.O. BOX 250
WYANDOTTE, OK 74370
OR FAX TO
(918) 678-2944

Gift Shop News

*****FOR WINTER*****

- Izod Jackets with tribal logo!
Black or Gray - \$60
- Fleece Jackets with tribal logo!
Cream or Gray - \$34
- Fleece Blankets with tribal logo and carrying strap!
Red, Black or Gray - \$30

*****Handcrafted Pottery*****

- by tribal member Matthew Zane starting at \$15
- Prints by Jim Stuckenberg \$55

*****Leanin' Tree Cards*****

- Decorative Stationary - 18 sheets with envelopes \$8.50
- Laser and Inkjet compatible

****Still Available****

- Decorative Gourds
- Wyandotte Nation T-shirts, \$6 to \$18 dollars.
- Sizes: Sm - M - Lg - 2X - 3X

Check out our other Gift Items

- Wyandotte Nation Coffee Cups
1 - for \$5.00 2 - \$9.00
- Metal Turtle Shapes - \$8.00
- Turtle Necklaces - \$6.00
made by tribal member Monica Raines
- Indian art on leather - \$18.00
- Indian Art on Pillows - \$45
- Mandellas (4 sizes) \$25 - \$145
- Sand Paintings \$25 - \$40
- Various Ceramics \$1.50 and up
- Authentic Silver and Turquoise Jewelry
- Wyandotte Cookbooks
Volumes 1 and 2 - \$6 each

For information on how to place an order and receive it in time for the holidays, call Brenda House at (918) 678-2297 or 1-800-256-2539 ext. 227

Tribal Department Reports

BEARSKIN HEALTH CLINIC CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES

Bearskin Health Clinic Contract Health Services (CHS) is a federally funded program to assist eligible patients financially with specialized care that is not directly available from the Bearskin Health Clinic. Other contracted facilities are Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, Integris Baptist Regional Health Center in Grove and Miami, St. John's Regional Center in Joplin, Missouri, Craig General Hospital in Vinita, and Claremore IHS Hospital. ASSISTANCE DEPENDS ON ELIGIBILITY, RESIDENCE, MEDICAL PRIORITIES, ALTERNATE RESOURCES, AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING.

The Bearskin Health Clinic CHS program also contracts with specialty care physicians, hospitals, diagnostic groups and other health care providers to treat our patients at prearranged fees.

The Contract Health Service Program is funded yearly with federal funds by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Not all referrals for specialty care can be paid for by Bearskin Health Clinic Contract Health Services, because the funding they receive cannot accommodate every need of every patient. Medical priorities have been established for determining which referrals can be authorized for payment.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BEARSKIN HEALTH CLINIC CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES:

1. Must be eligible for direct patient care services provided by Bearskin Health Clinic contracted facilities and/or an IHS facility. An individual is eligible if they are of Indian descent and a member of the Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Tribe.
2. Non-Indians may be eligible in these situations: A non-Indian woman who is pregnant with an eligible Indian's child through pregnancy and postpartum; A non-Indian member of an eligible Indian's household who resides within the CHS service area is eligible for CHS

if the Medical Officer in charge determines that services are necessary to control a public health hazard or an acute infectious disease; A non-Indian under 19 years old who is an adopted child, stepchild, foster child, legal ward or orphan of an eligible Indian.

3. Patient must reside within the Bearskin Health Clinic 12 county CHS service area.

4. Out-Of-State residents are not eligible for CHS funds.

5. You must use all other resources to pay for your medical care, such as Medicare, Medicaid, VA, Workers' Comp, Title 19, Sooner Care, automobile insurance, and/or group health insurance, including IHS facilities when applicable.

6. CHS IS A PAYER OF LAST RESORT!

The priority system helps patients have equal opportunity for specialty services and to make sure the funds are used to give the best possible benefits.

When services are not available at Bearskin Health Clinic and contracted facilities or at an IHS facility where the patient regularly receives care, a physician will initiate a referral to a contract specialty provider.

Patient Benefits Coordinator at the Bearskin Health Clinic prepares all referrals to submit weekly for the CHS Review Committee. The Review Committee meets every week. They have an average of 20 cases on a weekly basis. Referrals from the Bearskin Health Clinic are reviewed and categorized in accordance with approved Bearskin Health Clinic CHS medical priorities.

If your referral is denied, the patient and/or provider has 30 days from the date the denial letter is received to appeal for reconsideration. Appeal should be made in writing and mailed to: Attn: Kristin Thomas, Director, Bearskin Health Clinic, P.O. Box 30, Wyandotte, OK 74370. If the decision is upheld, the next level of appeal can be made in writing within 30 days to: Chief

Charles Enyart for Eastern Shawnee Tribe patients, and Chief Leaford Bearskin for Wyandotte Nation patients.

EMERGENCY CALL-IN PROCEDURES:

Call-ins are reported to the Bearskin Health Clinic in Wyandotte, Oklahoma (918) 678-2282 Ext. 227. This call should be made when a patient has an emergency and is unable to go to the nearest Bearskin Health Clinic contracted facility or IHS facility. The patient must call the CHS office within 72 hours after the beginning of the treatment (this 72 hour period is extended for elderly 65+ to 30 days).

A CALL-IN REPORT DOES NOT GUARANTEE PAYMENT UNTIL IT IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE CHS REVIEW COMMITTEE!

REFERRAL STEPS ARE:

1. Nurse/Provider will direct your referral to the CHS Patient Benefits Coordinator's office.
2. Patient Benefits Coordinator will counsel with you regarding eligibility, alternate resources such as Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, VA, Workman's Comp, Sooner Care, and Title 29, and schedules the appointment if necessary.
3. Patient will need a referral from his or her doctor for each additional procedures, tests, follow-up exam, and/or hospitalization. This is the patient's responsibility to contact the Benefits Coordinator each and every time!
4. If a patient schedules or reschedules an appointment without proper CHS authorization, the patient will be responsible for payment!
5. Get to know your Patient Benefits Coordinator at the Bearskin Health Clinic to help with any scheduling and questions regarding Contract Health Services.

Further clarification and/or additional information concerning CHS may be obtained from the Patient Benefits Coordinator, Bridget Burleson at 918-678-2282, Ext. 227.

Family Services

It is springtime in Oklahoma and time to give thanks to the Creator for the beautiful colors bestowed upon the hills of Wyandotte. Our spirits are reborn as we make our way outdoors to garden, plant and appreciate Mother Earth. It is going to be a great year for the Wyandotte Nation. Please stop in to see us on your travels this summer during the Nation's Cultural Week or Annual Meeting and Pow-wow ceremonies.

Tribal Operations: Tribal Membership
Just a reminder that new members are voted on during the September 2005 Annual Meeting so please get your membership applications sent in prior to the August 15, 2005, deadline. Membership applications are available from this office upon request.

Tribal Tags/Office Hours:

In order to properly serve our Tribal Members, we ask that you telephone this office to schedule appointments for new tags or renewals. However, if it is not convenient for you to travel to the Tribal Complex, we do provide tag services through the mail. Tribal members must reside in "Oklahoma Indian Country" to title and register their vehicles with the Wyandotte Nation. Appointments or inquiries may be directed to: Dana Butterfield @ extension 219 or Kate Randall @ extension 224.

Social Services:

The Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department continues to offer an array of need based social services for Wyandotte Nation Families. Should you have an emergency need and reside in the service area, please feel free to contact us.

Indian Child Welfare:

Adoptive Homes and Foster Homes are needed for Indian Children Nationwide. The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act mandates that Indian Children who are removed from their homes are placed with the child's relatives, the child's Tribe or other Indian Families. If you are interested in serving your Indian Community, please call for information on how you can make a difference in the lives of tribal children.

Community Events:

The Nine Tribes of Ottawa County organized and hosted the events for the "National Week of the Young Child" April 4-8th. The week's events included a fun fest, a petting zoo and the world renowned Native American ventriloquist Buddy Big Mountain. Known as "the Indian who can make anything come to life," Buddy Big Mountain provided entertainment for 2,000 school age children at the historical Coleman Theatre in Miami, Oklahoma. The Wyandotte Nation Turtle Tots Preschool Children were in attendance for the week's activities and a great time was had by staff and children.



Summer Youth Program/June 2005

The Wyandotte Nation Bearskin Healthcare Facility and Family Services host a summer youth program during the month of June. The hour and a half afternoon classes include health, fitness, educational, cultural and arts and crafts activities. The program is for children ages seven through twelve. Registration is required so please contact us if you are interested in attending. Hope to see you this summer:

Kate Randall
Director of Family Services
Extension #224
Dana Butterfield
Family Services Assistant
Extension #219

Education Department

Preschool

The annual Pre-school Pow-Wow was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2005. The event had a wonderful attendance for a cool spring evening. Many thanks go to Chief Bearskin and Shelby Clemons for their participation and leadership.

Plans are underway for Pre-school graduation ceremony and events. Eight students from Pre-school are in the Kumon Math in school honor roll program.

Our summer program will begin as soon as school is dismissed. We will offer field trips, swimming lessons and many other fun enrichment activities.

If you are interested in an application, please call Carla Culver at 918-678-2297 ext. 230.

Library

The Wyandotte Tribal Library is open from 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. A new book drop slot has been installed for patron's convenience. It is located on the west side of the building three entrance. New materials are added monthly to enhance the available materials in the area. Karen McNelis and Jessie Winscott are familiar with our facility and look forward to meeting you and providing assistance.

Child Care & Development Fund Program

The Child Care Program is very busy serving 118 families, which include 84 Wyandottes. We utilize 36 licensed childcare centers and 24 licensed day care homes to provide care for Native American children. We offer assistance based on income to all federally recognized tribes. Participants must reside within a 100-mile radius of the tribal headquarters.

Workshops are being held on childcare topics in conjunction with the other tribal CCDF programs. The annual provider appreciation banquet will be held May 10, 2005, in Miami. This event will focus on Native American culture, foods and traditions.

Tribal Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available upon request for the fall 2005 term with a due date of May 1, 2005.

Scholarships are available for eight semesters in the amount of \$500.00 each. You must meet all criteria to remain on program and submit your grades in a timely fashion to insure funding.

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Oklahoma tribal members and parents need to look at the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. This is a program for students in 8th, 9th, and 10th grade. Eligibility is determined by the amount of income reported on tax returns. Since we are fast approaching tax season, do this while you prepare you taxes. Their web address is www.okhighered.org/ohlap/. Please contact the Education Director (Carla J. Culver at ext. 230) for assistance if needed.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Currently, 32 individuals are participating in this program in either technical school or college. Limited opportunities exist in this program but all are welcome to apply.

Planning / Development Department

The first quarter of 2005 ended with the submission of grant applications for several different projects. One application went to the Department of Interior for assistance in training for the Cultural Committee to acquire an understanding of regulations pertaining to Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Another application was submitted to the Administration for Native Americans for a language grant; this grant request was for funding to upgrade the language portion of the Tribe's website and to have linguists provide intensified language immersion program. The third application also went to Administration for Native Americans requesting funds to standardize the policies and procedures of the Tribe.

In addition, we continued to work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in developing the Geographic Information Service covering Tribal lands in the Miami agency. Over 5,000 parcels have been digitized and detailed databases have been created. This is a special contract that the Tribe has with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop a mapping system. We are also assisting the Bureau in detailed maps illustrating future sales of chat (mine waste) from the Tar Creek

Superfund site.

We are starting the process of the Self-Governance negotiations for 2006. Staff will negotiate with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to prepare Annual Funding Agreement based on Presidential Budget and Congressional appropriations.

The Maintenance Department has been busy also, with many different projects for the Tribe. Staff moved the Police Department to their new offices during the month of February. During the month of March all maintenance staff was re-certified in CPR and Automatic External Defibrillator.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

This quarter has been a very busy time for the Tribe's Environmental Department. The staff with the help of our consultant began our Bio-assessment of Warren's Branch in January. The assessment consisted of using seines and kick nets to collect aquatic organisms such as macro-invertebrate and small fish. We chose Warren's Branch to serve as our background for this study, because it is considered a low impact stream. In February we began our assessment of Lost Creek which runs across Tribal Lands. Three sites on each stream were assessed, and fish and mussel samples from each will be sent to an EPA accredited lab for heavy metal analysis. We will conduct assessments again in May and June to compare the winter samples.



Seining for organisms on Warren's Branch. From left to right: Kathy, Meredith (TEMS consultant), Christen and Janice.

Mussels found on Lost Creek



Our department also purchased a boat for water testing and addressing environmental concerns. RENIE the recycling robot visited Turkey Ford Elementary School and talked with the children about the importance of recycling. USGS provided GPS training to staff. Our department continues to work with other environmental agencies such as TEAL, Tar Creek Trustee Council, USGS, TECO, ATSDR, BIA, EPA and the other Tribal governments. Such projects include Stream gauging with USGS at Twin Bridges and helping plan the Tri-State Mining District Forum with USFWS, DNR and ODEQ.



We also provide the following services: Tribal well testing within a 50 mile radius and Environmental education programs for area schools and organizations. For more information please call:

Christen Creson

Environmental Program Manager
918-678-2297 ext 241

Kathleen Welch

Environmental Program Assistant
918-678-2297 ext 215

Janice Wilson

Environmental/Water Technician
918-678-2297 ext 245