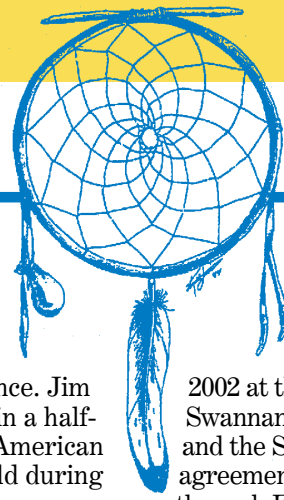


# Native American Activities

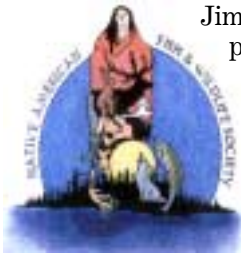


*FY 2001 was the second year that the Southeast Region had a dedicated Native American Liaison. The development of contacts and working relationships with the southeastern Indian tribes and Native American organizations was a priority. This resulted in increased knowledge and understanding of the Service's trust responsibilities to Native American tribes. The promotion of natural resources partnerships led to a substantial growth in cooperative activities by the Service and Indian tribes. The support and involvement of Ecosystem Teams and field stations will assure the continued growth of the Region's Native American program in future years. Activities that occurred in FY 2001 with appropriate Service contacts follow:*

## **Native American Conferences**

Jim Brown, Native American Liaison, actively participated in the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society and the Natural Resources Committee of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. His participation included attending United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., conferences at Verona, New York, in November 2000 and at Washington, D.C., in January 2001. He presented updates on Service Native American activities to the Natural Resources Committee at both conferences and provided additional information on the organization and activities of the Southeast Natural Resources Leaders Group at the January meeting. The Natural Resources Committee expressed an interest in the possibility of establishing relationships and communications with federal natural resources agencies through the Southeast Natural Resources Leaders Group.

*Jim Brown*



Jim Brown participated in the Southeast Region meeting of the Native American Fish and

Wildlife Society at Hollywood, Florida, in March 2001 and in the national conference at Lincoln City, Oregon, in May 2001. The Service was well represented at the Southeast Region meeting, which included Service presentations on the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the Endangered Species Program, the Environmental Contaminants Program, and hydropower licensing and an update on ongoing regional Native American activities. Howard Henderson, Chief of Diversity and Civil Rights,

cooperated with the Pacific Region to provide a Service booth at the Trade Show held during the national conference. Jim Brown participated in a half-day Service Native American Liaisons meeting held during the national conference.



In addition, Jim Brown attended the annual conference of the Great Lakes Region of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society in Brimley, Michigan, in September 2001. His purpose in attending was to obtain information and ideas to enhance the Southeast Region Native American Fish and Wildlife Society annual conference. *Jim Brown*

## **Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Education and Training Committee**

At the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society's annual conference, Jim Brown was asked to serve as an At-Large Member of the Society's Education and Training Committee. Jim agreed to this informal request which was followed by a formal written request in June 2001. *Jim Brown*

## **Southeastern Native American Youth Natural Resources Practicum**

Jim Brown completed work on a grant agreement to provide \$5,000 in Service funding to support the Native American Youth Natural Resources Practicum being sponsored by the Southeast Region of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. This will be the first Youth Practicum held in the Southeast. The inaugural Youth Practicum was originally planned to be held at the Seminole Big Cypress Reservation in South Florida in June 2001, but it was postponed

until 2002 due to uncontrollable events. The Youth Practicum is now scheduled for July 2002 at the 4-H Camp at Swannanoa, North Carolina, and the Service's grant agreement has been extended through FY 2002. Jim participated in planning meetings in October 2000, March and July 2001. *Jim Brown*

## **Partnerships with Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians**

Daniel Drennan and Don Seay of the Jackson, Mississippi, Field Office and Jim Brown worked with representatives of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians at Philadelphia, Mississippi, to identify and implement on-the-ground partnership activities. A Partners for Fish and Wildlife proposal for restoring a 25-acre wetlands area on the reservation included the Service, the Tribe, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service as partners. The project was approved for funding in FY 2001, but the Service was still awaiting surveying and engineering information needed to prepare the final project plan at the end of FY 2001. *Daniel Drennan, Don Seay*

Other activities discussed with the Choctaws included a biological survey of tribal lands, natural resources education, fisheries management, and law enforcement training. Ricky Campbell, Hatchery Manager of the Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery, Tupelo, Mississippi, agreed to provide fish to stock an approximately 300-acre lake under construction on the reservation. The stocking will occur in FY 2002, and will include bluegill, redear sunfish, largemouth bass, and channel catfish.

*Jim Brown, Ricky Campbell*

**Exhibit at Choctaw Family Celebration**

Terri Jacobson and Connie Dickard of the Jackson Field Office and Andrea Dunstan of the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Brooksville, Mississippi, provided a Service exhibit for the Choctaw Family Celebration in April 2001 at the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Reservation. The exhibit included a black bear skin, a sea turtle mount, various wildlife skulls, and animal tracks along with Service brochures and teacher packets. Over 4,500 students and 2,000 adults attended the event. Terri Jacobson's pet corn snake "Mr. Maize" was a hit with the students.

*Terri Jacobson*

**Natchitoches NFH Hatchery Site A Historical Caddo Village and Burial Site**

The Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery, Natchitoches, Louisiana, is continuing its efforts to honor the hatchery site as a historical Indian village and burial site. Jan Dean and Rhonda Clay of Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery; Rick Kanaski, Regional Archaeologist; and Jim Brown met with Ms. LaRue Parker, Tribal Chairperson, and other representatives of the Caddo Indian Nation of Oklahoma in Binger, Oklahoma, in December 2000 to discuss the appropriate recognition of the site. Proposals discussed included a display in the hatchery's aquarium, the construction of historical Caddo grass dwelling structures at the hatchery, and possible repatriation of human remains from the Smithsonian Institute and reburial on hatchery property.

*Jim Brown, Karen Kilpatrick*

On March 26, 2001, a day of prayer and reconciliation was held at the hatchery with Caddo Tribal Chairperson LaRue Parker, Hatchery Manager Karen Kilpatrick, hatchery staff, and leaders of the Louisiana Strategic



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*Above: Choctaw children admire bear skin. Below: Mr. Maize makes new friends.*

Prayer Network. During the ceremony, Chairperson Parker was presented with a chief's blanket; repentant prayer was offered; and reconciliation was begun. As a result of the day of prayer and reconciliation, representatives of the Caddo tribe traveled from Oklahoma to the hatchery and participated in an open house in June 2001. Further discussions on recognition of the hatchery site and possible repatriation occurred during their visit. The Friends in Support of the Hatchery received a \$6,000



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grant from the Cane River Heritage Area Commission for the development of a diorama depicting a historic Caddo village in the hatchery's aquarium, which is open to the public. In addition the Friends in Support of the Hatchery submitted a grant application to the Historical Society of Natchitoches for the development of a monument to the Caddo Indian Tribe to be placed on hatchery property.

*Karen Kilpatrick*

**Trout Fingerlings and Eggs for the Cherokee Tribal Hatchery**

The Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery, Suches, Georgia, provided 69,082 rainbow trout fingerlings to the Eastern Band of Cherokee for stocking in tribal waters in June 2001. Chattahoochee Forest provided another 77,308 rainbow trout fingerlings to the Cherokee Tribal Hatchery in the same month to grow to stocking size for a total of 146,390 fingerlings in FY 2001. The Erwin National Fish Hatchery, Erwin, Tennessee, provided 376,000 eyed-rainbow trout eggs and 13,325 surplus rainbow trout broodfish weighing 8,026 pounds to the Tribal Hatchery in FY 2001. The Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, Jamestown, Kentucky, provided 19,075 surplus 6-inch brown trout weighing 1,698



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*Cherokee Fish and Game stocking trout in reservation waters.*

pounds to the Tribal fish Hatchery in January 2001. Wolf Creek provided another 59,925 surplus rainbow trout fingerlings to the Tribal Fish Hatchery in August 2001. Chattahoochee Forest provided trout under an existing Cooperative Agreement. The Cooperative Agreement between Erwin and the Cherokees had expired and was replaced by a new Cooperative Agreement. Wolf Creek and Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery, Celina, Tennessee developed a new Cooperative Agreement with the Cherokees providing that available fish exceeding federal mitigation requirements will be provided to the Cherokees as surplus fish.

*Jack Jones, Deborah Burger, James Gray*

**Cherokee Trout Production and Distribution Program**

The Service and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians agreed to work together to develop a fish production and distribution program for the Cherokee Tribal Hatchery that will meet the hatchery's management objectives and production capability. The



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Service and the Tribe agreed to cooperatively analyze the production capabilities and operational procedures of the hatchery and to develop and implement measures to improve the efficiency of hatchery operations. The fish production and distribution program will be designed so that it can be successfully managed by Tribal Hatchery personnel.

As part of this process, Tony Garland of the Erwin National Fish Hatchery worked at the Cherokee Tribal Fish Hatchery during the last week of March 2001 and began analyzing the operation of the hatchery.

During the same week, Ken Maney and Doug Reed of the Cherokee Tribal Hatchery worked at Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery. They observed and participated in the day-to-day operations and discussed plans to cooperatively analyze the operations of the Tribal Hatchery with Service personnel.

Later in mid-April, Mitchell Pickelsimer and Terry Callihan of the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery spent a week at the Cherokee Tribal Hatchery where they inventoried raceways, developed feeding regimes, and developed recommendations to improve hatchery operations. This exchange of personnel between Service hatcheries and the Cherokee Tribal Hatchery is planned to continue in FY 2002.

*Rick Nehrling, Arnold Rakes*

## Cherokee Fisheries Proposals

The Service and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians continued to work together to find means of implementing fisheries proposals throughout FY 2001. The proposal to restore native Southern Appalachian brook trout in appropriate tribal streams remained active, and various means of funding the proposal were considered. Similarly, efforts continued in the search for funds for needed improvements to the water intake for the Tribal Hatchery. The latter need was proposed as a FY 2002 Congressional add-on, but it was not approved. Efforts to obtain funding for these proposals will continue. *Rick Nehrling*



*Service personnel examine the Cherokee Tribal Fish Hatchery water intake structure during a visit to the Cherokee Reservation in North Carolina.*

## Warm Springs Agreement with Cherokees

The Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center, Warm Springs, Georgia, developed a Cooperative Agreement with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians under which Warm Springs will provide an annual fish health inspection at the Cherokee Tribal Hatchery. These annual inspections began in spring 2000, and the agreement establishes a formal relationship. In addition, Warm Springs will provide emergency fish health assistance to the Cherokee Tribal Hatchery as resources allow. *Norm Heil*

## Cherokee Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects

Mark Cantrell, Endangered Species Biologist from the Asheville, North Carolina, Field Office, developed two Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program project proposals

with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians on reservation lands involving stream restoration. The two projects are located on Raven Fork and Goose Creek, tributaries of the Oconaluftee River. Both projects were approved for funding and are being implemented with FY 2001 funds. *Mark Cantrell*

## Migratory Birds on the Cherokee Reservation

Mitch King, Assistant Regional Director-Migratory Birds and State Programs; Rick Nehrling, Fisheries Supervisor; Keith Watson, Non-Game Biologist for Refuges; Mark Cantrell; and Jim Brown met with the Director, Fish and Game Management, for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee, North Carolina, in August. The purpose of the meeting was to explore possible areas for cooperative migratory bird management. Keith Watson is reviewing the tribe's forestry management plan for possible migratory bird recommendations and activities. *Keith Watson*

## Catawba Indian Nation Lands Workshop

Roger Banks, Field Supervisor of the Charleston, South Carolina, Field Office; Joe Cockrell, Coordinator for the Partners in Fish and Wildlife Program in South Carolina; and Jim Brown participated in a workshop at the Catawba Indian Nation Tribal Headquarters, Catawba, South Carolina, in July 2001. Other participating agencies included the Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

The purpose of the workshop was to develop a strategy for the development of tribal lands that balances economic development, conservation of natural resources, and the preservation of traditional Catawba cultural values. The long term approach identified

involves the development of a strategic plan with public input from tribal members and the assistance of the participating agencies.

The Service identified several conservation actions that were provided to Chief Gilbert Blue by letter. Joe Cockrell developed a Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program proposal for bluebird and wood duck boxes that has been submitted for FY 2002 funding. *Jim Brown, Joe Cockrell*



*S. Maslowski*

*The scarlet tanager is just one example of the migratory birds on the Cherokee Reservation.*

## Seminole Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects

Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle, Private Lands Biologist for the South Florida Ecosystem Team, is continuing to work with the Seminole Tribe of Florida on developing and implementing restoration projects on tribal lands through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.



In FY 2001 three potential projects were identified, but after visits to the sites, it was mutually decided that two of the projects should not be undertaken. The third project was ranked as a high priority Partners project by the South Florida Ecosystem Team, and it is hoped that work will start on this project in FY 2002. The project will improve habitat by controlling invasive exotic plants that have infested the site. *Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle*

## Poarch Creek Indians Contaminants Study

Jim Brown and Pete Tuttle, Environmental Contaminants Specialist for the Daphne, Alabama, Field Office, provided technical assistance to the Poarch Creek Indians, Atmore, Alabama, on a proposed environmental contaminants study on reservation lands. Jim and Pete reviewed past recommendations and provided updated information on fish sampling protocols and contaminants to be tested. The Service will provide assistance on data interpretation after the samples have been analyzed. *Jim Brown, Pete Tuttle*

## Non-Federally Recognized Tribes

Native American activities in FY 2001 involved non-federally recognized tribes. The Santee Indian Nation of South Carolina expressed concerns about maintenance of a mound and village site and illegal artifact collecting and digging at the mound and other sites on Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Summerton, South Carolina. The Santees perform provide maintenance on the mound on a voluntary basis, and the refuge staff takes measures to protect the mound and other sites. *Ryan Noel*

The Tuscarora Nation East of the Mountains requested access to property on the Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge, Windsor, North Carolina. The group proposed to use refuge property for a religious ceremony and to take a black bear as part of the ceremony. Bear hunting is not allowed on the refuge, and the Refuge Manager denied the request. *Jerry Holloman*

The Chief of the Georgia Tribe of Cherokee Indians contacted Jim Brown concerning grants for possible land acquisition in North Georgia. This matter was referred to Craig Watson, Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Coordinator, who is working with the Chief on various land acquisition alternatives. *Jim Brown, Craig Watson*

## Natural Resources Conservation Service Conference

Jim Brown attended a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conference entitled *Tribal Program Delivery Initiative* at the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Reservation in late November 2000. The well attended conference focused on the delivery of NRCS programs, such as the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program, and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program to Indian tribes in the Southeast. Numerous opportunities exist for the Service to partner with NRCS and tribes in these programs. Jim provided some basic information on the Service's Native American program and encouraged the tribes to look to us and other federal agencies for natural resource partnerships.

*Jim Brown*

## Environmental Protection Agency's Annual Tribal Environmental Managers Conference

Jim Brown participated in the Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 Annual Tribal Environmental Managers Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in February 2001. He presented information on the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the North American Wetlands Conservation Grants Program, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

*Jim Brown*

## Law and Policy on Federal Lands Training

Keith Watson attended the Bureau of Land Management training course *American Indian Cultural and Natural Resource Management: Law and Policy on Federal Lands* in Cedar City, Utah. This training provided a detailed assessment of how existing federal cultural and natural resource management law is implemented on tribal reservations and reserved right lands. The course was

presented in two formats - lecture presentations and interactive small groups given opportunities to develop creative solutions to difficult and sometimes convoluted Indian rights. Specific cases were discussed that required knowledge of basic federal law and Indian law. In most cases, federal and Indian law provide for protection of Indian cultural and natural resources.

## South Carolina Fisheries Meeting

Jim Brown participated in the 2001 South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Technician Meeting at the Catawba Indian Nation Tribal Headquarters in early September. As part of a session dedicated to Native American Activities, he provided a presentation on Service Native American activities and programs in the Southeast Region.

*Jim Brown*

## Cherokee Tribal Council Meeting

Mark Cantrell was invited to attend a meeting of the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in February 2001. Mark presented information about Service programs to the Tribal Council, emphasizing the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the availability of technical assistance in all aspects of the Ecological Services and Endangered Species Programs.

*Mark Cantrell*

## Migratory Bird Feathers

The lack of a Service process to provide feathers of migratory birds other than eagles to Native Americans for ceremonial purposes is an ongoing problem. Jim Brown expended considerable time and effort trying to obtain anhinga feathers for a Pacific Region tribe and red-shouldered hawk feathers for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Hollywood, Florida, only to be frustrated by the lack of a Service policy

*L. Richardson*



*Anhinga*

or process. Jim was able to provide turkey feathers to the Miccosukees with the assistance of Frank Bowers, Chief, Division of Migratory Birds, who graciously donated the tail fan of a turkey that he had recently bagged.

*Jim Brown*

## Fish and Wildlife News Articles

Jim Brown worked on two articles for publication in *Fish and Wildlife News*. The two articles were entitled "Southeast Region Moves Forward with Tribal Partnerships" and "Louisiana Hatchery Recognizes Indian Heritage." The second article was co-authored with Rhonda Clay of Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery. Both articles were published in the April/May/June 2001 issue of *Fish and Wildlife News*. *Jim Brown*

## Appendix

### *Federally Recognized Native American Tribes in the Southeast Region*

Catawba Indian Nation  
Catawba, SC 803/366 4792

Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana  
Charenton, LA 337/923 7215

Coushatta Tribe Of Louisiana  
Elton, LA 337/584 2261

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Cherokee, NC 828/497 2771

Jena Band of Choctaw Indians  
Jena, LA 318/992 2717

Miccosukee Tribe of  
Indians of Florida  
Miami, FL 305/223 8380

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
Philadelphia, MS 601/656 5251

Poarch Creek Indians  
Atmore, AL 334/368 9136

Seminole Tribe of Florida  
Hollywood, FL 954/967 3900

Tunica-Biloxi Indian  
Tribe of Louisiana  
Marksville, LA 318/253 9767

Deborah Burger, Hatchery Manager  
Chattahoochee Forest NFH  
706/838 4723

Ricky Campbell, Hatchery Manager  
Private John Allen NFH  
662/842 1341

Mark Cantrell  
Endangered Species Biologist  
Asheville Field Office  
828/258 3939, ext. 227

Joe Cockrell, State Coordinator-  
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program  
Charleston Field Office  
843/727 4707, ext. 17

Daniel Drennan  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Jackson Field Office  
601/321 1127

James Gray, Hatchery Manager  
Wolf Creek NFH  
270/343 3797

Norm Heil, Fishery Biologist  
Warm Springs Regional  
Fisheries Center  
706/655 3383, ext. 233

Jerry Holloman, Refuge Manager  
Roanoke River NWR  
252/794 3808

Terri Jacobson  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Jackson Field Office  
601/321 1129

Jack Jones, Hatchery Manager  
Erwin NFH  
423/743 4712

Karen Kilpatrick, Hatchery Manager  
Natchitoches NFH  
318/352 5324

Rick Nehrling, Fisheries Supervisor  
Regional Office, USFWS  
404/679 4148

Ryan Noel, Refuge Manager  
Santee NWR  
803/478 2217

Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle, Private Lands  
Biologist for the S. FL Ecosystem Team  
941/358 8442, ext. 32

Arnold Rakes, Staff Fishery Biologist  
Regional Office, USFWS  
404/679 7374

Don Seay, State Coordinator-Partners  
for Fish and Wildlife Program  
Jackson Field Office  
601/321 1138

Pete Tuttle, Environmental  
Contaminants Specialist  
Daphne Field Office  
334/441 5181, ext. 31

Craig Watson, Atlantic Coast Joint  
Venture Coordinator  
843/727 4707, ext. 16

Keith Watson  
Non-Game Biologist for Refuges  
252/473 6983, ext. 249



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Contacts in the SE Region

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