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Traditions Are Alive In Southwest Georgia

1670 AD

"As the morning sun rose in Southwest Georgia, drops of dew glistened on the Longleaf Pine trees. Beautiful baskets with complicated designs are being made with the pine needles. They will be traded for hundreds of miles.

Native American children play cheerfully while women gather wild plants, nuts and seeds. Preparations are being made for a special time of the year. Men and women have offered prayers to the Creator for a bounty of squash, beans, and corn.

Tea has been made from the sacred Yaupon Holly. Some warriors quietly sip the tea after a

breakfast of nut bread and dried fruit. Others carefully prepare medicine from the leaves.

Today is a good day. Mother Earth has blessed the people..."



2001 AD

The Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center (PMC) in Georgia is working with the Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe. Several projects are underway that focus on re-establishing native plants that are important to the tribe.

The Golden Triangle RC&D secured a grant to plant Longleaf Pines tree seedlings and perform vegetative critical area treatment that benefits wildlife and improves water quality on the tribal grounds.

Mike Owsley, Manager of the Jimmy Carter PMC, stated: " The Plant Materials Center respects the sensitivity of American Indian's and the important role that plants continue to have in their

culture."

Plant Materials Specialist Donald Surrency assisted the tribe with native wildflower seeds that will provide wildlife benefits. The PMC is cultivating cuttings from a Yaupon Holly, which is believed to have originated in a Creek Tribal Town around 1670. We look forward to a positive partnership with the tribe."

Field surveys on the tribal lands are planned which will catalog special plants for use by future generations of tribal members.

**Mike Owsley, Manager, Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center,
USDA-NRCS Georgia**

**Larry J. Coburn, American Indian Special Emphasis Program
Manager, USDA-NRCS Georgia**