

Former Governor James Hunt Visits Cherokee

Former Governor James Hunt visited Cherokee on July 13 at the invitation of Cherokee Preservation Foundation. The governor, who helped negotiate the agreements between the EBCI and the State of North Carolina that paved the way for the casino and the establishment of Cherokee Preservation Foundation, came to see how the Foundation has invested in cultural preservation, economic development and environmental preservation over the past decade.

The Governor toured downtown Cherokee, where he was briefed about the development of the Riverbend shopping area, which was financed with help from the EBCI, Cherokee Preservation Foundation and the Sequoyah Fund, and he learned about the Foundation's \$8 million investment in promotion of local tourism.



Then he visited the cultural district, first stopping at Qualla Arts & Crafts, where Executive Director Vicki Cruz and Education and Outreach Coordinator Tonya Carroll talked about the upgrades that Foundation resources have made possible. At the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Executive Director Ken Blankenship showed Governor Hunt the new education wing of the Museum and explained how the Museum has built its fundraising capability.



At the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Governor Hunts visits with Ken Blankenship and Susan Jenkins.

Vicki Cruz and Tonya Carroll tell Susan Jenkins and Governor James Hunt about a basket in the Qualla Arts & Crafts collection.

At the Mountainside Theatre, John Tissue, the executive director of Cherokee Historical Association, pointed out upgrades funded by the Foundation. These include new seats, lighting, bathrooms, concessions, and a new sound system and

rain shelter, as well as training for acting and playwriting that have enabled significantly more local talent to participate and take leadership roles in the Drama. A final tour stop at Oconaluftee Village highlighted how Foundation resources have been used to upgrade the village and enhance its authenticity.

Back at the Foundation's office, the Governor met with Kevin Jackson and Kelsey Standingdeer, two tribal members who are participating in one of the new leadership development programs created by the community and the Foundation. The visit was capped off by a dinner with the Governor and his family, founding and current members of the Foundation's Board of Directors and the Foundation's staff. In remarks at the dinner, Cherokee Preservation Foundation Executive Director Susan Jenkins thanked Governor Hunt and other tribal leaders, especially both former and current Board members, for the hard work that went into creating and guiding the Foundation.

"We have provided a lot of resources to worthy programs, as well as helped build the capabilities of our grantees and offered opportunities to our local young people to be part of a dynamic organization," Jenkins said. "And the work we have done that makes us most proud is what we do on behalf of youth."

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Gov. Hunt Visits

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“Helping local and regional youth is the basis for our funding to provide broad-band to 60 schools in the seven-county region, to support Youth Councils and the eco-study tour of Costa Rica, to help diversify the economy by encouraging entrepreneurship for youth in the schools and adults, to preserve the Cherokee language, and to encourage the Qualla Boundary and the region to be green,” Jenkins said.

Governor Hunt told the dinner guests: “When I last visited Cherokee ten or so years ago, the cultural organizations like Qualla Arts & Crafts, the Museum, the Drama and Village had wonderful products and programs, but the facilities were dated and not up to par with other venues around the state and region. Ten years later, I see a very different picture.

“With the support of the Cherokee Preservation Foundation and the Tribe, I see world class facilities being used to deliver even higher quality programming and people who are pleased to see visitors and very accommodating.

“I am extraordinarily pleased to see the Foundation’s focus on leadership development,” Governor Hunt said. “I like the idea of having programs for youth, college students and adults. Leadership development is essential for continued progress on the Qualla Boundary and in the region. I have always thought that the crowning achievement in the Compact between the Tribe and the State was the idea for Cherokee Preservation Foundation to be established, and now I know that to be the case.”

About Our Newsletter

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Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects Pick Up Steam

In the effort to make the Qualla Boundary a greener community, collaboration is proving to be a beautiful thing. The EBCI Tribal Government, Cherokee Preservation Foundation, the Environmental Defense Fund’s Climate Corps, the Land of Sky Regional Council and others are working together to enable greater energy efficiency and the emergence of local renewable energy sources.

Tribal departments formed a Strategic Energy Committee to create a strategic plan to implement the recommendations from the audits and determine the best renewable energy options available to the EBCI. The Committee also serves as the knowledge base and advocate for the plan. Chaired by Damon Lambert, the Strategic Energy Committee is composed of representatives from the Transpor-



Erin Evans, Damon Lambert and Daniel Brookshire visited a solar farm in Haywood County as they studied the feasibility of different types of renewable energy on the Qualla Boundary.

The story began several years ago, when Cherokee Preservation Foundation convened community members to set goals for being a green community and to take actions to implement the Qualla Environmental Resources Initiative proclaimed by Principal Chief Mitchell Hicks.

Momentum began to build in 2008, when the Tribe received a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to complete a strategic energy plan and Cherokee Preservation Foundation began funding energy audits of tribal and community buildings to identify energy and dollar saving opportunities.

Over the past three years, 40 energy audits have been conducted by Waste Reduction Partners, a program of the Land of Sky Regional Council. The audits identified energy improvements involving insulation, types of windows and roofs, HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) efficiency, lighting, water saving features in restrooms, and office equipment that could be made to reduce energy usage significantly in existing buildings.

tation, Environment and Natural Resources, and Planning and Development departments and the Office of the Principal Chief.

The strategic energy plan targets at least a 30% energy reduction at seven tribal buildings. That requires a sizable amount of capital, and \$1,458,100 has been raised in grant monies and matching funds to retrofit buildings and implement energy efficiency projects at Oconaluftee Island Park and other locations.

The funding has been provided by the EBCI, the federal government and Cherokee Preservation Foundation.

Cherokee Preservation Foundation’s most recent contribution to the effort is a \$374,000 grant awarded to the Strategic Energy Committee so it can create showcase projects that will demonstrate renewable energy and energy efficiency projects on the Qualla Boundary.

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Cherokee Speaker Takes Part in Kilmer Celebration

Cassidy Galaviz, a young man who is a member of the Eastern Band of Indians and has learned Cherokee by participating in the Snowbird community's language programs, took part in the 75th anniversary celebration at Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest on July 30.



Miriam Kilmer, National Forest in North Carolina Forest Supervisor Marisue Hilliard and Cassidy Galaviz (l to r).

Representing the Cherokee, who for centuries were stewards of the forest and its giant hardwoods, he read the famous poem "Trees" in Cherokee along with Miram Kilmer, the granddaughter of Joyce Kilmer, who read it in English. The Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest is named after poet Joyce Kilmer, who was killed in action in France during World War I.

Galaviz takes part in the language learning programs in the Snowbird Community led by teacher Shirley Oswald, including the Snowbird language camp. Cherokee Preservation Foundation provides support for the Snowbird programs.

EBCI Members Kick off Racial Healing Conference

In May, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation convened 300 of its grantees involved in racial healing and racial equity programs at a gathering in Asheville to help the grantees connect with peers, expand perceptions about possibilities for their work and deepen understandings about strategies for achieving more equitable outcomes for vulnerable children and their families.

Three EBCI members were invited to set the tone for the gathering when the conference began. Diamond Brown offered a Cherokee prayer, John Grant, Jr. sang a Cherokee blessing song and Patty Grant told those who had come to the gathering from across the United States about the journey of the Cherokee people. While Patty talked about the historical trauma and grief of the Tribe, she emphasized the resilience of the Cherokee people.

Climate Corps Fellows Boost Energy Plan

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Two Fellows from the Energy Defense Fund's Climate Corps, Erin Evans and Daniel Brookshire, have been helping the Strategic Energy Committee accomplish a lot over the summer. The Climate Corps Public Sector Program taps talented graduate students from top schools and matches them with public organizations that are developing practical energy efficiency investment plans.

Evans and Brookshire have helped the Strategic Energy Committee determine which sources of renewable energy hold the greatest potential for the tribe. For example, they have been involved in working with Proctor & Hodge, the architects who are examining the feasibility of incorporating solar and microhydro features in the three EBCI visitor centers located downtown, in the cultural district and near Boundary Tree. Microhydro power involves placing a turbine with propellers in moving water; the water turns the turbines, the turbines spin a generator and electricity is produced. Proctor & Hodge will make recommendations soon.

The Fellows are prioritizing tribal buildings by energy efficiency potential to help the Strategic Energy Committee plan the order of implementation of the strategic plan. Brookshire and Evans have also been working with Bob Gilbreath of Waste Reduction Partners to complete the last of the energy audits that are needed, all of them in the Snowbird community. They have been crawling around in attics and other sweltering spots in Snowbird, "interacting mostly with cobwebs,"

Brookshire quipped. The Fellows have also been developing a system that will enable the Tribe to track energy use now and after building retrofits have been completed. The system will also aid in the development of green building standards on the Qualla Boundary.

The Climate Corps Fellows have helped the community get a jump on the Christmas holiday, too, upgrading the snowflakes that decorate downtown each holiday season to LED lights that use just one watt of energy instead of the seven watts consumed by the old lights. The new lights are sheathed in plastic rather than glass and will last much longer as a result. The cost savings from for these efficient LED holiday lights are expected to be approximately \$5,800 per year. Evans is also working to get rebates from Duke Power for the Tribe on the new LED streetlights that have recently been installed throughout downtown.

Both Climate Corps Fellows have enjoyed their experience in Cherokee. "The Tribe is taking a lot of big steps to make the Qualla Boundary more energy efficient and sustainable," Brookshire said.

"It is exciting that the Tribe is the first in the region to do a lot of this work," said Evans. "We feel lucky to have had the opportunity to help and to learn."

"The Fellows have been a wonderful asset for me and the Strategic Energy Committee," said Damon Lambert. "They have assisted us in doing a lot of the leg work required to make progress on a variety of energy related issues. It has been wonderful having Erin and Daniel in Cherokee this summer, and we couldn't have asked for two better individuals."



The new LED streetlights installed in Cherokee will result in annual savings of \$23,000.

"An important part of our work is making things better for our children," Grant said as she concluded her remarks and received a standing ovation. "In Cherokee, we can't afford to quit because we are working for the benefit of the next seven generations."



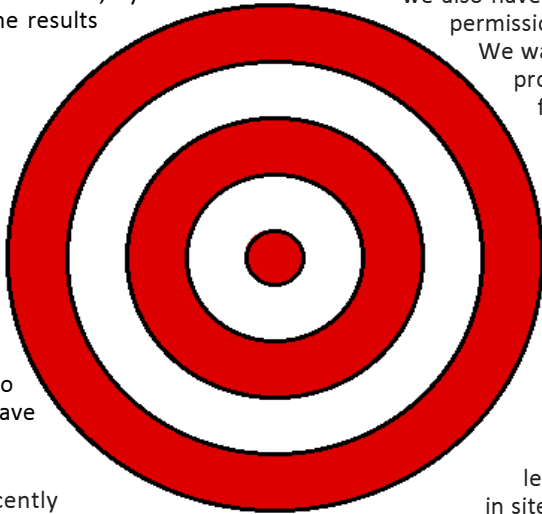
Patty Grant spoke about the resilience of EBCI members.

Each conference participant received a piece of Qualla stamped pottery made by EBCI artists, a gift from Cherokee Preservation Foundation.

Workshop Helps Grantees Target Results

Cherokee Preservation Foundation will be using a new grant application in the next grant cycle, one that streamlines the application process to save nonprofits time and also helps grantees define, track and achieve results by asking:

- How do you define success, by which we mean the results of your services?
- How do you know for sure when success has been achieved?
- Throughout the grant period, how do you know that you have enough time and money left to get to the success you have defined?



Sixty nonprofits recently participated in a WNC Nonprofit Pathways workshop called **Target Practice** to receive training in how to define and track results for their organization. Instructor Hal Williams told participants that a surprising number of nonprofits do not have a clear, stated and understood definition of success from their programs and even fewer have targets – specific aiming points for programs and organizational improvements that drive what they do at all times. “And groups and programs with clear targets almost always outperform those who pledge best efforts to achieve all that they can,” said Williams.

Williams said great targets:

- Are about results rather than activities.
- Are set high and offer a “wow” factor that compels attention and requires real strategy.
- Are commitments, not aspirations.
- Specify the persons getting the gain, and set a goal for the amount of change that will happen.
- Come with a yardstick to verify accomplishment.

Daniel Martin, Bobby Raines, Sasha Watty and Charlie Myers of Cherokee Preservation Foundation’s programming team participated in the workshop.

“His focus on creating work plans that spell out results that grantees want to achieve reinforces the work we have been doing as we have been developing our new grant application,” said Charlie Myers. “He also helped us realize that if we want grantees to aim high – and we do -- we also have to give them permission not to be perfect.

We want grantees to improve the quality of life for people on the Qualla Boundary and in the region. They may not meet all their targets, but we want them to aim high.”

Sasha Watty and other Foundation staff are already using what they learned from Williams in site visits with grantees who applied for grants several months ago. “Action steps like ‘we will offer three workshops’ are not outcomes,”

Watty said. “When grant applicants have stated action steps as goals in their Spring grant applications, we are helping them understand the difference and develop useful measurements for their proposed projects and programs.”

Cherokee Preservation Foundation will offer a similar Skill Builder workshop to grantees, **Defining and Tracking Project Results**, on October 12 or 19. To sign up for the workshop, contact Sasha Watty at swatty@cpfdn.org or at 828/497-5550.

The Cherokee Preservation Foundation programming team urges grantees to stay active in the Skill Builders program and sign up for the new courses that are continually being added. Those who are active get priority consideration for grant funding. See the Skill Builder schedule on page 5.

Cherokee Preservation Foundation will hold a series of meetings in the fall to familiarize organizations on the Qualla Boundary and in the seven counties with the new grant application and its emphasis on results. Stay tuned for more information.

Day of Caring Brings out 240 Volunteers

During the Cherokee Day of Caring in May, 240 community volunteers helped neighbors selected by their communities for assistance and pitched in to help with painting, yard clean-up, gardening, and fix-it projects. The volunteers received significant support from the EBCI Facilities Department and the EBCI Housing and Community Development Division. Thanks to all who participated!



New Oconaluftee Visitor Center Is a Must See



If you haven't seen the beautiful new Oconaluftee Visitor Center that opened in April, stop by and take a look at the 6,000 square foot center on Hwy 441, which depicts the area's cultural heritage in a personal and dramatic way. The quality of the exhibits is excellent and the attractive building is a model of energy efficiency and sustainability. A \$30,000 grant from Cherokee Preservation Foundation was used to create the Cherokee exhibits (photo courtesy of the Sylva Herald).



The opening ceremony at the new visitor center began with the posting of the colors by the Steve Youngdeer American Legion Post 143 Color Guard from Cherokee. Miss Cherokee Tonya Carroll led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance with the assistance of Teen Miss Cherokee Andrea Cedillo, Junior Miss Cherokee Kaley Locust and Little Miss Cherokee Aliyah Bigmeat. Great Smoky Mountain National Park Supervisor Dale Ditmanson salutes the flag (photo courtesy of Jan Smith).

SKILL BUILDER Fall Schedule

Grantees who are active in the Skill Builder program get priority consideration for grant funding. Courses run from 9 a.m. to noon, followed by a one-hour networking lunch at Chestnut Tree Inn (formerly Holiday Inn-Cherokee). Contact Sasha Watty at 828-497-5550 or email sasha.watty@cpfdn.org to reserve your space. More information about the program is available at <http://cpfdn.org/skillbuilders.html>.

September 14 or 21

Grants Part I: Preparing Your Grant Proposal – This session will take the mystery out of what you need to do to submit a clear, compelling proposal.

October 12 or 19

Grants Part II: Defining and Tracking Project Results – What difference does your project or program make? It is critical for you to be able to define what you expect to achieve from your project. This training will teach you how to define and track measurable outcomes. *(The Grants Part I course need not be taken before enrolling in the Grants Part II course).*

November 9 or 16

Designing Your Work Day – This course will teach basic time and stress management skills that will help you lead a more effective, happy work life.

Happy 65th Birthday, Qualla Arts & Crafts!

Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual will celebrate its 65th birthday on August 13. Congratulations to all the artists and staff members who over the years have made the oldest Native American artist cooperative a widely respected organization that continues to thrive and grow.



Qualla Arts & Crafts's beautiful sales space (photo courtesy of John Warner)