

## Mapping Ancient Cherokee Trails

For at least a thousand years – and perhaps as many as 10,000 – the Cherokee have been masters of the mountains, using trails that often went straight uphill to move between sacred sites, commercial centers and other places in their vast homeland. Two years ago, with the first of two Cherokee Preservation Foundation grants and guidance from the Tribal Heritage Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), Wild South and its partners, Mountain Stewards and the Southeastern Anthropological Institute, started taking a journey across time. Their goal was to rekindle, restore and reemphasize the trail and road system of the Cherokee Nation in Western North Carolina and surrounding territory.



*Jerry Wolfe*

The Cherokee Trails Project covers approximately 150 linear miles and 47,000 acres in the Pisgah, Nantahala and Cherokee National Forests containing Cherokee historical sites. Wild South Cultural Preservation Director Lamar Marshall says that what has unfolded is “clear evidence that the main arteries of our 20<sup>th</sup> century road system in the Southeast were built directly on Cherokee trails and corridors – the Cherokee developed the circuitry for modern transportation.”

Fifteen major trails in the Great Smoky, Nantahala, Cowee and Snowbird Mountains have been documented and mapped. The majority of them have survived as unpaved U.S. Forest Service roads, modern paved roads and even major highways, but some have been overrun by rhododendron and mountain laurel. Researching and documenting the trails have required an extensive knowledge of cross country navigation, surveying skills, historical map collections, and state and federal archives.

*For more information, visit [www.wildsouth.org](http://www.wildsouth.org) and click first on Cultural Preservation and then on the Southeastern Indian Trails Project. If you know of the location of a marker tree or dendrograph in western North Carolina, please contact Lamar Marshall at [lamar@wildsouth.org](mailto:lamar@wildsouth.org).*

Cultural road markers and signs are still to be found along the old travel ways. Mountain Stewards has been finding and documenting trail markers known as thong trees. The Cherokee bent these trees and pinned them to the ground to produce a permanent 90° angle in them so the trees could serve as a permanent marker. The Cherokee also used dendroglyphs, which are pictographic or lettered carvings in the bark of beech and other trees that served as boundary markers, signposts, message boards, religious motifs and artistic expressions.

As it establishes the first comprehensive repository of the Cherokee trail system maps on record, Wild South is now interviewing Cherokee elders to capture their memories of the trails and stories associated with them. Recently elder Jerry Wolfe took

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCC) days and how the trails were built by hand. Many were constructed on old Cherokee trails.

When the Cherokee Trails Project is completed in 2011, much of the information from it will be available for use by Cherokee Central Schools students and teachers, members of the EBCI, travelers visiting western North Carolina and others.

Cherokee children will be able learn about Cherokee geography, in part by using Google Earth to zoom in on each trail, which will be hyperlinked to photographs and video clips of trail segments, audio clips of oral histories as told by EBCI elders, and digital images of original historical documents. When the user – either a student or a member of the general public – zooms out, the program will simulate a flyover of the landscape with Cherokee trails identified on the Google Earth map.



project partners to several important points where trails led over the mountains from Big Cove. A trail that was important to Mr. Wolfe was one on which he and his father herded cattle up onto Rattlesnake Mountain during the Great Depression. He described for the Cherokee Trails Project the Cherokee

The Cherokee Trail Project will also be used to get children and adults outdoors and experiencing the trails for themselves.

*(Please see “Cherokee Trails” on the next page.)*

# Cherokee Trails

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The EBCI's Travel & Promotion Department will use publicly available information from the project to promote visitation to the Qualla Boundary and surrounding counties.

Sensitive information such as the location of former homes or sacred sites along the byways will not be public and will be used by the EBCI's Tribal Heritage Preservation Office when it plans a project like building a new road. The project will provide the Tribe with access to many cultural sites and artifacts that might otherwise be destroyed, lost or undiscovered. Key elements of Cherokee culture and heritage will be preserved for future generations. The completed project will become the property of the EBCI.

Land containing ancient Cherokee trails and cultural sites will be designated, managed and permanently protected by the U.S. Forest Service. The Forest Service, which is providing funds for the Cherokee Trail Project, is required to protect historical sites by implementing special management prescriptions that preserve cultural heritage sites and the ecosystems found within a half mile corridor of them.



Lamar Marshall recalls a favorite experience during the project. With three Cherokee companions, he was riding a horse at dusk down a remote trail deep in the Smoky Mountains.

*Trail trees near the sacred Kituhwa Mound.*

“I had a distinct feel-

ing that the moment could have been in the year 1700 and that we would soon smell the smoke of a hundred fires from a Cherokee village in the valley below,” he said. “Along these trails are the blood, sweat and tears of those who lived, laughed and died here. The trails were the travel arteries of the land, and they connect this generation with the history of the land.”

# Storyteller Travels to Maine

Gerri Wolfe Grady comes from a long line of gifted storytellers, including her father Jerry Wolfe, her aunt Helen Bradley Smith and her grandmother Eva Calhoun Bradley. Grady leaped at the chance to participate in the first artist exchange sponsored by Cherokee Preservation Foundation and the New England Foundation for the Arts because she saw it as an opportunity to have a wider perspective on storytelling and learn from a different tribe's point of view.

She was paired with Fredda Paul, a healer and storyteller from the Passamaquoddy tribe, who lives along the coast in northeast Maine.



*Gerri Grady and Fredda Paul work on their story in Maine.*

When the pair met for the first time in Cherokee in July, they collaborated on an essay they called “Source of Life,” which is about the spiritual importance of water to their respective tribes. When a walk they were taking together brought them to the Oconaluftee River, stories practically bubbled out of them.

“When I’m running on the Oconaluftee River Trail or along Towstring road, I look to the river for life,” Grady wrote in the essay, “I also imagine what my ancestors saw and felt as they drank from its cool clean depths. I wonder about my descendants and whether they will be able to drink from it as well...no one would ever think of harming this source of life, but it happens.”

Two months later, when the two met again in Maine, they worked on a much more difficult essay, the story of Fredda’s life between the ages of five and 14, after his estranged father took Fredda and his brother from their mother’s house and left them in at the infamous Schubencadie Indian Residential School in Nova Scotia. Fredda and other children suffered terrible abuse there, and when Fredda was allowed to leave at age 14, he still did not know how to read or write. “I have never met a Native American person that has been through as much as Fredda,” said Grady.

But Paul was determined to tell his story as a step toward healing. Through Grady’s gentle questioning and skilled writing, they finally finished their painful task. And then once again, they walked along the water, this time on a coastal pathway following the Atlantic Ocean.

The trip had its lighter moments, too, including a detour that took Grady and her husband Sean by the Maine home of novelist Stephen King. “The home of one of my favorite authors was quite impressive with its wrought iron fence topped by bats,” she said. “Just as I was running up to the home, a raven flew to the ground and screamed up toward the house. Perfect!”

“In order to preserve our stories, legends, myths, contemporary essays and poetry, we’ve got to write them down,” said Grady, whose work has appeared in anthologies published by Berea College and the North Carolina Writers Network – West.

Grady is eager for the artist exchange to grow in depth and number of participating artists in the coming years. “When artists work together with clear goals and their own vision, wonderful things can happen,” she said.

Other EBCI artists participating in the exchange with New England artists were Paula Nelson, Darrin Bark and Kim Bottchenbaugh. The part of the program in Cherokee was coordinated by Beth Johnson of the RTCAR (Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources) initiative that is funded by Cherokee Preservation Foundation. It also receives support from the Cherokee Cooperative Extensive Center.

# SGAᵐ(T) SOᵐ(T) Begins

**SGAᵐ(T) SOᵐ(T)**, or The Right Path, is a new leadership development program that has been created by Cherokee Preservation Foundation and members of the Eastern Band of Indians to provide new ways for EBCI adult tribal members to develop leadership competencies grounded in tribal culture and values. Eight leaders are participating in the inaugural program, which began in September and will continue until November 2011.

The leaders participating in the program's first year are Trista Welch, Tara McCoy, Robin Swayney, Tonya Carroll, David "Chunky" Jumper, Tony Walkingstick, Matthew Tooni and Catcuze Tiger. They were selected by a community team on the basis of their potential to develop into leaders and carry forward Cherokee leadership traditions. Each leader's employer supports their attendance for two days each month.

The program includes opportunities to learn about cultural values and identity, Cherokee social and gender roles, the Cherokee language, traditions and the changes brought about by assimilation, tribal governance, communication styles, personal leadership skills, the natural world and environmental sustainability, and Cherokee artistry and recreation.



*Pictured, left to right, are Tara McCoy, Matthew Tooni, Catcuze Tiger, Robin Swayney, Trista Welch and Tony Walkingstick. Tonya Carroll and David Jumper are also participating.*

"Through The Right Path, the community seeks to help develop additional selfless leaders who will create positive change in their workplace and in the local community," said Bobby Raines, Senior Program Director at Cherokee Preservation Foundation. "The learning modules are the first comprehensive leadership curriculum based on Cherokee culture. Cherokee

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**"This leadership program is designed to provide a bridge back to traditional Cherokee leadership approaches that have sustained the Cherokee over hundreds of years."**

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leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> century must navigate in both the Cherokee and non-native worlds. This leadership program is designed to provide a bridge back to traditional Cherokee leadership approaches that have sustained the Cherokee over hundreds of years."

Trista Welch is participating in The Right Path because she has been placed in leadership roles throughout her life and she felt the need to enhance her leadership and public speaking skills. She is the Manager of CBC Printing, a tribal enterprise. With the knowledge and skills she expects to gain during The Right Path, she wants to work with the youth of the Tribe to help them understand and the values that were instilled in tribal elders by their families.

"Our elders grew up helping others and using whatever skills they had to help people in their community," she said. "I would like to start a program that teaches youth to get involved in community and family projects. This program would promote motivation, self-sufficiency and helping others."

Marie Junaluska is serving as coordinator and language instructor for The Right Path, and Juanita Wilson is the administrator and learning facilitator. Jean Jones and Brenda Oocumma also serve as facilitators.

The Right Path is the fourth leadership initiative developed by Cherokee Preservation Foundation and members of the community and the first created for adults. Three programs developed for youth are the Costa Rica Eco Study Tour, the Cherokee Youth Council, and the Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program for college students.

## Jones-Bowman Leadership Program Draws Support

The Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program, which helps college undergraduates who are members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians develop leadership skills, recently received donations totaling approximately \$10,000 to support the participation of additional students.



Stephen Lambert, Program Director for the Graham Foundation in Greenville, SC, and a member of the EBCI, recently presented an \$8,000 donation to the Jones-Bowman program, as well as a \$7,000 donation to the Cherokee Youth Council.

Gerard Ball, a Jones-Bowman Fellow, presented a donation of approximately \$2,000 — part of the proceeds of the first annual North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police Golf Tournament at the Sequoyah National Golf Club— on behalf of the police chiefs' organization. Ball is Chief Agent of the Cherokee Alcohol Low Enforcement Division and earned his Associate's, Bachelor's and Master's degrees while he has been participating in the Jones-Bowman program.

Since the Jones-Bowman program began in 2007 to honor the late Principal Chief Leon Jones and Mr. James Bowman, founding members of Cherokee Preservation Foundation's Board of Directors, 14 undergraduates have received cash awards to apply to development activities such as special academic enrichment programs, travel, leadership training and sponsored volunteer service.

For more information about the Jones-Bowman Leadership Award Program, visit [www.cpdfn.org/jonesbowman.html](http://www.cpdfn.org/jonesbowman.html).

## BabyFACE Benefits Cherokee Pre-Schoolers

The BabyFACE project, a partnership between Parents and Teachers and the Bureau of Indian Education, has received a \$14.2 million Investing in Innovation grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide important services to Native American families with pre-school age children nationwide. The grant was awarded in part because of the matching support Parents as Teachers received from other funders, including \$118,000 from Cherokee Preservation Foundation.

Parents as Teachers is an internationally recognized program designed to enhance child development and school achievement through parent education accessible to all families. The program is called BabyFACE because it is modeled after the Bureau of Indian Affairs' successful Family and Child Education (FACE) program, which has more components than the BabyFACE version.

The BabyFACE project will help prepare children for their successful entry into kindergarten and beyond by providing home visits and parent education services to Native American families with children up to five years old at 24 BIE-funded schools in six states, including Cherokee Central Schools. Services to families will include home visits, routine health and development screenings for children, group meetings with parents, and referrals to resources.



*The BabyFACE program will be available to pre-schoolers on the Qualla Boundary in 2011.*

BabyFACE was a successful program on the Qualla Boundary for a number of years, helping teen, single and other parents teach their children readiness skills for kindergarten. However, BabyFACE had to be shelved four years ago due to lack of funding, and now the Cherokee Preservation Foundation grant enables local revival of the program.

*(Please see "BabyFACE" on the next page)*

## Students Show Command of Technology

Cherokee Central Schools were the venue for a first-rate student competition on October 29, as students demonstrated technology applications they had developed and battled for scholarship money and bragging rights, including a project focused on the curvature of the earth. The setting was the Instructional Technology Awareness Conference sponsored by the Western Region Education Service Alliance and supported by Cherokee Preservation Foundation and Cherokee Central Schools.

Students from Cherokee Central Schools and schools in Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Clay, Cherokee, Graham and Swain counties each had up to 15 minutes to present their applications to a panel of teaching interns from Western Carolina University. There were three categories of competition, and 33 students competed.

Prizes in each of the three categories included \$750, \$500 and \$250 scholarships for first, second and third place, respectively.

### **Content-driven, Class Projects**

1<sup>st</sup> Place, Jonathon Dunford at Macon County Early College, who developed a website about the Civil War for his U.S. History class that is being used by other students.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Jacob Tallent at Franklin High School, who created a video about a space shuttle launch for his Scientific Visualization class using a 3-D modeling program.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Katie Moninghoff at Macon County Early College, who developed a Photo Story to state her position that Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone qualifies as an epic.

### **Service Projects**

1<sup>st</sup> Place, Kenneth Hill of Murphy High School, whose Honors Physics class worked to capture an image of the curvature of the earth by constructing a high altitude imaging system capable of being launched on a weather balloon to record data and a GPS to track and retrieve the device. The device was retrieved with all electronics intact and over 400 images.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Anthony Huber of Haywood Early College, who created a podcast radio station for his U.S. History class. The station includes news, songs, public service announcements, commercials, advice segments, and other creative ways to present course content. Segments are recorded as MP3 files and compiled with the addition of music and sound effects. The completed podcast is posted on the class website and can be accessed by other students.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Lesleigh Putnam of Haywood Early College, who created a podcast radio station for Civics/Economics class. The station utilizes the same components and technical aspects as the U.S. History station, but presents concepts from the N.C. Civics/Economics curriculum. Posted on the school's website, it is accessible by other students.

### **Hobby & Special Interest Projects**

1<sup>st</sup> Place, Joseph El-Khoury at Tri-County Early College, who created an iPhone application using iWebKit that allows sharing of information about his school.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Tyler Williams at Robbinsville High School, who was introduced to digital art through an Art II class in school and subsequently used Photoshop to create an art piece from a collage of various images. Now he uses Photoshop to create photographic images that make artistic statements.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, the Engineering Group at Swain County High School, which learned the engineering design process and then used it to create a rollercoaster using K'NEX pieces.

Cherokee Preservation Foundation has been a sponsor of both WRESA Instructional Technology Awareness Conferences following the \$1.7 million of grant monies it provided to help create WNCEdNet, a fiber optics network that includes nearly 60 schools in western North Carolina. With the broadband network in place, the next step taken by WRESA and its partners has been to help teachers understand and utilize the technology that WNCEdNet makes possible. The recent competition shows how students can serve as technology mentors to their teachers.

# BabyFACE

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“We are thrilled to be able to offer BabyFACE again as parents are their children’s first and best teachers,” said Beth Pedersen, Pre-School Coordinator for the HOPE (Helpful Opportunities for Parent/Teacher Education) Center at Cherokee Central Schools. “Initially, we will be able to offer the program to up to 30 children. All families have the opportunity to apply.”

In February, Cherokee Central Schools will advertise throughout the Qualla Boundary so that parents will know how and when to apply for participation in BabyFACE.

## About Our Newsletter

This newsletter is published by Cherokee Preservation Foundation. For more information, visit [www.cpdfn.org](http://www.cpdfn.org), or call us at 828/497-5550.



## Viewership of Youth Council Film About Teen Pregnancy Is Growing

Nearly 1,000 people have viewed online the Cherokee Youth Council’s 13-minute film about teenage pregnancy from a youth and a native perspective, and the Youth Council has only begun to show the film in public settings.

The film, which has drawn praise and distribution assistance from the National Campaign to Present Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, will soon be viewed by middle and high school students at Cherokee Central Schools following recent approval for use by CCS’s Health Board. The youth councils operating in Graham and Swain counties and two others being formed in Macon and Jackson counties plan to bring the film before students in their schools. In Cherokee, Cherokee Youth Council members will be present at each showing of the film to provide an introduction and answer questions.

The film was produced to help begin a community conversation about teen pregnancy on the Qualla Boundary. Cherokee Youth Council members, who are in grades 7 through 12, pursued the film project because they have seen so many of their young friends become parents, most with little understanding about their new responsibilities and the consequences of parenthood. The film features interviews with teenaged parents and young women and men who first became parents as teenagers, all of whom describe how their lives changes when their baby entered their lives.

Karina Bottchenbaugh, the coordinator of the Cherokee Youth Council, will ask the EBCI Tribal Council to make the film available on Cherokee Cable so the general public can see it.

The film was funded by a grant from First Nations Development Fund. The Cherokee Youth Council receives other financial support from Cherokee Preservation Foundation.



The Cherokee Youth Council has eight new members and continues to accept applicants. Facilitators supporting the group’s film, recycling awareness and other efforts are Jeremy Wilson, Ahli-sha Stephens and Hunter Thomas.

The film may be seen at <http://vimeo.com/12861528>, and DVDs may be requested by contacting Bottchenbaugh at [karibott@nc-chokeee.com](mailto:karibott@nc-chokeee.com).