

The Four Winds

Newsletter of the American Indian Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS (AIANEA)

AIANEA 2009 MEMBERSHIP
DUES ARE DUE

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Regular - \$25.00

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Tribal - \$500.00

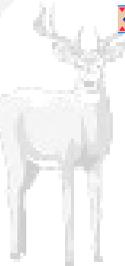
Lifetime - \$250.00 1 x payment/or
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Please mail payment to:

Harold Bryant
Treasurer
1510 29th Street
Hondo, TX 78861

Please send articles on what is happening in your area. News stories, articles of interest, gatherings, pow wow's, whatever you want to share! Email to membership@aiana.com

Winter- Niibin 2009



We need a logo for our Elder Quote's—Design the best logo—get your dues paid for you for 2009!!



Elder Quote

"To be healthy in every way. Body, mind, spirit, Mother Earth. I think that's what we need to go forward in our life for seven generations to come. We're all in the same canoe, and we all need to paddle with the same blade together."

Marie Meade, 8/13/08

Respect, Harmony, and Beauty

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Millie Titla

Outgoing President Letter



Dear AIANEA Members:

It was truly an honor and a privilege to serve as your President this year. I had the benefit of working with a very dedicated National Council, Elders Council, and all the Standing Committees and I would like to thank them for their commitment to the mission of the Association.

Together, we've accomplished a lot this past year. We improved our communication and opportunities to the membership through a new membership brochure, quarterly newsletters with special editions, training announcements, and partnership with the NRCS National Tribal Network Committee, increased scholarship award, conducted a career survey, developed an organizational visioning process, and held the annual business meeting and annual training conference in partnership with Asian Pacific Islander Organization (APIO).

The work continues though, the Visioning Committee is still working to complete the visioning process for the Association and would like your input and assistance in this important task. They identified three overall topics to include in the vision plan and are seeking your comments on the draft action plans and the draft provocative statements for each topic. Information about the Visioning Process is included in the Visioning Newsletter Special Edition posted on the website.

The beginning of the New Year also brings the need to renew your membership. Membership is good for one calendar year (January 1 through December 31). I encourage you to send those dues in and renew your commitment to the mission of the Association. Thank you to those who have already sent them in.

I wish the 2008 President, Dave Wise, all the best as he takes on the leadership of the Association as I know he will continue to work to strengthen the organization to represent the needs of the membership.

Last, I wish you and your family a prosperous and joyous New Year!

Ahi'Yee,

Millie Titla

Dave Wise

Incoming President Letter



Dear AIANEA Members:

Boozhoo (Hello). I would like to wish all of you and your families health and prosperity in the year ahead. I am truly privileged to serve as your president in 2009, and want to thank you for this honor. I would also like to thank Millie Titla for her outstanding dedication and leadership as our president this past year. I will do my very best to continue the legacy and traditions that our past presidents, our Council of Elders, our National Councils, and our entire group of creative, motivated members throughout the years have built for the AIANEA. It is truly an honor to lead such a distinguished, longstanding Association of dedicated and talented members.

Over the past year, our Visioning Team has worked very hard to develop a plan for what the AIANEA can become. Throughout this visioning process, creative, dynamic visions for meaning, growth, and development have grown and progressed. As our Visioning Plan is now finalized, I am excited to help lead our organization as we begin to make our collective visions a reality. The Visioning Plan is truly a plan for Seven Generations, a plan for where we want to go and how we should get there, and an exciting look at what is yet to come.

As president, I want to focus on promoting native youth into natural resources and agricultural careers. I would also like to work closely with the Tribal Colleges to enhance our networking and recruiting capabilities.

I would like to invite you to attend this year's training event which will be hosted by the Oneida Nation near Green Bay, Wisconsin, July 13-17, 2009. Our honorable host elder, Loretta Metoxen, has been working with our Conference Planning Committee to put together an event that is sure to provide excellent training opportunities for our participants. The events will include cultural resources training and Tribal liaison training as well as conservation tours of the Oneida Farm managed by the Oneida Nation, which is the largest farm in Wisconsin where they use advanced technologies in farming, and the Menominee Forest managed by the Menominee Nation, which is a world class example of sustainable forest management with forests so massive that their outline can be seen on satellite images from outer space.

I would also like to welcome our officers who have recently been elected/re-elected/appointed to the National Council:
2nd Vice President: Ciro Lo Pinto – Wellsboro, PA

Secretary: Blythe Koyiyumptewa – Flagstaff, AZ

Midwest Representative: Sharron Santure – Edwards, IL

East Regional Representative: Nels Liljedahl – Conway, NH

South Central Regional Representative: Leota Burnett – Miami, OK

Northern Plains Regional Representative: Levi Montoya – Trinidad, CO

We have an open door policy, so please remember that the members of the National Council are available for your questions or concerns. Contact information for each Council member can be found on our website at <http://www.aianea.com>. I would also like to invite any member to contact me if you would like to sit in on one of our monthly National Council teleconferences. We have a limited number of spaces available if you would like to present on a special topic or just get more involved in our Association. Please contact me by phone at (218)879-0863 or through email at dwise@fdltcc.edu if you are interested.

The start of the new year reminds us of the need to renew memberships. Membership is good for one calendar year (January 1st through December 31st). I would like to encourage you to send those dues in and renew your commitment to the AIANEA. Thank you to those who have already sent them in.

Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as president, and I look forward to a great year ahead.

Miigwech (Thank you).

Program helps restore hydrology, wetlands, cultural resources on Yakama lands

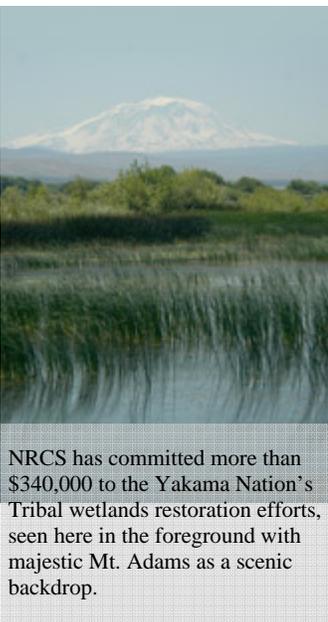
Tracy Hames unfurls a three foot map across the hood of his vehicle. Nearby, birds chirp excitedly as they flutter amid the branches in a willow grove. A pair of ducks takes wing in the distance. Across the expanse of tule reeds, cattails and shallow ponds, shorebirds feed – silently pacing along the water's edge, stabbing at insects with their spear-like beaks.

Even in the heat of the mid-day sun, the land is teeming with life. But this life has returned in abundance only recently – as the result of an expansive and innovative restoration effort.

"We take a different angle on how we do management and restoration," Mr. Hames says sweeping his hand across the map that depicts the 21,000 acre Toppenish Creek restoration project in the Yakima Valley of south-central Washington. Clearly, he doesn't need the map to know where he is or what this project's about. After almost 18 years of leading the project, the Yakama Nation wildlife biologist knows the land like the back of his hand. The map is there for illustrative purposes only.

"We don't ask, 'How can we set this up to provide the most benefit for a specific use?'" he says referring to the Tribe's resource management and restoration philosophy. "We're saying, 'This is an important area for the Yakama people. They've used these areas for thousands of years for a lot of different purposes. They've really culturally evolved in these natural areas here.'

"We look at this area and ask, 'What did this place look like historically? How did it function ecologically? What's changed since a couple hundred years ago? And what can we do to bring it back to some semblance of – in a modern context – how it was?'"



NRCS has committed more than \$340,000 to the Yakama Nation's Tribal wetlands restoration efforts, seen here in the foreground with majestic Mt. Adams as a scenic backdrop.

Fixing the water, restoring the land

The key to bringing it back, the biologist for the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation says, is restoring the hydrology. "And that's where Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) comes in," he says.

Mr. Hames says the natural hydrology of Toppenish Creek is significantly different than it was historically. "So," he says, "we're trying to restore the hydrology – to get the water working the way it used to. That's what we're talking about when we talk about hydrologic restoration. The first thing we want to do on a project like this is 'fix the water.' Then you can start working on all of the other components."

In this case, Mr. Hames says, "the WRP was the key to fixing the water." The WRP is administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides financial incentives to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private and



Tribal Wildlife Biologist Tracy Hames, right, and NRCS Tribal Liaison Roger Amerman

Tribal lands.

"This was a perfect fit for WRP," says NRCS Resource Conservationist and Tribal Liaison Roger Amerman, "especially because this gave us an opportunity to contribute to a restoration project on a watershed scale."

Mr. Hames explains that historically, Toppenish Creek was just a small stream with multiple channels. Over time, natural levees developed from the heavier substrate flood water deposits, which naturally raised the bed of the main channel higher than the side channels. In addition, beavers built dams to hold the water levels high, which helped flood the wetlands through the side channels. But in the 1800s there was a concerted effort to remove the beavers and to convert the wetlands to agricultural purposes.

By late 1800s, the beavers were all but gone as were their dams. Eventually, the existing beaver dams failed, the creek busted out, and the creek's water was captured by a minor side channel to the south in a lower elevation of the flood plain.

When the flood waters came out of the mountains as part of the natural snow runoff cycle – because the water could no longer spread itself out – it caused the main channel of the creek to dig deeper and deeper. It's a geologic phenomenon known as incision. "Eventually you get a stream so disturbed that even the beavers can't bring it back on their own," he says.

Bringing back the floods, naturally

Consequently, a critical part of the restoration effort focused on restoring the stream's hydrology, so the floods can re-occur. "You can't restore ecosystems and natural flood plain habitat if the land doesn't flood," Mr. Hames says.

Through NRCS' program, the Tribe has installed 28, man-made grade control structures to lift the base level of the creek up several feet, in order to allow the beavers to begin restoring it again and to allow the floods to perform their hydrologic role.

"The next step is to get the beavers in and get them working in the system along with our restoration here," Mr. Hames says. There's evidence, he says, that the beavers are already returning.

"Eventually," Mr. Hames says, "we'll have a channel running with wetlands and side channels that flood and drain according to the water that's coming down through the system here."

Before designing and installing the structures, the NRCS, worked with the Tribe, Ducks Unlimited, and Geomax Inc. to develop a topographic survey of the floodplain. In the end, the 28 grade control structures affected 1600 acres of restored floodplain wetlands.

For the complete story—please go to:

<http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/news/Showcases/Showcase22.html>



With the grade control structures in place, a backhoe operator breaches a temporary de-watering dam, allowing water from Mid-Toppenish Creek to flow along its historic channel.

(Photo courtesy Tracy Hames).

New Hampshire NRCS All Employees Meeting October 3, 2008

On October 3, 2008 New Hampshire Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) held a very unique all employees meeting. The idea was spawned by Michael Watson, who was the Acting State Conservationist at the time. Mike wanted to have a fun meeting that would serve to bring the staff closer together and foster better working relations. The agenda of the meeting was a secret until the last minute. Even the permanent State Conservationist, George Cleek IV, who was invited to attend, did not know the agenda ahead of time. It was all very mysterious. Rumors were flying around the state as employees tried to guess what the meeting was all about. Even the location of the meeting was kept secret until a few days before.

Early last summer, long before this event was conceived, Nels Liljedahl and Jim Spielman, who share responsibilities as American Indian /Alaskan Native Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM) for New Hampshire, arranged to meet in a location outside of their respective offices to write an American Indian/Alaskan Native Special Emphasis Program Business Plan. They decided to meet at the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner, NH, a place both were anxious to see. While there, they received a tour of the museum, which features artifacts from many different tribes throughout the United States. They also discovered the museum has great facilities for holding meetings. Working with museum staff, they reached an agreement to allow all New Hampshire NRCS employees to become members. With membership came visitation privileges and the opportunity to use the meeting facilities. After completing their business plan, both individuals went their separate ways taking with them an appreciation for this very special place and a strong desire to share it with others.

The opportunity to spread the word came at the end of the summer. As a special assistant to Michael Watson, Acting State Conservationist, Jim Spielman was part of the leadership team charged with planning a "secret" all employees meeting. A major role Jim played was to identify a location that would be suitable for such a special meeting. He immediately thought of the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum. This facility would be the perfect place, providing an

opportunity for cultural awareness training along with suitable facilities for team building activities.

Just a few days before the event everyone was informed of the unique meeting location and provided with an agenda.

Inspired by this choice of location, Nels Liljedahl had a great idea. Nels decided to make a talking stick and answering feather to be used at the meeting. The morning of the meeting Jim Spielman asked Nels if he would open the meeting with a

welcoming speech and an introduction of the talking stick and answering feather. Like everyone else, Nels had a meeting agenda he had received a few days before. Armed with this agenda and the talking stick and answering feather he had

crafted himself, he got up and made an impromptu welcoming speech to the New Hampshire NRCS staff assembled in the room. After explaining the history and use of the talking stick and answering feather he completed his introductory remarks by reviewing the day's agenda - completely unaware of the fact that it was a fake.

Following his comments, Nels handed the talking stick over to Jody Walker, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. Jody informed the group of approximately 60 NRCS employees and student interns of the actual agenda for the day. Nels had just made a point to let everyone know that when holding the talking stick, the speaker must only speak the truth – a perfect lead in to Jody's confession that the earlier agenda was a fake. The purpose for the days meeting was not Farm Bill and engineering training, as earlier touted, but cultural awareness and team building.



Nels Liljedahl

The activities for this special day consisted of a Museum tour, guided by trained staff; a hands-on workshop where everyone made their own dream catcher; a tour of the Medicine Woods, where all learned of American Indian healing using native plants; several team building exercises; and an awards ceremony. In addition to these great activities was the awarding NRCS logo jackets, many silly door prizes, donated by the leadership team, and lots of good food.

The entire staff had a great day and left with an enhanced understanding and appreciation of American Indian culture, a culture built on teamwork.



Charles 'Bud' Thompson and his wife Nancy Thompson)

Photos by Debby Eddison

For more information on the Museum

http://www.indianmuseum.org/museum/museum_history.html

Member Spotlight: Sharron Santure, Cultural Resources Specialist , Edwards, IL

Interview with The Four Winds

**Meet Sharron Santure,
Midwest Regional Representative**

In 1995 NRCS selected me as their first cultural resources specialist for Illinois. Previously, I had worked as a museum educator for the Illinois State Museum, and also as a contract archaeologist at Dickson Mounds Museum, where I excavated and reported on several sites in the central Illinois River valley. Prior to that, I worked for Western Illinois University as an archaeology laboratory director and field school instructor. And of all the places I have worked for, NRCS is the absolute best as far as personal development and striving for customer satisfaction. In this position I get to travel to all field offices in Illinois, assisting the field staff with identifying cultural resources in their work areas and training them in site and artifact recognition.

When I arrived at NRCS, Illinois had not yet developed a cultural resources review program for all the general conservation work we did. I had the freedom to create a system and procedures tailored to Illinois' needs, but I also had the task of "rolling out" this extra workload on the field offices. It took a while before everyone warmed up to the task of reviewing every structural and tree-planting practice. As you can imagine, some people drug their heels. One technician in particular was stalling at sending his projects in for review and I didn't want his supervisors to force him to comply. One day we were all notified that this technician's father had just passed away. I wrote him a sincere sympathy note for his loss, and three weeks later, all his project reviews arrived in my mail. Sometimes, people just need a gentle touch to soften their hearts. It is a lesson we can all learn and live by.

I graduated from college with one of those "soft" degrees--in my case, anthropology. My family was worried about how I would make a living and thought I should study something more employable, like nursing. I tell college students to not be dissuaded from following your passion and I tell their parents not to worry--if I can make a living as an archaeologist, anyone can make a living doing something they love.



There are a lot of ways to use your abilities, knowledge and skills to earn a paycheck. The important thing is to bring to your employment a passion to do a job well and to make a contribution to the people you serve. A positive attitude is what counts most, whatever your profession.

The most rewarding part of working with NRCS is visiting with a farmer and explaining what kind of cultural resource is on the farm. Once people understand they have a piece of history in their care, then usually the stewardship part of their personality comes out and they are very cooperative in melding the conservation work with the protection of an Indian village, or an early American pioneer's gravesite on their farm. People crave knowing their history and part of that is the desire to know what earlier peoples did on their land. How did those earlier people make their living on the same land they are struggling with today? My work is easy in this way. People are hungry to know where they came from and to touch some part of that history. Our schools do a poor job teaching about Indian history and it is very satisfying for me to help people understand the history of their land and the people who first settled there.

In 2002 I joined AIANEA and have been fortunate to be able to attend every conference since 2003. I am involved in the planning committee for the 2009 conference and I am looking forward to helping that come together and meeting everyone again in Green Bay. Although I am not native, I have been welcomed into the employees association and feel that I have a

lot to learn from the Elders. Meeting the Elders at the conferences is so inspiring, and listening to their life histories help me to learn the right way to live. I am happy to be part of the National Council this year and hope I do a good job representing not only the Midwest NRCS employees, but also those non-natives who work with our native clients. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Employees Assoc



Herb Webb (left), 2003 AIANEA President presenting Kurt Cates (right) with President's Award

In Memory Kurt Cates

Kurt was the key to getting our scholarship program up and running. Before Kurt became the chair of the committee, the AIANEA scholarships were just an idea. He made the idea into reality. This was typical of working with Kurt on just about anything. You could suggest something and you might not even realize that he was listening. Then sometime later, it was done, because if it was a good idea or needed done, he'd just do it. He was one of those guys that made any project easier because he would take on more than his fair share. He really liked helping people and never was worried about getting credit. The fact that someone else's life might be better was reward enough for him.

—Herb Webb's comments on presenting Kurt with his President's Award in 2003.

American Indian Heritage Month Posters from 1991 to 2008

As part of November's American Indian Heritage Month, NRCS sponsors a national Native American Heritage Month Poster contest to help celebrate and honor American Indian Heritage. Since 1991 when the contest began, the posters have earned the reputation with federal and State agencies, outside organizations, and Tribes as the Department's poster. Each year, the poster represents a different Tribe, culture, and theme generating many inquiries for more information about NRCS programs. The posters also serve as an effective agency outreach tool to American Indians and an effective, efficient means of depicting tribal culture.

Every year, a different NRCS State office sponsors the contest. Over time, the contest has become increasingly popular among the Tribes drawing new and talented artists annually to compete for the winning poster.

Your contact is NRCS National Special Emphasis Program Manager for Ai/AN Carol Crouch at carol.crouch@ok.usda.gov

NRCS Native American Indian posters from 1991 to date --



1997 "Spirit of the Land" by Dennis C. Houle, North Dakota (NRCS photo -- [click to enlarge](#))

1998 "Life Time of Memories" by James Willis & Sam Bieber, Mississippi (NRCS photo -- [click to enlarge](#))

1999 "In the Eye Of A Feather" by Sandy Swallow, South Dakota (NRCS photo -- [click to enlarge](#))

2000 "A Song Of The Earth" by Dawn Dark Mountain, Wisconsin (NRCS photo -- [click to enlarge](#))

2001 "The Peoples Land Of New Mexico" by Nokoni, New Mexico (NRCS photo -- [click to enlarge](#))

2002 "The World Is A Gift" by Frank Towendolly LaPen, California (NRCS photo -- [click to enlarge](#))



2003 "Sky Women-Moment in Flight" by Bruce King, New York "Spirit of the Land" by Dennis C. Houle, North Dakota (NRCS photo -- [click to enlarge](#))

2004 "The Great Gluscabe of the Sacred Mountain Katahdin" by Ron Phillips Prevor, Maine (NRCS photo -- [click to enlarge](#))

2005 "A Native American Journey Through Time" by Denis Houley, Georgia Tribe Eastern Cherokee (NRCS photo -- [click to enlarge](#))

2006 "A Gift of Mother Earth" by Lori Sawyer, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Alabama (NRCS photo -- [click to enlarge](#))

2007 "We Are All One Family Dedicated to Protecting Mother Earth" by LaDon Smith, Oklahoma (NRCS photo -- [click to enlarge](#))

2008 "Touch the Earth" by Kathy Sturch, Oklahoma, (contest sponsored by the State of Arkansas NRCS photo -- [click to enlarge](#))

NRCS Recruitment Success at the 2008

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)

The NRCS recruiting cadre was successful in recruiting for NRCS at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). The 30th annual AISES Conference was held in Anaheim, California, October 30 through November 2, 2008. State Conservationist for California, Ed Burton, attended the recruitment conference; he received the NRCS award at the Gemstone reception, participated in the NRCS Concurrent session and attended the Honor Banquet. Nathaniel Todea, NRCS Utah, was honored during the Honors Banquet and presented the AISES Professional of the Year Award as *Most Promising Engineer*. NRCS recruiting cadre members recruiting for all NRCS states included the following:

Ed Burton, State Conservationist, NRCS—California	NRCS—Iowa
Noller Herbert, Director, Conservation Engineering Division, Washington, D.C	Rose Webb, HR Specialist, NRCS— Arkansas
Dr. Carol Vallee Crouch, National SEPM, AI/AN, District Conservationist—NRCS Oklahoma	Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Engineer, NRCS— Arizona
David Elliott, Tribal Liaison, NRCS—Alabama	Leota Burnett, Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS—Oklahoma
Leonard Notah, District Conservationist, NRCS—New Mexico	Tanya Robles, Human Resources, NRCS—California
Nathaniel Todea, Hydraulic Engineer, NRCS—Utah	Reina Rogers, Tribal Liaison, NRCS—California
Tricia A. Mootz, Human Resource Specialist,	Tanya Riehl, Public Affairs, NRCS—North Dakota
	Crystal Leonetti, Native Liaison, NRCS—Alaska

The NRCS AISES recruiting cadre members distributed NRCS career brochures, employment, STEP and SCEP opportunity materials to over 500 college students and approximately 70 high school students. During the NRCS concurrent session, *Helping the People Help the Land; a Universe of Opportunities*, there were 43 college students and 14 high school students that attended the NRCS concurrent session held on Saturday, November 1, 2008. The cadre recruited for every NRCS state that submitted a job through the Career Intern Program (CIP),STEP, or SCEP opportunity in their state.

The recruiting cadre documented meaningful contacts (sign-ins, resumes & interviews) with 183 students and collected 43 resumes and conducted 39 student interviews. At this time over 33 high quality candidates are being considered for employment or SCEP positions with NRCS. All the collected resumes and interview sheets will be distributed to State Conservationists, AI/AN SEPM's and the Human Resource offices in each state.

Attendees for the conference included; 568 college students, 169 high school students, 518 professionals and 41 exhibitors. This recruiting event was a huge success for NRCS; however, this event could not have taken place without the support of State Conservationists who provided financial support for the NRCS Lapis sponsorship and covered travel expenses for the AISES cadre members.



Band of Potawatomi Indians Wetlands Reserve Program in conjunction with the St Joseph County NRCS and the St Joseph Soil and Water Conservation District in Northern Indiana

Prior to European settlement, the Potawatomi Nation traditional territory extended from the southern shores of Lake Erie in Ohio west to the Mississippi River in Illinois, halfway into Michigan's lower Peninsula to the north and south to the Wabash River. These territories were lost during the removal period and treaty-making with the U.S. government in the late 1700s and into the 1800s. While most of the Potawatomi were removed west of the Mississippi River, chief Leopold Pokagon negotiated with the U.S. to allow the Pokagon Band and its allied villages to remain within the Great Lakes region. Beginning in 1996, the Band began to restore its land base for the benefit of the tribal government and its citizens. Included in its purchases were 1,450 acres of land along the current Kankakee River, and land which was within the former Kankakee River marshland area near North Liberty, IN. Historically, the former marsh provided hunting, gathering, and fishing areas for our ancestors. The Band is utilizing the USDA-NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) to help re-connect to its ancestral cultural uses and activities.



Weir structure set in former ditch

Through the WRP, NRCS staff drafted a plan to recreate marsh areas and establish vegetation patterns over 1,147 acres of the Band's property to emulate the historic marsh and associated habitats. Several ditch

plugs, a ditch realignment, and a weir structure have been constructed in strategic areas with the help of local contractors to create approximately 110 acres of shallow marsh. This will also affect water levels to help create several hundred acres of wetland habitat such as sedge meadows and wet meadows. Additional marsh areas will be constructed through shallow excavations.



Planting operations

Approximately 180 acres of warm season grasses and forbs have been planted to date by Pokagon Band Environmental Department and Land Maintenance Department staff to establish mesic prairie conditions. The grasses include Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, Sideoats Grama, and Switchgrass. Wildflower species include New England Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower, Illinois Bundleflower, Partridge Pea, Purple Prairie Clover, and Canada Tick Trefoil. The planting was accomplished through valuable assistance presented by the St. Joseph County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the St. Joseph County NRCS. Seed was ordered through Pheasants Forever, who also offered use of their seed drill and tractor. The SWCD also provided use of their seed drill as

well as technical support, and both the SWCD and NRCS provided technical support concerning agronomy.

The experiences gained from the WRP activities offer several technology transfer opportunities for the Pokagon Band. The planting and establishment of native vegetated prairies is transferable to the installation of best management practices (BMPs), such as filter strips, vegetated swales, and native vegetated prairies to reduce non-point source pollution. These BMPs can be integrated into agricultural practices and development projects to manage stormwater in ways that protect water quality. Demonstrating technology transfer and expansion of the Band's capacity to address non-point source pollution, the Band utilized funds from a US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant to purchase a Truax FLX-II seed drill. Also, skills gained in wildlife habitat restoration/creation and management can be applied to other Pokagon Band properties in the future.

Over the long term, the restoration will provide a Tribal land preserve. The preserve is envisioned to offer recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities which can enhance the quality of life for our Tribal citizens.



Mesic prairie alongside cool season grass firebreak

The WRP project provides benefits to our local and regional neighbors by helping reduce the severity of flooding by retaining water on the Band's property that would have been conveyed to the Miller Ditch. The wildlife habitat created by the project provides a corridor link to surrounding State Conservation Areas, State Parks, and other private landowner efforts.



Big Bluestem & Black-eyed Susan

This article was written by tribal member Mark H. Parrish. He is the environmental coordinator of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians.

Membership Form

American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

www.aianea.com

Please make checks payable to AIANEA and mail your membership form and dues to:

Harold Bryant
1510 29th Street
Hondo, TX 78861

Date: _____

Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Office Address: _____ New Address?

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax _____

e-mail: _____

Tribal Affiliation (optional) _____

Type of membership. (Membership is for one calendar year **January 1 to December 31**)

My membership is for the year 200____.

Regular-\$25.00 Check here if this is a renewal membership

Student -\$10.00 full-time high school or college students

Lifetime - \$250.00 or payable in 4 installments of \$65/year

Enclosed is payment # 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

Tribal College-\$100.00

The 2009 AIANEA National Council

David Wise –President

Tanya Meyer - Dideriksen - 1st Vice President

Ciro Lo Pinto - 2nd Vice President

Leota Burnett - So. Central Region Rep.

Phillip Dixon - Southeast Region Rep.

Gina Kerzman - West Region Rep.

Sharron Santure - Midwest Region Rep.

Nels Liljedahl - East Region Rep.

Levi Montoya - Northern Plains Region Rep.

Blythe Koyiyumptewa - Secretary

Harold Bryant - Treasurer

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