

EDITION 1 VOLUME 1 MAY 2013

A TRIBAL COMMUNITY PAPER

Pocotaligo Village \* Yamassee Indian Reservation \* Allendale County, South Carolina

**Yamassee Indian Tribe  
(Yamassee Nation)**

## Home On The Res!!



**Pocotaligo Village, Yamassee Indian Reservation**



April 15, 1715 marked the beginning of the Yamassee War. A war that led to the division of our nation's tribes, sub tribes, clans, and bands. This war led to much dishonor from our own relatives and the settlers who began to occupy our territory. Many of us became aware of the plan to dissolve our nation, so our Matriarchs of the Seven Clans dispersed into other kinsfolk and family namely being Apalachee, Apalachicola becoming Ocheese while residing by the Chattahoochee River and reoccupying areas further south to become known as Lower Creek an intrinsic part of the rise of the Creek Confederacy, the Maroons, again to La Florida to become Seminole, living amongst Southern Cherokee who remembered us as their "Ancient People" residence with the Black, Mulatto and White communities who had always been friends with us, migrating from the east to north, south and west of Turtle Island, our mothers knew where to lead us, teaching over and over to each one of their offspring our Yamassee narrative for genera-

tions.

We were told of the "gathering" by our elders and had been anticipating the **"OFFICIAL"** return to our nation's tribal homeland.

Two hundred and ninety-seven years later, May 23, 2012 our tribe was welcomed home and In our Chief Name given the Key To The City in Allendale, South Carolina the province of our Yamassee Chiefs, "Pocotaligo".

Our tribal council along with our tribal members of Allendale, S.C. have made it possible

to establish our reservation in Allendale, County known as "Pocotaligo Village". We want our tribal members to understand the huge job that we have ahead of us in preparing our village for you our families. This undertaking involves man power and most of all economic power. One of the main questions asked when an enrollee is accepted into their nation is "What are you going to do for me"? The question should not be, "What you are going to do for me"? You should ask yourself, "What am I going to do to help build my nation"? Yes, we are an RE-emerging nation building a self-sustaining infrastructure. This is where we take possession of our own intellectual and creative pursuits.

Now is the time to think of all the possibilities that the eyes of our children will be able to see and then think of all the opportunities that have just floated by us. So, as Yamassee being a multi-ethnic nation past and present as you enter the threshold of your inheritance remember and consider that giving first of yourself is the real treasure. Remember the success of your nation depends on you giving towards the prosperity of your children who are our future. The Old Ways was Each Man, Woman & Child had duties that affected the entire tribe, What are you doing?

## The Gentle Barn Foundation

The Yamassee Nation is proud to introduce The Gentle Barn, a nonprofit organization to the Allendale County community. The Gentle Barn was founded in 1999 as a safe haven and place of recovery for abused farm animals and children. Our tribe at Pocotaligo Village are very happy to be able to take part in such a rewarding and unique venture that is the great work of tribal members Elle and Jay Weiner.

Already the citizens in the county of Allendale has responded by releasing animals (horses) into the care of The Gentle Barn that have been abandoned or not able to be cared for by owners anymore. Their mission to rescue, rehabilitate and give sanctuary to abused and abandoned animals is one of the innate qualities of man and mankind that we as indigenous people adhere to as "Nature Healers" for all (plants, animals

and humans). The Gentle Barn unique treatment philosophy rehabilitates animals and connects their stories of survival and healing to the personal experiences of at-risk and special needs children who have suffered physical, mental or emotional trauma. Animals are respected as equal in rights to humans and should only be hunted when food is scarce, and we ask permission of the animal's spirit.

The Gentle Barn institutes an At-risk Youth Program, Special Needs Program, [School us here at The Gentle and Educational Program](#) also there are many ways to get involved with Gentle Barn by volunteering your services, having your organization sponsor events, hold an event, sponsor groups of children, special breakfasts, corporate picnics, participate in Gentle Barn volunteer opportunities, etc.

*Continued on page 4*



## Images from On the Yamassee Nation Tribal Land

Many of our tribal members who are elders residing here in Allendale, County are descendants of those two hundred and ninety-seven years of separation and they are overjoyed at this reunion of our tribe. They never left South Carolina and are on record as the indigenous people of these counties and they look forward again to embracing their Yamassee kinsfolk far and near at our 2013 Pow Wow, the Green Corn Ceremony. Now, take a look at what has become ours as we prepare the village for the upcoming events making the call that all of our tribal members be involved.

So if you live in Georgia, SC, NC, Florida you should be assisting in preparation for Our New Year!

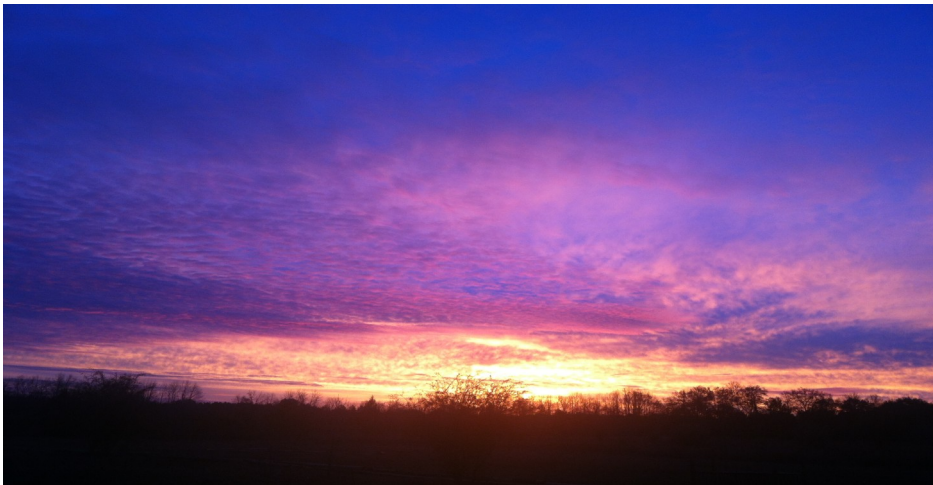
Contact the Office (803) 702-9012



**Big Chief Hidden Eagle at a Sacred Fire Pit**



**Clearing land for our Pow Wow area**



**Early morning sunrise on the Res**



### **The Declaration of The Rights of Indigenous People**

#### *Article 27*

*States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.*





## Home on the Land



Our Beloved Family Reginald Big Buffalo Sweatman (R.i.p.) and The Chief hard at Work building a Chiikee



The Chief & Land Donor Elder Freddie Hall Looking over donated pieces of wood



Presiding Tribal Chairman Al Golden Owl & his father tending to the sacred fire



## The Gentle Barn Foundation

*Every seed is awakened and so is all animal life. It is through this mysterious power that we too have our being and we therefore yield to our animal neighbors the same right as ourselves, to inhabit this land. -Sitting Bull*



Seminole the Pony



Chief Hidden Eagle training Taz



Our children learning to ride

## Yamassee Enrollment Office

Relocating from Tampa, Florida to Allendale, South Carolina was an arduous task for our tribe. When the call to a successful venture is made sometimes you have to move with the force of the wind to answer that call and receive the favors of the Great Spirit without hesitation. Hotala Maneyto assures us that he will protect us on our journeys and will return us safely to our ancient lands where our ancestors prayed and called out to him for recompense.

Upon moving on our Res and establishing our

presence in S.C. our Clan Mother Margret Maner of our elder tribal council blessed us with a very nice office location in the heart of Allendale city. Since its opening we have been able to introduce and educate many inquisitive passerby's, county officials, state officials, business men and women about our tribe, culture and customs as well as handle new enrollees and our general tribal business affairs. What a great blessing it is to be able to officiate in "Old Pocatigo".

Our office is located at 305 Main Street N,

Allendale, S.C. 29810.

Note the Move has slowed creation of Tribal ID, and New Enrollee petitions, as we Re-organize and file. Also make note a new Tribal Id is in the making and will be released this month of May. Do your part by being patient and making sure you have a properly filled out Request for ID and Recent passport pictures on file, with up to date mailing address.

We thank all for your continued patience thus far!

## Yamassee Attends Allendale Christmas Parade

Each year during the month of December, Allendale holds it's annual Christmas Parade. Our Yamassee Tribe was asked to participate this year and we accepted with great honor this joyous occasion. The citizens of Allendale turned out in large numbers as the line of floats, cavalcade of cars and a marching band proudly assembled to walk down Main Street.

We were amazed to see the ethnicity of the city of Allendale turn out to be a part of this seasonal occasion expressing peace and joy to everyone.

We look forward to participating in Allen-

dale's up and coming Cooter Festival scheduled for early spring. They say "it is one of the largest and unique" festivals of the year.

If you was wondering like we were let us help you with a question that may be in your Mind .

### WHAT IS A COOTER?

Cooter is a Turtle in these here parts!!!



Allendale County Marching Band

May 5th 2013

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## Making History Again

The University of Florida a.k.a. Florida Gators oral history documenters caught up with Chief Sekhu Hidden Eagle Gentle at the National Park Services Underground Railroads annual conference that was held at St. Augustine, Florida.

Chief Hidden Eagles ancestors were amongst the indigenous people of the Yamassee Nation of the southeastern United States before the expulsion of the Five Civilized Tribes. You must remember that many of our tribes and clans lived in villages and large towns from the Carolinas to the Mississippi River and even beyond. We are recorded as residing in North, Central and South America as Yamassee by some of the worlds leading historians.

In the beginning of the 1500s the face of southeastern territories began to change as the Spanish came in with their "Doctrine of Discovery" and their need to find gold and silver. Also, their religious practices by way of their

mission system. Many southeastern kinsfolk were forced into a world of servitude or felled by war and disease. We, as Yamassee were very elusive until we came out of the woods, forests and mountains to engage in trading sessions. We were as much of an enigma to them then as we are to many today who still try to pinpoint our origin.

It was such a terrible time for the indigenous of this landmass with the holocaust starting in the east, that our tribes began denying their heritage and began to scatter on up to the start of the Yamassee War of 1715.

We were classified as extinct until we gathered our families by blood and on record from north, south, east and west and reassembled our tribal council to set the record straight by way of circles of communication. Now we are back home and classified in South Carolina as active and in upcoming history books still revered as the fiercest of the southeastern tribes.



Derek Hankerson & the Chief Embrace for the Yamassee & Gullah Re-unification ceremony during NPS Underground Railroad held in St. Augustine 2012

## Mayan and Hitchiti Language Connection

Our Yamassee language has been the topic of many present day historians. Again, many opinions have been written as to how we communicated with our neighboring tribes who spoke different languages or dialects of our mother tongue.

Hitchiti is of our languages and researchers and archeologist have found Mayan words in our vocabulary. For instance the word "house" in Hitchiti is "chihee" which is identical to the word

"chiki" a Totonac word. The Totonac were neighbors of the Mayans.



*"Many Talk about the Yamassee and Mayan Connection but never knew one key is in Our Language"*  
*Chief Holam Hatchitulamiy*  
*Hadjo Yamassee*

## Speak , Learn Teach our Language

Mother = Wa-chee (Wachi)

Father = Taa-Tee (Tati)

Greetings (Hello) (Welcome) = Chi-hoon-ta-mo

Yes = ee-hee (Ihi)

No (Never) = Tee (Ti)

Thank you = Shu-na-bish Chi (Shonabish Chi)

Our Chief = Mee-kee Poo- nee (Miki Puhni)

Peace to You = Chi ee-tee-mo-kla

Water = uu-ki (Oki)

Fire = ee-tee (Iti)

Alligator = Hal-pa-tee (Halpati)

Baby = Wee-chee (Wikchi)

Come here = Chan-gees (-Changis)

Daughter = chaa-too (Chatu)

Feather = Hee-skee (Hiski)

Georgia = Chaa-Cha (Chacha)

Green Frog = Koo-tee (Kuti)



**Pick up your Yamassee Apparel**





# *Yamassee Indian Tribe*

## *Green Corn Festival*

*Allendale County, South Carolina*

### *Pocotaligo Village*

### *Yamassee Indian Reservation*

For More Info:  
(803) 702-0752  
email: [mgentle@yamasseenation.org](mailto:mgentle@yamasseenation.org)

*Four Day Event Starting 10 a.m. Thursday July 18th - July 21st 2013*  
*A Traditional Yamassee , Seminole & Creek Pow Wow (Family Gathering)*  
*Open Discussion with Grand Chief Se'khu Holam Hatchitulamiy of The Yamassee*  
*Arts & Craft Presentations by The Matriarchs \* Cooking\* Dancing \* Drumming\**  
*All of the GREAT MOTHER'S Children will come together as ONE!!!*  
*Oklawaha Yamassee Seminole \* Jamaican Maroons\* Yamassee Creek\* Navajo \**  
*Hopi\*\*Tainos\* Cherokee\* League of Indian Nations Represenatives & More...*

**HOST DRUM AND MC ( NAMAWOCHI DRUM )**

## FIRST YAMASSEE IMAGE EVER PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL SYSTEM

### Yamassee placed in South Carolina 8th & 3rd Grade books

For those whom may not now, that our Chief has made one of the greatest achievements that could happen to a Nation and Tribe of people. The Descendant of Sam Jones (Abiaca) Chief Se'khu Hadjo Gentle, has been put into history!

Featured on page thirteen (13) of the Book titled “*The South Carolina Journey*” A educational series of books detailing South Carolina Rich and Diverse history to the Children and Educators of South Carolina. The Title page named “The Yamassee” “gives readers a Brief insight to Our Honorable Tribe and Nation. Never has there been a book Published with image included detailing a Pure Blood Native American, depicted with the Yamassee Skin tone and description by a Educational Publishing company for any State. Normally all dark skinned Natives of our chiefs Hue were labeled “FREEDMAN” but thanks to Archived historical records, the Yamassee can truly be identified as what we once were and even multi ethnic as we have our light skin brother and sisters as well, that are apart of our family!

We thank our Chief for the hard work he does in the Yamassee name.

More Information can be found on:

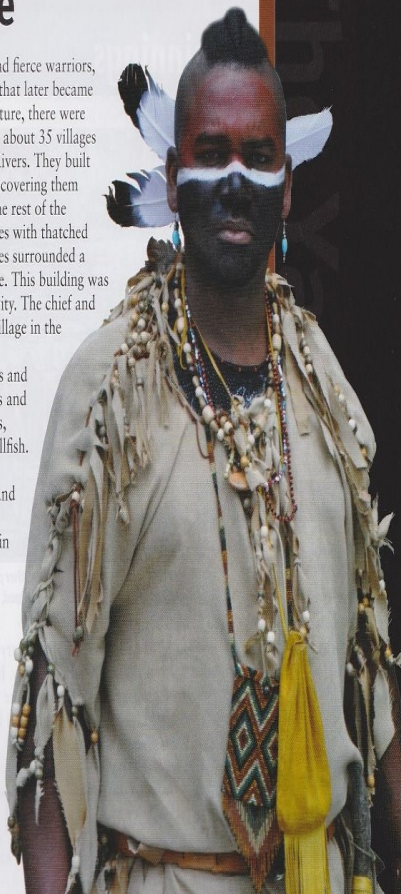
[www.yamassee.gov.org](http://www.yamassee.gov.org) Under History

### The Yamassee

The Yamassee, who were farmers and fierce warriors, moved north into our region from land that later became part of Georgia. At the peak of their culture, there were approximately 5,000 Yamassee living in about 35 villages between the Combahee and Savannah Rivers. They built wigwams in the summer near the coast, covering them with palmetto leaves instead of bark. The rest of the year, they lived in wattle-and-daub homes with thatched palmetto roofs. In each village, the homes surrounded a large community building or town house. This building was the center of religious and political activity. The chief and his closest advisors lived in the largest village in the chiefdom.

Many Yamassee were skilled hunters and fishermen. They lived near river bottoms and uplands, hunting white-tailed deer, bears, raccoons, squirrels, turtles, fish, and shellfish. They later raised hogs and chickens and grew corn, peas, cherries, watermelon, and peaches. Like other Eastern Woodland groups, the Yamassee buried their dead in mounds.

*This is Grand Chief Se'khu Hidden Eagle Gentle, the current leader of the Yamassee Nation. His great-great-grandfather was a shaman, or healer and spiritual leader, of the Yamassee and fought in the Yamassee War. Hidden Eagle's features illustrate the history of the Yamassee as a multiracial society. In the early colonial period, many escaped slaves joined Native American tribes. As a result, groups like the Yamassee look like America: many shades and colors.*



## The Yamassee Green Corn Festival

The Green Corn Festival (also called Green Corn Dance or Ceremony) is a Yamassee celebration and religious ceremony. The dance is held by many other family such as the Creek, Cherokee, Seminole, and Iroquois Indians as well as other Native American tribes. The festival typically lasts for four days for all tribes and includes numerous different activities that vary from tribe to tribe. For example, the Yuchi tribe celebration begins in late April and early May and last until about the third week of July. The opening day of the ceremony varies across tribes depending when the corn is ripe. This can be any time from May to October and is determined by the "Keepers of the Knowledge" Corn is not to be eaten until the Great Spirit has been given his proper thanks.

During the festival, members of the tribe give thanks for the corn, rain, sun, and a good harvest. The thanksgiving is sacred to the Yamassee Tribe. Tribal stories and tales are told for what happens when thanks is not given. Some tribes even believe that they were made from corn by the Great Spirits. Dragonfly's Tale by Kristina Rodanas and People of Corn, A Mayan Story retold by Mary-Joan Gerson tell of such stories. The Green Corn Festival is also a renewal for The Yamassee. Members of the tribe join at the gathering and stand with heads bent to show reverence. (Indians never kneel.) After a minute of thanks is said.



## Yamassee Times Newspaper

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Yamassee Indian Reservation  
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## Vendors, Camping & More for the Pow Wow

To ADVERTISE IN THE NEXT ISSUE  
Contact us!  
Your Business or Pow Wow or Any Event

**Green is what it is to be.**



Vendors are at a first come first serve basis, spaces are Limited so Reserve your Area NOW!

Go to the [www.yamasseegov.org](http://www.yamasseegov.org) website to download a Application or Call (803) 702-9012

Camping on the Land will require a Permit provided by Yamassee Housing Authority please use the Office number provided above for camping. Tribal members must provide their Tribal Id card or Enrollment Certificate

## Words From The Chief



As we have come into another New year, and have witness Prophecies Fulfilled, according to our ancient Mayan ancestors calendars and Our Great Chiefs of THIS DAY AND TIME. We must reflect on what it is to be Yamassee (*gentle*). To be described as the "Fiercest of Native Tribes" did not mean we sat back comfortably playing games or watching TV. We are and have constantly been working for YOU, our family, to make you proud of your culture and to be Yamassee. Many have used our names in dishonorable ways, signed bogus Treaties and even found a avenue for financial gain. While we work hard at staying Hidden and re-establishing our Humble Nation. I ask that all of you who call yourself Yamassee come forth, out of the shadows as Our Time is Now! Come without Ego, come without any intent except to

protect what your family has worked so hard to make you Proud.

But come to Respect our Elders, Our Children and the family working SO HARD for you, many contact us saying they want to reconnect with their tribe and family and then we hear no more from them! A Tribal Id card or document DOES NOT MAKE YOU YAMASSEE, because you are blood related, ONLY YOUR HARD WORK AND CULTURAL AWARENESS That you show through your participation can do that for YOU.

We will No longer accept our family whom do not Give everything they have spiritually first, then physical labor, to help make their nation a Strong and Proud one. But we will always have Divine Love!

Chief