



## Before....Check back in a few years for the “after” shot

On March 24 volunteers from the SC Native Plant Society and the Upstate Master Naturalist Association joined the Forest Service and partners RTCAR and the Chattooga Conservancy to restore a two acre canebrake site at the Forest Service's historic Russell fields. The site is located on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District just south of the State Highway 28 Bridge in SC, just a short drive from Cherokee.

The Chattooga Conservancy, a non-profit organization whose mission is, in part, to protect, promote and restore the natural ecological integrity of the Chattooga River watershed received funding from RTCAR for the planning the restoration of this site. A non-native golden bamboo had formed a completely closed canopy of 10- to 25-foot stems that excluded the growth of native plants and provided little, if any, wildlife habitat. The aggressive bamboo was cut down and treated with herbicides in 2009. Two years later the Forest Service used prescribed fire to burn the dead stems and prepare the site for restoration. The result is a patch of ground ripe for restoration.

For several hours, volunteers dug up healthy cane already growing in the surrounding area and transplanted it into the bare ground of the restoration site until the future canebrake began to take shape. This is the first step toward a 29 acre river cane management area on the old Chattooga Town site.



Save the Date!

## May 22 State of Cane Symposium

RTCAR is sponsoring a symposium on Tuesday, May 22 from 9:00 am until 1:30 pm on the State of Cane. The symposium will be held at Birdtown Community Center and will focus on accomplishments, challenges, and issues of river cane restoration. RTCAR partners from watershed organizations and land trusts will be on the program to talk about their projects. Registration is free but please sign up by May 18 to be included in the lunch count. For more information or to sign up please contact RTCAR at 554-6925 or 554-6856 at our office at Cooperative Extension.



What does it take?

What does it take to pass along a tradition? Time, Money, Commitment, Expertise, Rewards

Cherokee High School was funded by RTCAR to have Joel Queen spend a week with Alyne Stamper's art classes. Joel's participation went above and beyond the call of duty in spending his own time helping finish up their beautiful blackware pots and firing them. We hope the pottery program at Cherokee High School will be successfully energized as the basketry program has been. Students have already won awards on the work done during Joel's class at the Heard Museum Student Art show and at the Cherokee High School Art Show.



## Dye Workshop

Cherokee Quilters interested in dyeing their own fabrics attended a workshop on dyes and dye safety taught by Beth Ross Johnson from RTCAR on February 18. The workshop was co-sponsored by OICA. A community dye studio would help keep dyes out of the kitchen and could be used by individuals wanting to dye fabric or basketry materials with natural or chemical dyes. To be involved in the discussion about a dye studio please contact Beth. To find out more about the quilting club contact Janet Owle at 554-6934.



## OMSI Group Visits Cherokee

On April 3-5 staff members from the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, along with Nancy Maryboy and David Begay of the Indigenous Education Institute, visited Cherokee to gather information for a national traveling exhibition on the Cherokee relationship with river cane. The display will raise awareness about river cane on a national level and will highlight the historical and current uses of this limited resource from a Cherokee point of view.

On their arrival, RTCAR director David Cozzo gave them an introductory presentation about river cane and the next morning took them to Kituwah for a fieldtrip to the canebrake. Later that afternoon, the group visited Barbara Duncan at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian and met with Anna Fariello, author of *Cherokee Basketry: From the Hands of Our Elders*, to discuss her work with Qualla Arts and Crafts, Mutual, Inc. Thursday morning began with a tour of the Oconaluftee Indian Village and a river cane demonstration by Davy Arch. Later that morning the group met with Jim Long for another demonstration and ended the day speaking with Carmaleta Monteith about the basketry program at the high school. The exhausted, happy group left Cherokee on April, 6, armed with a new appreciation for the role of river cane in Cherokee life.

## Native American Artist Exchange Deadlines – 60 Days before exchange

### Native American Artists Exchange

In July of 2010 four Native American artists from New England came to Cherokee as part of the Native American Artist Exchange organized by the New England Foundation for the Arts. Participants spent four days together sharing techniques, stories, and songs with their Cherokee counterparts. Gerri Grady was able to make the return visit to Maine and experience a new view of Native America.

The visit was sponsored by the Native American Artist Exchange Program, the Cherokee Preservation Foundation and organized by RTCAR. Interested artists make contact with an artist they would like to learn from or teach and apply using the NEFA application. RTCAR is available to assist Cherokee artists in finding an exchange partner, completing the application and arranging the visit.

**Please contact RTCAR for more information on participating.** There are many exciting possibilities for artists in visual, literary, or performing arts.

### Cane Harvests

River Cane Harvesting Trips are being planned when weather and permissions allow. RTCAR's partners have made arrangements for people to harvest cane sustainably at a number of locations. We work around landowners' planting schedules to organize cane harvesting trips. Recently harvesters have been allowed to cut cane at Judaculla Rock, Marble School, Barbourville, KY and Peachtree, NC. With the increasing number of basketmakers in Cherokee and the shortages of cane locally, basketmakers need access to cane outside the area. RTCAR continues to try to find new sources of river cane and to encourage landowners to recognize the ecological importance of river cane.

Please contact RTCAR if you would like to be notified the next time we organize an outing.



RTCAR, the Revitalization of Traditional Artisan Resources was established in 2004. A Cherokee Preservation Foundation grantsmaking initiative, RTCAR was founded to preserve and protect the natural resources that are utilized for Cherokee Craft and to insure that these traditions are passed along to the next generation. Now part of Cherokee's Cooperative Extension, RTCAR is available to assist in grant applications to the Cherokee Preservation Foundation for projects that share our objectives. We coordinate the Native American Artist exchange in Cherokee and look for opportunities that advance the artistic traditions of Cherokee. We are available to your groups for talks on traditional foods, river cane restoration and other topics

Come by to see us at the Cooperative Extension building on Acquoni Rd. or contact us by phone or email.

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**RTCAR is funded by the Cherokee Preservation Foundation and is part of EBCI Cooperative Extension**

**2012 RTCAR Grant Application Deadlines June 4 and December 3!**

