

# TH-RA-HUN-TA

## (TO HEAR)

CHEROENHAKA (NOTTOWAY) INDIAN TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

**"People At The Fork Of The Stream"**

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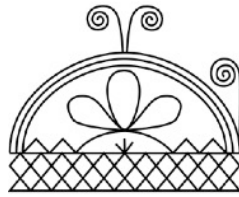


The Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe publishes the TH\_RA\_HUN\_TA (to hear), quarterly to keep tribal members and other interested persons informed about events, progress towards tribal goals, articles of interest, tribal genealogy and history, tribal news and other pertinent information. Please share information that you would like published in future newsletters to Sonya "Starbird" Lawrence at [sun4h1he@gmail.com](mailto:sun4h1he@gmail.com). Information for the Spring newsletter is due by March 15, 2020.

As you read through this issue, please consider taking part in the events listed or assist with any of the tribal goals. Your support and input is vital to our tribe's success. Please try to attend tribal sponsored events and pass along information to your family and friends.

Sonya "Starbird" Lawrence  
Editor





## Red Hawk "Teerheer" Was-We-Kr

(Red Hawk The Chief Speaks)



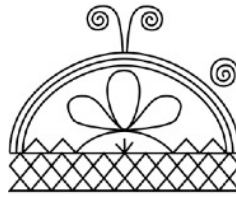
### Chief Red Hawk Speaks (Was-ve-kr):

Osiyo and Greetings: Kudos to our Tribal Council, Tribal Members, Heritage Foundation Board of Directors, Committee Members, and Adopted/ Honorary Tribal Members for their support in 2020.

As we reflect upon the year that is now behind us we are remindful of the Pandemic throughout the year 2020 and the many families across the continents that have lost loved ones because of COVID-19. Yet, WE are still remindful of the many Blessings that the Creator has bestowed upon the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Southampton County, Virginia, and all of its Tribal Citizens. As of this last day of 2020 we have only had but one tribal member that tested positive for COVID-19 and thanks to the Creator he came through with flying colors and is now healthy and doing well.

I am remindful of the recent "Christmas Star" that showed itself to all the world on December 21, 2020, upon the conjunction of the two largest planets in our Solar System, Saturn and Jupiter. As I gazed upon the star that will not show itself for another 800 years, I wondered if that was the same star that lit the sky some 2,000 years ago, as a guide to the Wise Men, on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus The Christ, Yahshua?





Even though we are impacted by the pandemic, the Yule season (Christmas) really is a special time of the year. As a Christian, I celebrate the “Word” made Flesh in the birth of our Savior. But whether or not you are a Christian, and however you choose to celebrate the Christmas season, it is a time for joy and gathering our families, our friends, our neighbors, and those that are shut out and shut in, close in our Hearts.

WE are all imperfect creatures; however, despite our many flaws, during this time of year there is the light of “Love” that shines bright in all of us. I pray to the Creator (Quaker-Hunte) that this Christmas Season and the coming of the New Year will bring peace to your hearts, lift your inner spirit and bring you closer to those you love, especially your tribal family. It is not a perfect world, but with our one vision and strong faith in the Creator, we as a Tribe can make it a better world.

I am sending my love to all of you and wishing you a safe and joyous Christmas Holiday and a very PROSPEROUS 2021!

I would like to thank you for your Tribal support, financial or in physical labor, and see you at our Tribal events in 2021. Please stay safe, “may your walk in the sacred circle of life, make better the walk of another—our children.”

Best,

Chief Walt “Red Hawk” Brown





# NEWS

## THE MUSEUM KEEPS MANIFESTING WHETHER WE HAVE A BUILDING OR NOT!

On December 14, 2020, a donation of 7 boxes full of Native American artifacts arrived for the Cheroenhaka Nottoway Indian Tribal museum and was received for inventory, identification & storage through the museum curator, Teresa Preston. This donation comes from Kitty Thompson, the widow of Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV ) Nansemond Chapter life member, William A. "Bill" Thompson, Jr. He passed July 12, 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer.



## TRIBE HAS THREE CENTURIONS

Three Tribal members having reached the age of 100 years old and were awarded a Tribal Centenarian Certificate. WE are thankful to the Creator for their longevity and the stories they tell of days past.



Bessie "Running Star" Peoples  
age 100



Mildred "Star Moon" Gray  
age 102



Tribal Centurion Certificate  
presented to Grace "Spirit Eagle"  
Britt Wright age 101





## Tribal Roll Keeper News

### Osio! Waquast Suntetung!

#### New Members

Since the August newsletter, the Tribe has added eight new tribal members. WE would like to welcome Julia M Brown, Anthony L Gray, Inetha Boone-Rogers, Deonte Hunter, Cacheena Chandler, Robert I Turner, Margaret Brown and LaStel Walker.

#### Tribal Cards

The Tribe (with authorization of the Board and Council) purchased the *ID Maker Advantage D* from IDVILLE card maker. The cards are white plastic with a blue eagle watermark background and bear the Chief's signature, VA State Recognition and Tribal Shield on the back. Over 150 cards have been printed and reissued to tribal members since the purchase over two years ago.

If you or an enrolled child 13+ require a new Tribal ID card, please email me at [jokeoharrak@gmail.com](mailto:jokeoharrak@gmail.com) and provide the following required information: Date of Birth, Height, Tribal Role #, Last 4 of SSN, Native name, Full legal name, Current address, Date of your enrollment to Tribe, and a digital photo (passport style) please ensure it is clear. The cost of is \$25 paid by check/money order mailed to: Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, P.O. Box 397, Courtland, VA 23837 or through PayPal for \$30.00 on our [www.cheroenhaka-nottoway.org](http://www.cheroenhaka-nottoway.org) website. Please be sure to list tribal card on the memo portion of check/money order and PayPal.

Caroh (Water Blossom) Holley  
Tribal Secretary, CNE, LLC Secretary  
Tribal Roll Keeper - Face Book Administrator

## Native American History Month

Chief Walt Red Hawk Brown and tribal members gave a Native American History presentation to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Williamsburg Virginia Chapter. Financial donations for the presentation totaled \$800.



Pictured from L-R : Vice Chief Ellis Soaring Eagle Wright, Beverley Bare Foot El, Teresa Moon Star Preston, Stephanie Dancing Wolf Brown-Valderrama, Mary Morning Rain Wilkerson, Prince Red Eagle Brown, Princess Windsong Brown, Penny Myers, DAR Native Rep., and Chief

## 1619-2019: 400 Year Celebration Fort Monroe

Recently, as part of the 400 Year celebration of Jamestown, a celebration of the first landing of Africans in 1619 took place at what is now Fort Monroe , VA. The 400 year celebration was sponsored by American Evolution. Chief Walt "Red Hawk" Brown of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, accompanied by other Tribal members, was one of the Guest Speakers. Shown here is a group picture with the Governor of Virginia.



## HAND SITE SKELETON REMAINS TO BE RETURNED

After fifteen years, 2005 – 2020, of reaching out to the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) via Dr. Dorothy Lippert, Tribal Liaison, Repatriation Program: to include, putting in place a Hand Site Road Side Highway Marker (44SN22), numerous letters on our Tribal Letterhead, three on-site presentation and smudging ceremony of the 131 Skeletal Remains of our ancestors bones laying in shoe boxes, at the Smithsonian, the last of which was at the Museum Support Center in Suitland Maryland, requesting that the Hand Site Remains be returned to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Southampton County VA.

As a result of our fifteen years of perseverance, the NMNH has finally changed their policy; wherein Non Federal Recognized Tribes can claim their ancestor's remains were they identified by the NMNH's repatriation office as belonging to the requesting Tribe. The Hand Site remains were identified in 1992-93, via ossuary studies, by the NMNH who determined that the Hand Site Remains belong to the Iroquoian people, namely the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe.

On December 2, 2020 a Zoom meeting, per the request of Chief Brown, was set up by the NMNH, hosted by Dr. Dorothy Lippert, NMNH Tribal Liaison, and Dr, William Billeck, NMNH Program Manager for Repatriation along with Chief Brown and former Virginia Governor George Allen, with the purpose of discussing the procedures for the return of said remains. In the meeting Chief Brown revisited the history of the Hand Site that was excavated in 1965, 66 and 1969, pointing out that the very first "WHEREAS" paragraph in Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 152 and House Joint Resolutions (HJR) 127, granting State Recognition to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe speaks directly to the fact that the Hand Site Remains are the ancestors of said tribe. Based on both Resolutions, as promulgated by the Commonwealth, as approved by the VA Senate and the House, Chief Brown reiterated that based on facts presented that the Hand Site Remains belong "ONLY" to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe of Southampton County VA. Prior to the Zoom meeting pictures for the final resting place on the Tribal Land was provided to Dr. Lippert to include, copies of SJR 157 and HJR 127.



## TREE OF PEACE PLANTED AT CATTASHOWROCK TOWN

Owhe-ya-kum Oho-tee Ge-ree

Among the Haudenosaunee, Six Nations, composing of the Iroquoian Speaking Mohawk, Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora peoples, **The Great Law of Peace** is the Oral Constitution of the Iroquois Confederacy. The Law was written on Wampum Belts, conceived by Dekanawidah, known as the Great Peacemaker and his spokesperson Hiawatha. The laws were first recorded through Wampum symbols on/about 1451 AD. The laws, called a Constitution, are divided into 117 articles (English written version) and are **symbolized by an Eastern White Pine Tree called the Tree of Peace**. The tree grows to a height of 50 to 80 foot tall. The Democratic ideas of the Great Law of Peace influenced the federal structure of the U.S. Constitution and provided inspiration to Benjamin Franklin, James Monroe, and other framers of the U.S. Constitution. On October 4, 1988, the U.S. Congress passed Concurrent Resolution 331 to recognize the influence of the Iroquois Constitution upon the development of the American Constitution and the Bill of Rights.



## POW WOW UPDATE

As you are aware, because of COVID -19, all of our FY 2020 Tribal Events, Powwows and School day, at Cattashowrock Town, were cancelled; however, we continued to give Tours on the Tribal Land to those that requested such. Chief Brown gave some fifteen tours, some of which netted donations to our tribe and others' only promises.

We have a lot of work to do at Cattashowrock Town prior to our first Tribal Event in 2021. Especially the round house and long house repairs and covering and setting in place thirty Walking Trails Signs.

We look forward to FY 2021 and with the Creator's Blessings; we plan our first event for the third weekend of May-Primitive Skill Gathering Knap-in.





## WALKED ON IN 2020

To the family of Sonya "Moon Beam" Parker Stokes and Brenda Jean Thomas "Little Flower" Kelly:

On behalf of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, Southampton County, Virginia, and the undersigned, we extend our deepest heartfelt condolences at the "walking on" of Sonya "Moon Beam" Parker Stokes and Brenda "Little Flower" Kelly. We shall miss their beautiful smiles and kind hearts.

We know that the loss of a loved one deeply saddens the heart, but be remindful that the Creator has promised in his word that He has prepared a home for us in his Father's Kingdom and surely He comes to claim His own.

Sometimes when the rough storms come into our life and rain is all about, in our "Faith" we know that all things are better when the morning comes, for surely there will be "Sunshine."

We pray that the Creator will give you strength of faith to know that all is well with the "Soul" of your loved one. WE shall miss our tribal members. On this day, be blessed.

"may your walk in the sacred circle of life make better the walk of another-our children"

With deepest remorse, we remain respectfully yours,

Chief Walt "Red Hawk" Brown  
Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe  
Southampton County, Virginia

## TRIBAL POND STOCK

On September 30, 2020, The Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe released 300 large mouth bass minnows and 200 bluegill minnows into three Tribal ponds at Cattashowrock Town.





## Tobacco Planted On Tribal Land

In the summer of 2020, we planted tobacco on the tribal land for the first Time. Vice Chief Ellis Wright potted tobacco seeds and grew the plants. Once the plants were 4 to 6 inches tall, they were planted at Cattashowrock Town by Chief Walt Brown and Vice Chief Ellis Wright. Kudos to Jerry Boone for bringing his tractor and tiller to Cattashowrock Town and cleared the land for the panting. Once the tobacco leaves were mature, War Chief William Lamb Howell, Vice Chief Ellis Wright and Rickie Boone picked the tobacco and hung the leaves in the roundhouse for drying. Once dried, the tobacco leaves will be shredded and bagged and ready to pass out to those coming into our Powwow Circle in 2021.

Pictured in the young tobacco garden are Vice Chief Ellis Wright and War Chief William Lamb Howell.



## Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Tribe Commends Archeological Society Virginia (ASV) Members

Chief Walt Red Hawk Brown on behalf of the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe awarded three members of the ASV, Nansemond Chapter with certificates of appreciation for their support of the tribe's annual Powwows and School Day events for the past fifteen years. The ASV, Nansemond Chapter displayed Native Artifacts dating back 10,000 years at each tribal event. They also took part in artifacts identifications.



### Pictured from left to right:

Chief Walt "Red Hawk" Brown, Teresa Preston (15 years of support); Wayne Edwards (14 years of support) and Bertrum Wendel, Jr. ( 14 years of support).



## Native American History Month Presentation at the Army Logistics University, Fort Lee, VA

Tribe received \$1,000 donation for Native History Month Presentation given by Chief Walt Red Hawk Brown accompanied by other tribal members in full Native Regalia.



Pictured: Left to Right: Rickie "Two Beavers" Boone, Bernard "Standing Bear" Wright, Chief Walt "Red Hawk" Brown, CSM Marissa Cisneros and Teresa "Moon Star" Preston

## Tribal Member Takes Leadership Role at American Indian Science and Engineering Society



Tribal member Gary Burnette serves as Chairmen of the Board of Directors to the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). He was introduced to AISES through his employment at IBM and worked with the organization many years prior to becoming a board member.

AISES ([www.aises.org](http://www.aises.org)) is a national organization whose mission and purpose is to increase Native American participation in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) courses of study and profession. AISES is also a family. Culture and native traditions are honored and taught, in addition to the STEM focus. The organization is also supported by a Council of Elders — a group of impressive elder professionals from across Indian country.

AISES partners with corporations like IBM, government agencies like the CIA and military and tribal organizations to advance programs, scholarships and job opportunities for Natives in these fields.

Chapters can be organized in a variety of ways from school chapters (middle school through university level), professional chapters usually geography based or tribal chapters. If you are a student involved in these fields of study, find out if your school has a chapter. If it does, get involved. If it does not, consider founding one. That leadership looks great on a resume. AISES provides opportunities for scholarships, internships and employment, and it connects natives with other natives all across Indian country. If you a professional in a STEM field, seek a professional chapter.

AISES is run by Natives for natives. If you want to learn more, contact Gary at [garyburnettenc@gmail.com](mailto:garyburnettenc@gmail.com).



## FAMILIES SUPPORTED FOR THANKSGIVING

The Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe, in November, gave 5 families, 10 adults and 25 children, a \$150 per family Thanksgiving shopping spree at Wal-Mart.



## CHRISTMAS NEEDY FAMILIES SHOPPING SPREE AT WALMART

The Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe gave 5 needy families \$200 per family for a shopping spree. The shopping spree took place at Wal-Mart on a Sunday afternoon.

Chief Walt Red Hawk Brown met all families in the food court at Wal-Mart in Franklin at 2:30 pm. After-which, he gave instructions reference the Shopping spree...i.e., toys, clothes, food items. No gift cards were provided.

Kudos to WalMart for allowing all five families to come through the same cash register.



## TRIBAL ADMIN FEES AND TRIBAL LAND MAINTENANCE TAX FEES

If you have not paid your Admin and Land Maintenance /Tax Fees for FY 2020, please do so as soon as possible. All fees, admin and land are normally due in the first quarter of each year.

Admin fees are \$60 per annual or \$15 per quarter for all adult tribal members between the ages of 21 to 65.

Land Maintenance/Tax fees are \$100 annually. Undergrad College or Tec School Students between the age of 18 and 24 are \$30 per annual. Land Tax is waived for college or Tec School students.

Admin fees are \$50 per annual or \$12.50 per quarter for all adult tribal members between the age of 66 and 79. Those tribal members that are 80 years and older are not required to pay Admin Fees or Land Tax; however, all donations are welcome.

Please make all Admin Fee checks payable to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe and checks for Land Maintenance/Tax payable to the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribal Heritage Foundation (Tax Exempt). (see back of newsletter for mailing addresses)

**NOTE:** Should you opt to make payments via PayPal please add an additional \$5.00 per \$100 paid to cover the admin cost charged by PayPal. Thank you for all your support.





## TRIBAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2021

**JANUARY:**

January 16, 2021: Presentation on the State of the Address of the Tribe (All Tribal Members)

**FEBRUARY:**

February 13, 2021 Tribal Council and Heritage Foundation Board Meeting

February 20, 2021: send out vendor contracts, contact 2 Pow Wow drums, MC, head dancers,

**MARCH:**

March 13, 2021: Tribal Council and Heritage Foundation Board Meeting.

March 19, 2021: Cattashowrock Town Opens 10AM to 4PM – Need Tour Guides (Mar.- Nov.–Friday & Saturday)

**APRIL:**

April 10, 2021: Tribal Quarterly Meeting (All Tribal Members).

April 23, 2021: 308<sup>th</sup> Spotswood Treaty Tribute To VA Governor – 3 Peace Arrows.

**MAY:**

May 8, 2021: Tribal Council and Heritage Foundation Board Meeting.

May 14, 15 & 16, 2021: Primitive Skills Gathering – BBQ Fund Raiser (Cattashowrock Town).

**JUNE:**

June 12, 2021: Tribal Council & Heritage Foundation Board Meeting. Powwow Planning (12 Noon – 2PM)

June 26, 2021: Powwow Planning Meeting (Powwow Committee)

June 30 - July 1, 2021: Powwow Setup –Land Clean Up, Tents, Circle, Kitchen, & Palisade Village

**JULY:**

July 3, 2021: 27<sup>st</sup> Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian “Green Corn” Dance Powwow & Gathering. (9 AM to Sunset)

July 10, 2021: Tribal Quarterly Meeting (All Tribal Members) & Powwow After Action Report .

July 10, 2021: Prepare and post November Powwow Flyer to Powwow.com

July 12, 2021: Contract two Powwow Drums, MC, Head Dancers for November School Day and Powwow.

**AUGUST:**

August 14, 2021: Tribal Council & Heritage Foundation Board Meeting

August 16, 2021: Send Out November 5<sup>th</sup> School Day Invitations via Email/Letters – Superintendents, Principals, School Board Directors of Instruction.

**SEPTEMBER:**

September 11, 2021: Tribal Council and Heritage Foundation Board of Meeting.

September 18, 2021: @ 12 Noon: “Native American Revival Crusade For Christ

September 27, 2021: Follow-up second mailing of School Day Invitations and make Land Line Calls to schools.

**OCTOBER:**

October 9, 2021: Tribal Quarterly Meeting (All Tribal Members) November School Day Planning Meeting

October 23, 2021: Powwow Planning Meeting (Powwow Committee)

**NOVEMBER:**

November 3 & 4, 2021: Preparation for Pow Wow

November 5, 6 & 7, 2021: 28<sup>th</sup> “Corn Harvest” Powwow and School Day.

November 5, 2021: School Day (9AM to 3PM) – Need 20 Chaperones In Regalia. Bonfire: 6:30 PM to 9PM (Friday Night)

November 7, 2021: Pay paid performers: MC, Head Lady & Head Man, Drums, Aztec Dancers, Arena Director, Specialty Dancer, and Flint Knapper.

November 13, 2021: Tribal Council and Heritage Foundation Board Meeting.

**DECEMBER:**

December 11, 2021: Tribal Christmas Party (All Tribal Members) – Merry Christmas.



## FEDERAL RECOGNITION UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Continued from Volume 1, Number 2 of the Thra-hun-ta:

A few years ago, at the Virginia Governor's Inauguration, Congressman Bobby Scott approached me and mistakenly congratulated our tribe for achieving Federal Recognition via Congress along with the recent six Virginia Federally Recognized Tribes, as signed off by President Trump. I explained that we had been working with Senator Tim Kane, through his Chief of Staff, for the past eight years trying to become a part of the Thomasine Jordan Bill that Federally Recognized the recent six tribes, to no avail, even after we had a two hour telephone conference call with Congressman Whitman, Senator Warner and Senator Kaine's staffers requesting that our tribe be added to said bill.

Congress Scott recommended that our packet, that had been laying dormant in Senator Kaine's office, with broken promises, for the past eight years, would carry more weight should we put forth a combined bill to Congress requesting that the remaining three Virginia State Recognized Tribes be Federally Recognized via Congress in the same manner as the recently six Federally Recognized Virginia Tribes. Prior to this recommendation, we had already reached out to Congressman Donald McEachin, 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative; wherein, he agreed to run point in Congress with our packet seeking Federal Recognition. As such, I reached out to the Chief of the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of VA and after explaining that our tribal council was in favor of a combine bill, he agreed. He said he would reach out to the Nottoway, Inc and have them request the same. Some months later, after leaving numerous telephone messages, the Nottoway, Inc., finally agreed via a letter address to Congressman McEachin, signed by their tribal secretary.

Over the past year and a half, I have maintained monthly contact with Congressman McEachin's office, via Blair Wriston, his Legislative Assistant (LA), requesting status updates. I was informed about eight months ago that our Packet was before the Committee on Natural Resources waiting comment. In December 2020 I received a call from Blair Wriston informing me that a staffer with the Committee on Natural Resources would be requesting a conference call in the future with the three Chiefs or their representatives. I assume this will be a question and answer session.

AS a side bar, WE put together an email "sample letter" to be used by ALL tribal members to reach out to Senator Warner requesting that he support our packet for Federal Recognition by running point in the Senate. The tribal secretary, Water Blossom, has sent the sample letter to all on her tribal email roster numerous times. Sadly a little over 60 tribal members have taken up the banner and emailed Senator Warner. If you have not please do so asap. Thank you.

Chief Walt "Red Hawk" Brown

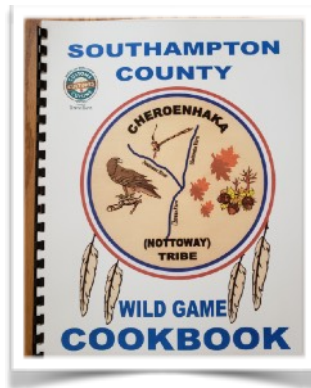


## FUNDRAISERS

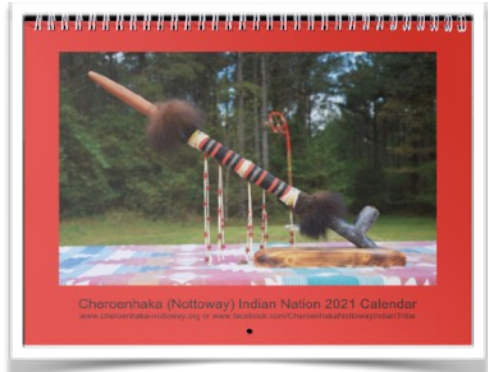


Sweatshirts \$25.00

Not pictured: long sleeve t-shirts \$20.00



Cookbook \$10.00



FY 2021 Tribal Calendar \$20.00

Make checks payable to: Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe Heritage Foundation, 501 ( c ) 3 Tax Exempt.

## ABOUT THE GRAPHICS



The Three Sisters are the three main agricultural crops of various Native American groups including the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway). Winter squash, maize (corn), and climbing beans were grown together.

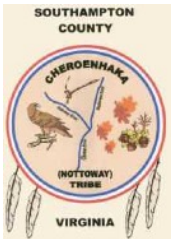


This symbol represents the Sky Dome. The design is made with superimposed semi-circles, representing the three levels of the Iroquois cosmos: the Celestial world, our world and the world of darkness. The two volutes (spiral curls) symbolize either the Celestial tree or the life-long struggle between good and evil (represented by the twins) that we all have within ourselves.

The Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribal Newsletter **TH\_RA\_HUN\_TA** is published quarterly. Items for publication maybe submitted to the Editor, Sonya "Starbird" Lawrence email: [sun4h1he@gmail.com](mailto:sun4h1he@gmail.com)







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Southampton County, Virginia

"People At The Fork Of The Stream"

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Stamp

