

# New Echota Phoenix

Summer 2014



## Legend of the Sunflower:

Sunflowers were one of the important crops grown in Native American gardens. Some people call sunflowers the "fourth sister," in reference to the Three Sisters corn, bean, and squash, but this is a recent appellation as far as we know, and we're not aware of any legends or oral traditions referring to sunflowers this way. Sunflower seeds were an important food crop and source of oil for cooking and cosmetics, and different sunflower varieties were cultivated to produce purple and yellow dyes. Sunflower oil was also believed to treat skin ailments, and sunflowers had a variety of medicine uses in different tribes. Some Native people also saw sunflowers as a symbol of courage, so that warriors would carry sunflower cakes to battle with them or a hunter would sprinkle sunflower powder on his clothing to keep his spirit up.

## New Echota on my Mind:

Hello – I just wanted to say how excited I am to be your new President! With several new members on the executive committee and on the board, we have hit the ground running. We started with a work session where our first task was to review where we are now and where we want to go. In an effort to improve attendance at meetings, we have changed from Thursday to Saturday; updated our committee list & duties, and are currently working on a new budget. We also rolled out a new look & feel to our promotional booth and have already set up at two Teacher Workshops, the Roswell Cherokee Memorial Project Dedication Ceremony & Festival and the Cherokee Heritage Festival.

Working with David, site manager, we are supporting revised programming. Instead of putting all of our resources into a few large events, smaller programs are being planned for each month. This gives visitors a reason to come out more often to enjoy the site and walk the trails. And, we are continuing our regular Member and Volunteer Work Weekends. (Whew, no wonder we're tired!)

Our major Friends project this year is to bring in more volunteers. We invite you to come out, bring a friend and get involved! If you were active in the past but have wandered off for one reason or another, come on back. If New Echota is somewhere you've always found interesting, come check it out. If you have retired and are getting bored, we can help. If you are a student (or scout!) and need community involvement credit, we have projects. We have a wide assortment of needs including office & receptionist, library, tour guides, building & grounds maintenance – something for everyone!

I also want to express my appreciation to the staff, FONE members & board and all current volunteers for your help and support. *The Ancestors Are Calling - working together we can answer . . . Dondagohwi oginali (till we meet again)*

Elaine Watkins, President  
Friends of New Echota Historic Site

## Summer Calendar

### General Meeting

Thursday, July 24, 2014 6:30pm  
Special Guest : Cindi Crane to speak  
about her book: Roswell Redemption



Cindi Crane is a member of the Georgia Writers Association, the Atlanta Writers Club, the Roswell Historical Society, the Trail of Tears Association, Friends of New Echota and the Georgia Trust. Her husband Steve is part Cherokee. Researching his family genealogy inspired Cindi to write her first historical novel, *Roswell Redemption*. She has been working with the City of Roswell to build a monument to the Cherokee – to honor those who came before us. With the help of the Roswell Historical Society, she has gotten approval for the memorial and has written 8 history stories that will be put on boulders and placed around Riverside Park and Azalea Drive.

Everyone invited-Bring a Friend!

July 1, 2014

New Officers and Board members  
take their place for Friends of New  
Echota : 2014/2015

### Board Meeting

October 4, 2014 Saturday at 9:00am will  
be held at the Elks Club and Golf course  
in the meeting room.

### General Meeting

October 25, 2014 Saturday  
At 5:30pm at New Echota.

Summer has arrived:

## Friends of New Echota Updates / Changes

\*Meeting minutes of April meeting was sent out by email and so will July due to some changes being made we will resume the posting of minutes in our Fall Newsletter.

\*Planning our fall programs:

September 27, 2014 Park Day come out and join us for a full day Saturday working on the grounds, cleaning , raking, building and clearing. Cook-out lunch will be served.. Come out and volunteer

\*October 18, 2014 Authors Day, come and meet and listening to known authors who have written about the Trail of Tears, Water route taken during the time of removal, history and growing up in Georgia. Join us and listen to singing from the court house, visit the Homestead, Printshop , Worcester house, Vann Tavern, Council house, and museum.



Red Clay Heritage Day was held August 2, 3, 2014...Our booth was a huge success and Tommy Wildcat came along with many Other Cherokee's across the Nation to support and be part of this yearly event.



Roswell Memorial Cherokee Celebration was a huge success, held on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Riverside Park, President Elaine Watkins, VP Monika Ponton-Arrington, along with Board member Fulton Arrington, participated with Fulton Arrington was Shirley Oswald who both did the prayers in Cherokee and English, Monika given a history of New Echota and Troy Wayne Potete speaking on behalf of the Cherokee Nation of OK. On Friday evening the meet and greet of guests was held by the President of Roswell Historical Society, Johanna Harned, in attendance were also the Mayor of Roswell; Jere Wood and several city council members.



Red Clay Historic State Park in Tennessee held two teachers workshop for Educators in the Tri-State Area, we were invited to set up a booth along with several other parks and the Trail of Tears Association. First workshop was held in June and the second held in July, interest for New Echota was wonderful.



## **\*News from Ranger David Gomez\***

### **Our Site Manager,**

August 23<sup>rd</sup>; Monthly Historic Building Clean up /Open building tours on Saturdays  
September 27<sup>th</sup>; Monthly Historic Building Clean up /Open building tours on Saturdays (Parks Day)!  
October 18<sup>th</sup>; Authors Day - Open building tours on Saturdays

### Got cloth?

Friends of New Echota is looking for fabric for historic clothing for building docents. If you have period appropriate material or patterns suitable for shirts, dress, etc., typical of early 19<sup>th</sup> century, contact Site Manager David Gomez. No synthetics. Cotton, Wool, Linen, Silk only.

Fall season will be upon us at New Echota and that means fall wildflowers, cooler temperatures soon (we hope) and school field trip season. I am looking to hire a couple of people in part-time positions to help with our school field trip traffic during the fall and spring seasons. We have lost a lot of our field trip business since we have been officially open only two weekdays (Thursdays & Fridays) the last several years. Schools have also cut back on the number of field trips they allow further reducing our school group visitation. Hopefully, we will be able to regain some of this business in the seasons to come. Anyone interested in applying for this part-time tour guide position, please call the site at 706-624-1321 to receive an application and information about the positions. Persons hired in this position will generally work only when school field trips are scheduled.

Special thanks to those volunteers that have been coming out and working in the historic buildings. Having access to the interior of the buildings with people knowledgeable about the site buildings and history adds significantly to the guests experience and comments on the visitor log and comments to staff have been favorable and frequent. We need more volunteers for the buildings, so grab a friend and come on out and start volunteering.

David Gomez, Site Mgr.



**Purple Martin gourd houses were constructed by Board member Don Nix. Don has put his skills to use several times here at New Echota, including assisting Eagle Scout candidates with their projects also.**



**Carpenter Bee Traps were constructed by Board member Brent Watkins, will be putting his back and skills to continue to improve the grounds and construction of benches,**

**New Executive Officers / Friends of New Echota**



**President: Elaine Watkins** I got involved with FONE a few years ago. As a Cherokee descendant through several family lines, I wanted to learn more about our history and culture. What I found was a group of dedicated volunteers who were supporting the site and helping to preserve and promote that heritage. Never did I dream one day I would say yes, I'll be president! Our Friends group supports the site financially for updates and repairs as well as providing manual labor when needed. Volunteers help clean and keep the buildings open for visitors, build & maintain the trails, and host visiting groups such as school field trips and the Remember the Removal Riders. I invite you to come and get involved with us. Volunteers do not have to be a member of Friends but we certainly welcome you to join us. So if you have a couple of hours, a couple of days or longer, call site manager David Gomez and he will let you know current needs. Everyone is welcome – full blood, mixed blood or no blood!!!



**Vice President: Monika Ponton-Arrington** – I became involved after visiting the site during the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Removal. I had not been to the site in many years and notice that changes has been made, a need for volunteers both in the garden and in the buildings, being a native Indian, I felt a pull to help, with promoting the site and working with other volunteers who had a passion to help. After a year of volunteering and helping with programs, I accepted the position of Vice president of Friends. I am excited to say that it has been a whirlwind time and with the help of Friends and the Park Rangers, we will continue to reach out both here in Georgia and across the United States to promote and maintain New Echota. Everyone is more than welcome to come and meet and join New Echota Friends Group or just volunteer. Come and Join!



**Treasurer: Linda Parker Fletcher** –As treasurer, I am charged with keeping up with income and expenses of FONESHHS which involves a lot of record keeping. Please keep memberships up to date and turn in Volunteer hours. Linda is a founding member and officer of the Friends of New Echota. She served on the Board of Directors for FONE before becoming Vice President almost two years ago. She is also Treasurer of the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association. She became interested in Cherokee history and New Echota when she began researching her family history.



**Secretary: Pam McCreight** - I'm excited and proud to be a member of this year's executive board along with Elaine, Linda, and Monika. New Echota is a national treasure located right here in our back yard, yet many people in our area are unaware of its historical significance. Our goal this year is to educate and encourage more involvement from members of the surrounding communities in NW Georgia.





**New Echota State Historic Site**  
**1211 Chatsworth Hwy 225**  
**Calhoun, Ga. 30701**

**Website:**

**www.friendsofnewechota.org**

**E-Mail Address:**

**friendsofnewechota@gmail.com**



**Friends of New Echota**

Volunteer Interests:

Archival work	Living History
Carpentry	Landscaping
Holiday Decorating	Research
Tour group host	Refreshments
Cleaning	Display booth
Gardening	Museum

\*Come and learn the history of New Echota, become a volunteer .

\*Needed volunteers to provide interpretation of the site history.

\*Summer is upon us, and New Echota is gearing up to maintaining the buildings during open hours, working with school groups in the fall, grounds maintenance, and gearing up for State Parks Day September 27, 2014 Saturday.

**Friends of New Echota State Historic Site (FONE)** was formed to assist the site staff to carry out the mission and to reach the goals of the Georgia State Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites (PRHS) Division of the Department of Natural Resources. FONE will assist the park site manager with planning, organizing, and implementing special events. FONE will also promote public awareness and public support of and involvement in New Echota State Historic Site.

If you would like more information about volunteering at New Echota, talk to us at our quarterly meeting, contact us at:

[friendsofnewechota@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofnewechota@gmail.com)

**New Echota State Historic Site**

Hours: Thursday – Saturday  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Telephone #  
**(706) 624-1321**

You can join FONE at New Echota State Historic Site or by visiting <http://friendsofgastateparks.org>

Be sure to designate *New Echota* as your chapter preference!

FONE is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that operates as a chapter of Friends of Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites

**FONE officers**

Elaine Watkins, President  
Monika Ponton-Arrington, Vice President  
Pam McCreight, Secretary  
Linda Fletcher, Treasurer

**Board of Directors**

Fulton Arrington	Brent Watkins
Linda Baker	Tom Lanford
Judy Mincey	Don Nix
Dale Stewart	Mignon Ballard
Lonnie Bell	Linda Ann Daniel
Ken Chapman	Jim Lay
Betty Ann Surdykowski	

**Park/State**

David Gomez, Park Manager/Ranger  
Ron Shepherd, Ranger



**P.O Box 643**  
**Resaca, Ga. 30735-0643**

Friend's Name  
Street Address  
City, State Zip Code