

Science and American Indians Information Distribution

National EPA-Tribal Science Council • Volume 1 • March 2010

Hello to All,

Welcome to the Science and American Indian Newsletter. I currently serve as the Tribal Co-Chair of the Tribal Science Council (TSC), in partnership with EPA Co-Chair Ted Coopwood. I am an enrolled member of the great Kiowa Nation in Oklahoma.

The mission of the TSC is to provide a platform for interaction between Tribal and EPA scientists of mutual benefit and responsibility to work collaboratively on environmental science issues. The TSC is dedicated to understanding and designing effective solutions to address these issues in order to protect the health and environment of all Tribes and Indigenous Nations.

As a result of our ongoing collaborative efforts, the TSC is excited to co-host its second National Tribal Science Forum in partnership with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The 2010 National Tribal Science Forum will be held June 6–10 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, owned by the Tribe, and located near the tribal complex in Traverse City, Michigan. The theme is **Mother Earth: Indigenous Knowledge to Promote Positive Change.**

The Forum is a great opportunity to come together and share knowledge and valuable lessons to address issues of vital interest to Indian Country. Let us look forward to June to find out how we can use our collective knowledge to better care for the earth entrusted to us and leave behind a healthier Mother Earth for future generations.

I share with you this quote by an unknown young woman in preparation for the upcoming Forum.

Mother Earth Is Sacred

“As an Indian person, my view of the world is that Mother Earth is sacred. It’s difficult for me to use the term ‘environment’ or the term ‘ecology.’ To me, it’s ‘Mother Earth’ and she is sacred. If she is not healthy, if the beings sustaining from her — the people, the animals, the wildlife, the water, the air, everything that belongs to Mother Earth — if that is not protected, if that is not taken care of in the proper way with respect — well, what are we here for then? Mother Earth is Sacred.”

Aho,
Curtis Munoz
TSC Tribal Co-Chair

Inside the 2010 National Tribal Science Forum

*Sponsored by the National
EPA-Tribal Science Council
and hosted by the Grand
Traverse Band of Ottawa and
Chippewa Indians.*



Building Strong Tribal Partnerships
EPA’s Tribal Science Council and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians will co-host the 2010 National Tribal Science Forum, building partnerships through environmental and health research conducted on tribal lands. The theme of the Forum is “Mother Earth: Indigenous Knowledge to Promote Positive Change.”

Venue

Grand Traverse Resort and Spa
Traverse City, Michigan
June 6–10, 2010

We have secured a special overnight rate of \$118 at the resort that is effective June 4, 2010, through June 12, 2010. Please note that overnight rooms must be booked by April 5, 2010, to guarantee the special rate.



2010 National Tribal Science Forum

NTEC Open House

June 7, 2010
5:30–7:00 p.m.

You are all welcome to an OPEN HOUSE hosted by the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) on the evening of June 7 at the 2010 National Tribal Science Forum. NTEC is a membership organization formed in 1991 to support Indian Tribes and Alaskan Native Villages in protecting, regulating, and managing environmental resources according to their own priorities and values. We will show a video slide describing NTEC's USDA Tribal Safe Drinking Water & Wastewater Program, including NTEC's history as a Tribal non-profit organization. We are Working for Tribes and with Tribes on a national scale.

National Tribal Science Forum

June 6–10, 2010
Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

[http://epa.blhtech.com/
2010TribalScienceForum](http://epa.blhtech.com/2010TribalScienceForum)

Invited Speakers

The following speakers have confirmed their participation in the event:

- Derek Bailey, Tribal Chairman, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (Welcoming Remarks)
- Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director, United Tribes of Michigan (Opening Plenary Keynote Address)
- Tom Peters, Tribal Elder, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (Water Plenary Address)
- Bharat Mathur, Acting Regional Administrator, EPA Region 5 (Welcoming Remarks)

2010 Theme

The Forum theme “Mother Earth: Indigenous Knowledge to Promote Positive Change” will be explored in the following tracks: Air, Water, Earth, Community Health, and Cross-Theme issues such as climate change.

Purpose

The forum will provide a platform to discuss issues of vital interest to Indian Country and make available opportunities to:

- Showcase tribal science through cutting-edge research and case studies
- Promote Native science and highlight progress being made in environmental and health programs on tribal lands
- Share tribal science success stories through presentations, exhibits, and poster session
- Obtain technical training in high-priority areas identified by tribal governments and members of the Tribal Science Council
- Network and share knowledge among Native scientists and environmental professionals from throughout Indian Country
- Interact with Native students and hear their environmental voices via youth poetry and poster contests

Key Dates

Online Registration Opens	January 31, 2010
Room Reservation Deadline	April 5, 2010
Forum Dates	June 6-10, 2010

