

# Annual feast held to give thanks for the various roots provided by the creator



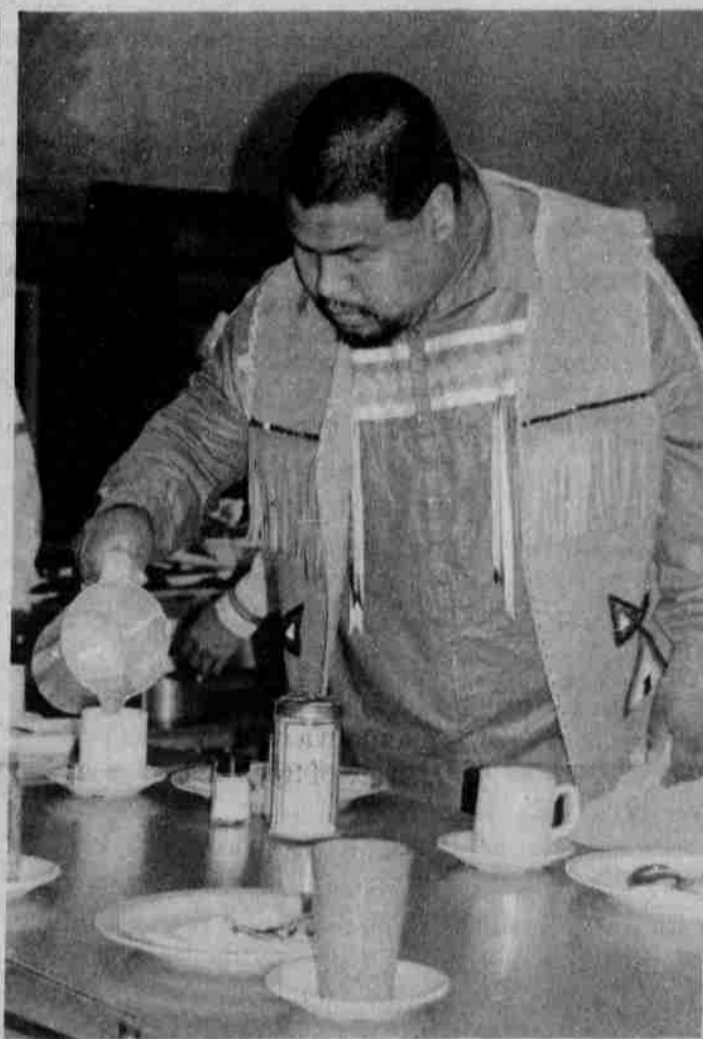
Geraldine Jim checks the salmon cooking over the barbecue.



Mary Danzuka puts the piaksi in the bowls in preparation for serving.



Designated root diggers participate in the songs and serve the foods. They dress in the wing dress, moccasins and a putlapa.



Water is a "purification" to prepare your body for the foods we give thanks for. "Without water there is no life."

*"All foods are served in the order that they came to us in the season,"*  
Wilson Wewa.



Piaksi was the first root served after the salmon and deer meat.

The annual Root Feast was held March 29 at both Agency and Simnasho Longhouse. This is the time of year the Indian people give thanks for the foods given to by the creator.

The root diggers have their memorial one week before the feast so that they may participate after mourning the loss of a loved one. After memorials they may dig roots and participate in the gathering and preparing for the ceremony.

Tribal Council has provided an updated list of designated root feast diggers and elders who participate at Agency and Simnasho Longhouse.

Rosa Bill, Geraldine Blodgett, Margaret Charley, Rosemary Charley, Janice Clements, Zillah Flores, Darlene Foster, Kathleen Heath, Lucinda Heath, Shirley Heath, Louise Hellon, Kate Jackson, Louella Jackson, Romagene Joe, Verleen Kalama, Lois Knight, Georgette Keo, Ursula Little, Antoinette Pamperien, Nola Queahpama, Joyce Quinn, Alice Sampson, Rosalind Sampson, Sonya Scott, Nettie Shawaway, Suzie Slockish, Katie Smith, Lois Smith, Lila Suppah, Lisa Suppah, Lucille Suppah, Margaret Suppah, Violetta

Vaeth, Wanda VanPelt, Sheilah Wahnetah, Freda Wallulatum, Lisa Wallulatum, Olivia Wallulatum, Agnes Wolfe, Flossie Wolfe, Frances Allen, Carol Andrews, Priscilla Blackwolfe, Sammi Bruisedhead, Lillian R. Brunoe, Bobbi Calica, Geneva Charley, Pat Culp, Mary Danzuka, Carroll Dick, Sharlayne Garcia, Celia Greene, Verbena Greene, Sarah G. Gonzales, Cecelia Herrera, Mona Howtopat, Daisy Ike, Lena Ike, Channelle Jackson, Louise Jackson, Geraldine Jim, Deanie Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Rosie Johnson, Cassie Katchia, Sharon Katchia, Lois Lesarthy, Maria Lopez, Mary Ann Meanus, Francelia Miller, Mercedes Miller, Elfreda Mitchell, Bernice Mitchell, Gloria Mitchell, Lucille Mitchell, Tonya Mitchell, Margaret Palmer, Barbara Poncho, Serena Raboin, Minnie Red Dog, Cassie Rhoan, Marella Sam, Sadie Sam, Julie Sandoval, Mary Sando-Emhoolah, Mary Smith, Nancy Sooksoit, Eileen Spino, Evaline Spino, Phyllis Strong, Rosie Tom, Arlene Wewa, Carol Wewa, Vivian Wewa.

Lead person for Simnasho Longhouse is Kate Jackson and for Agency, Mary Danzuka.

## Salmon Corps work toward enhancement of salmon runs and restoring riparian habitats

The Salmon Corps, an AmeriCorps program, was started in 1994 with the goal of utilizing Native American young adults in the Pacific Northwest to repair the disappearing salmon habitats of the Columbia River Basin. This approach serves a dual purpose by rehabilitating both the salmon and the young people from the tribal communities of the area - many of which are facing serious social and economic challenges. Salmon Corps is one of many programs of the Earth Conservation Corps (ECC).

The Salmon Corps Partnership is a cooperative effort with direct participation from five Native American tribes: the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and many groups including AmeriCorps, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), the US Department of Energy, US Department of Interior, US Department of Agriculture and various corporations.

Salmon Corps has three primary environmental objectives: to enhance salmon habitats in the five tribal areas with in-stream structures, riparian vegetation and stream channel restoration; to restore riparian habitats by erecting pole fences to restrict livestock access to salmon habitat; and to remove trash and debris from all salmon habitats. This large endeavor involves over 80 AmeriCorps participants in three states: Washington, Idaho and

Oregon.

An important element in the Salmon Corps success is that the members are implementing tribal priorities to restore native salmon runs within the Columbia River watershed, an extensive and vital ecological system encompassing 160,000 square miles. In addition to gaining valuable skills in habitat restoration, Salmon Corps volunteers build community awareness and produce visible improvements to the environment.

Corps members also contribute to and benefit from the local community. Local community members provide technical, vocational, and educational support. The range of support has included native language training from tribal elder, aboriginal life skills training, and native vegetation green house activities. Corps members work with local farmers and schools to support native plant nurseries. Salmon Corps members have helped build local baseball fields, assisted in the development of a Veterans Memorial, and have volunteered time to work in tribal Head Start programs.

About ECC

The Earth Conservation Corps, founded in 1989, is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to restore two of the country's most threatened resources: the environment and our disadvantaged young people. The ECC helps young adults with limited opportunities learn to take pride in themselves and their community through important conservation work and training. With this philosophy, ECC has had great

success working with 18-25 year olds from a variety of areas around the county. Five abandoned, historic buildings were turned over to ECC in 1994 by Pacific Northwest Indian Nations for restoration into Community Education Centers: ECC Corps members are currently transforming these buildings into centers for tribal, educational, environmental, cultural, and health clinic activities. They also serve as outposts on their respective reservations for ECC Corps members and volunteers involved with the ECC's Salmon Corps Partnership.

The Warm Springs Salmon Corps used GIS maps to assess plants and worked on repairing a fence to keep livestock out of the stream banks of the Warm Springs river. They assisted the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery in moving approximately 469,750 juvenile Chinook salmon to an outdoor acclimation pond, and set up migratory screw traps along tributaries of the Columbia River to monitor salmon movements.

The cumulative result in the five tribes in their efforts to repair disappearing salmon habitats is that over three million young salmon will be released into the streams and rivers. By involving Native Americans in traditional conservation stewardship practices, the tribes and surrounding community will grow both economically and culturally in the future.

For more information on the ECC's innovative programs and opportunities for support, please contact us at: The Earth Conservation Corps, 1st and Potomac Ave., SE, Washington DC 20003.



Salmon Corps members from left to right, Chris Chee, James Arthur, Phillip George, Phillip "Jake" Johns, Kate Caldwell, Wayne Eaglespeaker, Zach Del Nero, Gerald Tufti.