

— Tribal Life —

New cedar sweatlodge was built in the traditional way

There's a new sweatlodge in Grand Ronde, located behind the Chemical Dependency office building.

Built by Grand Ronde tribal members, the sweatlodge is made entirely of cedar.

"The sweatlodge is quite possibly the largest in the Pacific Northwest," said Michael Reibach, caretaker of the lodge and sweat leader. "Our people traditionally sweat in cedar, and this sweatlodge will be here for many generations to come."

Michael said that many people volunteered in the building of the sweatlodge, and Tribal Council donated part of the funds. He said that numerous visitors have brought offerings of sage, roots, and rocks.

There have been many visitors to the sweatlodge since its completion last month, but Michael said it is something he'd like more Grand Ronde tribal members to experience.

"This lodge is a Rainbow Lodge," he said. "People of all races and colors are welcome. The Grand Ronde people believe in diversity and respect for Mother Earth and every living thing."

The sweatlodge can hold about fifty people, almost twice as many as the old willow lodge.

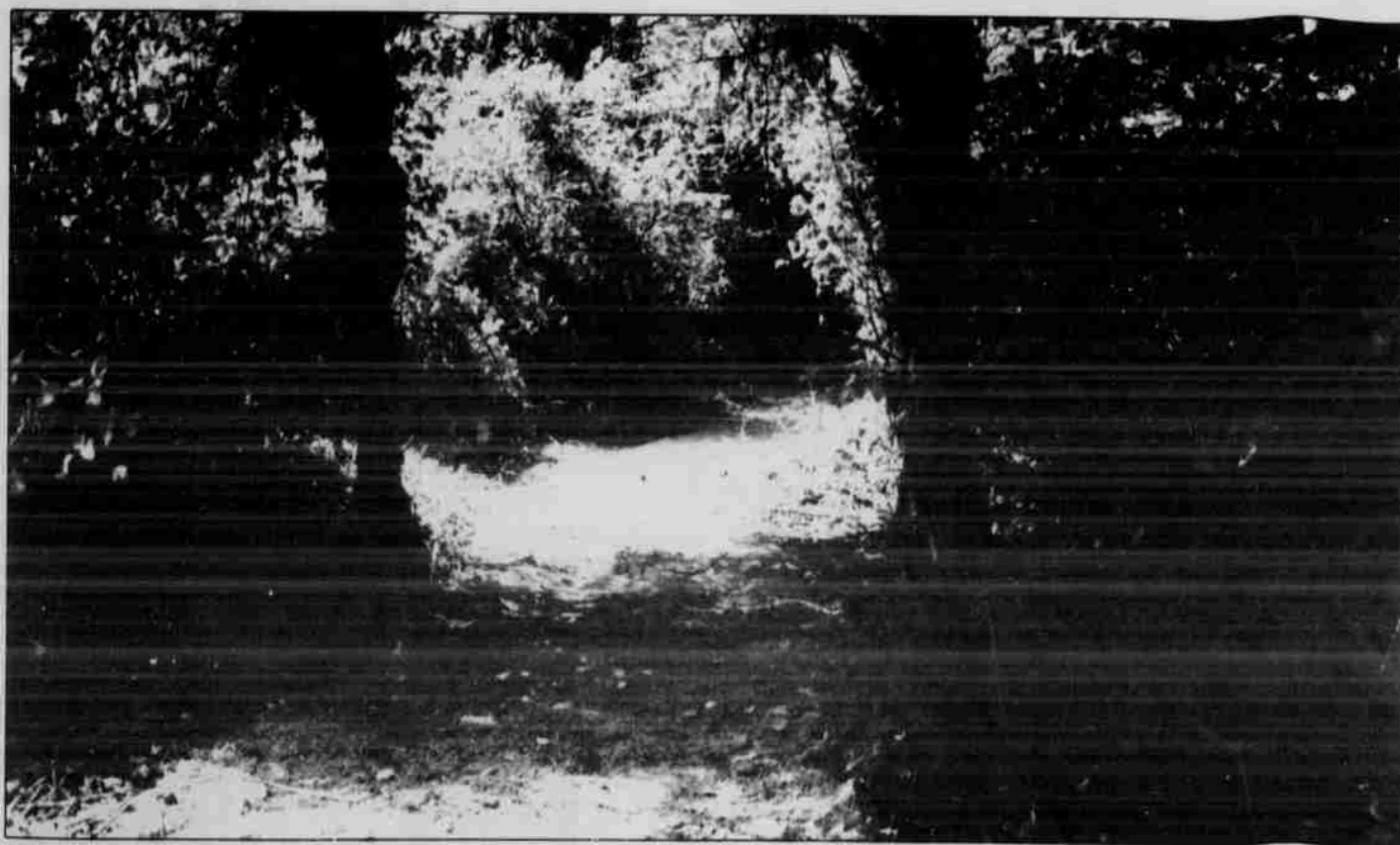
"More and more people are attending sweats," said Michael. "Last Pow-wow, we held seven sweats in two days."

Mike leads two sweat sessions: Wednesdays at 5 p.m., and Sundays and 1 p.m. He said they are open to both men and women, but that soon there may be a women's sweat during the week, as well.

"Soon we will be clearing out the woods and putting picnic tables and benches around the lodge," said Michael. "It's for everyone to enjoy."



The sweatlodge is located behind the Chemical Dependency building.



DAY USE PARK RULES:

1. No fires in the park. Portable gas, gasoline, charcoal, and oil camp stoves may be used.
2. No firearms, sling shots, archery equipment, BB or pellet guns, or other similar devices in the park.
3. No hunting or trapping within the park.
4. No picking or gathering of plants (living or dead), or natural minerals.

5. No digging or excavating of rocks or other naturally occurring material.
6. No soliciting.
7. No obscene, indecent, vile, abusive, or threatening language while in the park.
8. No motorized vehicles, horses, bikes, or any other device allowed on the trails. Handicapped persons may use a wheelchair, and/or any other devices to help them move about the trails.

9. No dogs allowed unless on a leash.
10. No alcohol or drugs in the park.
11. No overnight camping in the park.
12. No littering. Garbage cans are provided for waste materials.
13. Park is open one half hour before sunrise until one half hour after sunset. Any violation of these rules will be turned over to the Yamhill County Police Department for prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

Knowledge needed of area plants for park

Many of you are probably aware that the Fish and Wildlife department is in the process of constructing a day use park on the North Fork of Agency Creek. The park will provide everyone an opportunity to see a very beautiful part of the reservation. In addition to providing a chance to commune with nature, we hope to provide an educational opportunity as well. The park will contain a series of educational signs which we are currently in the process of writing.

We plan to place a number of plaques on the predominant plant species in the park, to identify them and to provide a brief description of the historical Native American uses for the plants.

If you have knowledge of the traditional historic uses of plants of this region, we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the following: Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock, Bigleaf Maple, Cascara, Red Elderberry, Sword Fern, Vine Maple, and Bitter Cherry.

So kids, bug your grandparents and have them give us a call. Please contact Kelly at the Fish and Wildlife department of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde at 879-2382. Thanks!