



Cedar boughs lay on Tomanowos after they were used to brush off the meteorite during the private ceremony held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City on Monday, June 23.



American Museum of Natural History volunteers watch as Travis Stewart, Tribal Cultural Youth Education specialist, carves a mask out of a piece of cedar at the museum on Wednesday, June 25. While Stewart is in New York City serving as chaperone to the Tribal youth who are interning at the museum, he was asked by the museum to do the live demonstration to show that Native American cultural practices are still alive.



Tribal Historian David Lewis takes photos of Tomanowos after the private ceremony. He was taking photos of spots on the meteorite that looked like pieces had broken off from to try to match where the piece of the meteorite that the Tribe houses at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center was taken.

Tribal reps meet about Summers Collection

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Lund said she thought the ceremony was wonderful and it brought to mind a lot of her own history and her ancestors and how they struggled to survive.

Fenwick and Lund were the two Elders randomly picked from a drawing to attend the ceremony this year.

After Tribal members had their opportunity to speak, they participated in cleansing Tomanowos with rose hip and Labrador tea as Stewart sang and drummed a prayer song.

Non-Tribal visitors, such as a few members of the museum staff who were invited to the ceremony and other Grand Ronde staff in attendance, were offered a chance to speak.

Merrily Sterns, vice president of Institutional Advancement at the museum, said it has been an honor to have a relationship with Grand Ronde for 14 years.

Also at the ceremony were Tribal Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor; Public Affairs administrative assistant and Tribal member Chelsea Clark; Tribal Attorney Rob Greene; and Dr. Jonathan King, former keeper of the Department of Africa, Indian Ocean and Americas at the British Museum in London, England. King is currently a research fellow with the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Cambridge in England.

On Tuesday, June 24, the Grand



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Paul Beelitz, left, director of Collections and Archives at the American Museum of Natural History, shows Tribal Elders Richard Fenwick, middle, and Laura Lund Kachina dolls from the Hopi people during a behind-the-scenes tour of the New York City museum on Tuesday, June 24.

Ronde delegation met with museum staff at the museum for breakfast and then Fenwick, Lund, Clark and the interns went on a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum's anthropology collection and viewed numerous Native American artifacts.

While that was happening, the rest of the group met with museum

representatives and King to discuss the Summers Collection, which is stored at the British Museum and contains artifacts from Grand Ronde.

The Tribe has been trying for years to get the artifacts returned and the meeting was to make a commitment to continue working together with the British Museum

for joint research, internships and if not the return, then at least a possible loan of the Grand Ronde artifacts that are part of the Summers Collection.

Even though King no longer works for the British Museum, he said he is still involved in the effort because he believes it is very important. ■