

Enriching Tribal Communities to Grow in Sustainability and Beauty

Our Mission:

-Care for the Earth



-Care for the People



-Share the Bounty



We achieve our mission by empowering our tribal communities to practice and maintain a sustainable and healthy way of life while learning from and teaching about our local ecosystems as well as fostering respect and care for our watersheds.

NativeSeedsOfHarmony.org

Ya'at'eeh Relatives and Friends Giving Thanks - Our First Newsletter

As we approach this Holiday Season, Seeds of Harmony would like to express gratitude to the Creator for a productive first year of operation and would like to thank all of our partners that have made our successes possible.

We are thankful to the community members within the Lukachukai Creek watershed for your input toward the development of a community-based watershed plan and for your interest to learn more about watersheds, rainwater harvesting, and conservation planning.





Further we would like to thank Hopa Mountain, Wolfstar Productions, Peace Development Fund, First Nations Development Institute, Seventh Generation Fund, Navajo Transitional Energy Company, Watershed Management Group, and the private donors that have contributed to our mission with training, funding, professional services, and moral support.

If you would like to show support, any contributions are appreciated.

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New Staff and Crew

We are excited to introduce the hiring of two new staff and a skilled team that have been instrumental in our accomplishments.



We would like to introduce Mekhi Ben, a graduate of Many Farms High School, who joined our team in May 2023 as an Eco-Advocate. Mekhi has completed a Natural Builders Design Certification Course and is eager to tackle any tasks that come his way, from tending to chickens to presenting on his research of Dr. Emoto.

Next to be introduced is, Richard Campbell, a graduate of Many Farms High School and Eastern Arizona College. He joined our team in September 2023 as an Eco-Advocate Support Staff. Richard has hit the ground running with learning and helping to transition into several software platforms from WIX to database management and accounting software.





Finally, we are happy to introduce our local workforce, Ivan Begay and Intonio Begay. They joined our team after helping us to rehab office space. We are so thankful for their building skills, knowledge and willingness to help us install the roof catchment systems and greywater systems.

Walk the watershed (Care for the Earth)



This summer marked the 2nd Annual Walk the Watershed summer gathering at the headwaters of the Lukachukai and Totsoh Creeks, at the top of the Chuska Mountains. This gathering brings together families that migrate with their animals to the mountains for the summer. The Chuska Mountains are where the perennial waters begin to flow. This year the attendees were able to see the possibilities of mimicking nature with water harvesting strategies, where the strategic placement of rocks by the residents allowed a small pond to re-capture water and stopped the pond from draining. Further the residents were able to share the significance of some of the vegetation with the Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife while they learned more about how wildlife share the watershed. Together we were also able to identify head cuts, erosion, and other possible impacts to the watershed. Lastly, we were able to discuss memories of the water and the land and talk about a watershed vision. Stay tuned for next year's Walk the Watershed Gathering and other day trips to walk the Lukachuaki Creek Watershed.

Demonstration Projects (Care for the People)



This year we completed the installation of three water harvesting projects. A roof catchment system, a laundry to landscape system, and an earthwork's system. Each of these projects allows for more beneficial uses of water within the watershed. The roof catchment was completed just in time to capture some of the monsoon rains. As of September, there was 15" of rain captured in two tanks, which equates to approximately 720 gallons that was passively captured. To put in perspective, an average washer uses approximately 19 gallons so this would be about 40 loads of laundry, an average shower is about 10-20 gallons (closer to 10 on the rez) this would be about 38-77 showers, to wash dishes by hand approximately 5-10 gallons, which would be 77-154 dish washing sessions. For a family that hauls water, this is substantial. Another great activity that grew from the Watershed Day, is that the Tsaille Public School Art Club spent a day to paint the tanks for the residents, and they loved it! The laundry to landscape installation allowed water from the laundry to be taken to trees that provide shade. Previously the homeowner had stopped watering the trees, due to a high-water bill. The earthworks structure allowed for erosive rain water to be slowed and infiltrated into the land which increased soil moisture that provided for native vegetation to flourish without reseeding. Again, this is only the beginning to demonstrate the possibilities of what can happen with a little conscious effort.



Watershed Day (Share the Bounty)



Thank you to the Navajo Transitional Energy Company's Community Benefit Fund Grant. With this partnership we were able purchase a watershed model and host a Watershed Day at Tsaille Public School, Round Rock Elementary, and Many Farms Public School, where we were able to demonstrate the functions and impacts of a watershed to students. What was really significant is that this provided the opportunity for us to ask the students about their vision for the watershed. Hearing the student's concerns and wishes for the watershed was so inspiring and insightful to learn what is in the minds of these future leaders. A fun activity that grew from this presentation was that Round Rock Elementary invited us on a field trip to the Lukachukai Creek where we were able to show how to measure the flow of the stream without a flow meter. These events are only the beginning of planting the watershed seed that will grow to be a healthy branch in these young leaders' lives.



A Little Crack in Egg Sales

Through the past two years, our egg sales were flourishing as local community members grew to love the fresh eggs. Unfortunately, local wildlife (fox, owls, coyotes, hawks, etc) and dogs have attacked our chickens and our flock has dwindled. But we will get another flock next spring. Keep saving your empty cartons and give us call to pick up at 928-313-1840.

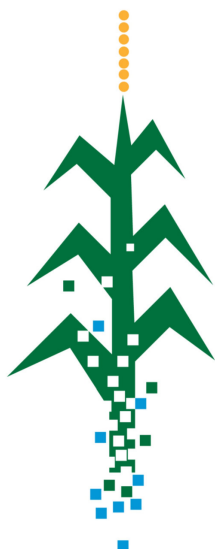
Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We wish everyone a relaxing and blessed Holiday Season. We look forward to what the future brings!

A'héhee'

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Things we do around the Community.

- Watershed Planning
- Restoration
- Water Harvesting
- Conservation
- Food Security
- Green Building Systems
- Climate Change Resiliency
- Workshops
- Seminars
- Hands-on Projects
- Document Assistance
- Conservation Plans
- Egg Sales

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