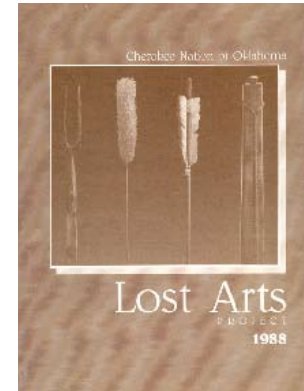


The Lost Arts Project - 1988



The Cherokee National Historical Society, Inc. and the Cherokee Nation partnered in 1988 to create the Lost Arts Program focusing on the preservation and revival of cultural arts.

A new designation was created for Master Craftsmen who not only mastered their art, but passed their knowledge on to the next generation.

Stated in the original 1988 brochure: *“The Cherokee people are at a very important time in history and at a crucial point in making provisions for their future identity as a distinct people.*

The Lost Arts project is concerned with the preservation and revival of Cherokee cultural practices that any be lost in the passage from one generation to another.

The project is concerned with capturing the knowledge, techniques, individual commitment available to us and heritage received from Cherokee folk artists and developing educational and cultural preservation programs based on their knowledge and experience.”

Artists had to be Cherokee and nominated by at least two people in the community. When selected, they were designated as “Living National Treasures.”

Do you know these Treasures?



The Lost Arts Project

What is it that makes us Cherokee?

It is not only just the color of our skin or the blood in our veins. Being Cherokee is a way of life, being and understanding our past.

The Cherokee people see it as a very important line in history and at a crucial point in making decisions for their future identity as a distinct people.

Cherokee elders, our last line of direct culture of knowledge, are dying before passing their knowledge on to the next generation.

The Lost Arts project is concerned with the preservation and revival of Cherokee cultural practices that may be lost in the passage from one generation to another. The project is concerned with capturing the knowledge, techniques, individual commitment available to us and heritage received from Cherokee folk artists and developing educational and cultural preservation programs based on their knowledge and experience.

Original Lost Arts Program Exhibit Flyer- 1988



A Few of the Arts

Cornstalk Shooting
Cornstalks are cut from a field and set to dry. The drier the cornstalks, the easier it is for an arrow to penetrate the stalks and score joints.

Lyman Vann
A master Cherokee archer and bow-maker died in 1981. Mr. Vann is known as one of the most natural and intuitive bow-shooters around. He participated in many Cherokee cornstalk and passed on a rich heritage to other Cherokee archers.

Marbles
Marbles were once made from stone. A Marble maker may spend two days or longer sounding but one marble only to have it break or crack. Most players today use cue balls or steel balls.

Gigs
Rufan Blue, a craftsman of various arts, uses springs from old cars to make arrow rigs and fishing gigs.

Bow Stabbing
Dr. Alan Horns, an expert on the technical art of Cherokee archery, describes the beautiful yellow wood of the Sawdler tree as being the best wood for making bows and arrow shafts.

- Lyman Vann - 1988 Bow Making
- Mattie Drum - 1990 Weaving
- Rogers McLemore - 1990 Weaving
- Hester Guess - 1990 Weaving
- Sally Lacy - 1990 Weaving
- Stella Livers - 1990 Basketry
- Eva Smith - 1991 Turtle Shell Shackles
- Betty Garner - 1993 Basketry
- Vivian Leaf Bush - 1993 Turtle Shell Shackles
- David Neugin - 1994 Bow Making
- Vivian Elaine Waytula - 1995 Basketry
- Richard Rowe 1996 Carving
- Lee Foreman - 1999 Marble Making
- Mildred Justice Ketcher - 1999 Basketry
- Albert Wofford - 1999 Gig Making/Carving
- Willie Jumper - 2001 Stickball Sticks
- Sam Lee Still - 2002 Carving
- Linda Mouse-Hansen - 2002 Basketry

Unfortunately, we have not been able to locate information, pictures or examples of art from the following Treasures. If you know anything about them, we would be very grateful to learn more and honor them.

Please contact the Cherokee Nation Cultural Arts Department at 918-453-5000 ext. 5153 or the Cherokee Heritage Center at 918-456-6007 ext 6153.



David Scott
2008 - Language

Mr. Scott also does artwork which portrays his personal beliefs, which were instilled in him by the traditional teachings of his father, mother and Cherokee elders. David’s artworks portrays Cherokee life ways prior to European contact by use of ancient southeastern motifs.

David continues to share his teachings through seminars, presentations and commissioned works.

“My goal is to continue to represent Cherokee culture through my art.”

Bill Glass, Jr.
2009 - Pottery

Mr. Glass studied at Central State University in Edmond Oklahoma, and he also spent two years at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico before returning to Oklahoma.

Glass has been honored with numerous awards and credits including the Jerome Tiger Memorial Award, Cherokee Art Market, and the Museum of Arts and Design in New York. He has also teamed up with his son Demos to create public art in Chattanooga, TN, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Betty Frogg
2010 - Basketry



Betty is a self taught flat reed basket maker who has learned from other National Treasures through her career.

Betty also works at the Cherokee Nation Youth Shelter “giving [youth] a comfortable place to sleep, make sure they have clean clothes, help them enroll in school, give them three meals a day—home-cooked meals, just show them that someone cares.”

Wilma Pearl Mankiller
(November 18, 1945 – April 6, 2010)

The Lost Arts Program was created during the Wilma Mankiller administration to protect and revive traditional Cherokee arts. Without Wilma’s passion for the culture and arts, the program might not have started or grown to the prestige it is today.



Wilma with Edith Knight



Wilma with John Ketcher

Born on November 18, 1945, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Mankiller became a leading advocate for the Cherokee people and the first woman to serve as their principal chief. As a child, she left Oklahoma with her family to San Francisco, California. Involved in activism while living there she became interested in helping her people. In 1983, Wilma Mankiller ran for deputy chief of the Cherokee Nation. Only two years after winning that post, she became the tribe’s principal chief. Mankiller made history as the first woman to ever serve as that nation’s leader. She remained on the job for two full terms after that, winning elections in 1987 and 1991. A popular leader, Mankiller sought to improve the nation’s health care, education system, and government. She has received numerous honors for her leadership and social activism, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998.

She is survived by her husband, Charlie Soap, 2 daughter’s Felicia and Gina Olaya, 3 step-son’s Chris Soap and wife Sylvia, Cobey Soap and Winterhawk Soap and wife Martha, 10 Grandchildren, 1 great-grandson, Jerome Tsosie, her Mother, Irene Mankiller, 4 sisters, 4 brothers. She is preceded in death by her father, Charley Mankiller and 2 brothers, Bob and Johnny Mankiller.



Alex England
1988 - Bow Making

For his skill in Bow Making, Alex England was designated as a master craftsman during the 1988 Cherokee National Holiday.

Todum Hair
1988 - Gig Making

Todum Hair made fish and crawdad gigs all his life. His father was also a gig maker, and passed this art form on to him.

To make the gigs, he used old buggy springs or model-t parts. "The steel used back then is a lot better than what you get these days." Hair once said.

Each gig fork was made in his workshop behind his home, using a coal fed forge he constructed himself.



Anna Mitchell
1988 - Pottery

Cherokee potter Anna Mitchell has worked hard for more than 30 years on her pottery and has done much research to make it authentic.

"I knew Cherokees hadn't really done pottery since removal, there wasn't anyone doing it or people who knew how to do it," Mitchell said. "But I thought surely it could be done again."



Rachel Dew
2004 - Basketry

Rachel is the youngest recipient to be honored as a National Treasure. She has learned from previous Treasures in basketry and continues to teach basketry at the Cherokee Heritage Center to thousands of visitors every year.

Shawna Cain
2007 - Basketry

Shawna has worked hard to support and promote Cherokee Elders, Traditions, Artistic Expressions and Natural Environments.

She is also a founding member of the Cherokee Native Art and Plant Society and has won numerous art awards for her work.



Roger Cain
2007 - Mask Making

Roger has worked hard to support and promote Cherokee Elders, Traditions, Artistic Expressions and Natural Environments.

He is also a founding member of the Cherokee Native Art and Plant Society and has won numerous art awards for his work..





Kathy Van Buskirk
2004 - Basketry

“I began basketry in 1988 after working in the Ancient Village here at the Center. Anna Huckaby got me started. Anna is a master craftsman and after showing me the basics, I took it from there. I really like sitting down to make the basket and doing it with someone in mind or for someone. I don’t ever try to do two alike. Each one is individual, and it’s never about doing a basket to sell—it’s about doing it because I want to make something at that time with someone in mind to do it for, and to do it the best that I can.”

Perry Van Buskirk
2004 - Bowmaking

Perry comes from a long line of traditionalists and is an accomplished artist in many traditional art forms. He enjoys sharing his knowledge with others. Perry and his wife Kathy are also recipients of the Cherokee Medal of Honor from the Cherokee Honor Society.

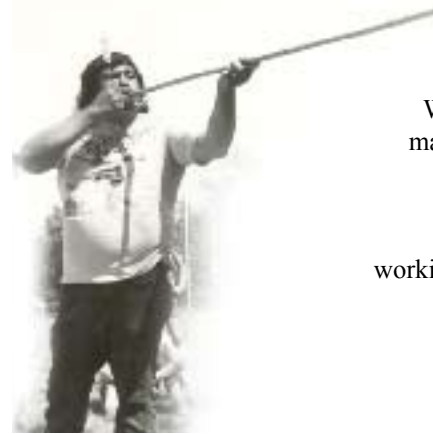
Perry has mastered many art mediums and is always willing to share his knowledge.



Jane Osti
2005 - Pottery

Jane Osti started her art degree in San Francisco in the 1970’s. Ironically, she took every class offered except ceramics. With only a few credits needed to obtain her bachelor’s degree, she transferred to Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma specializing in painting. There she met Jerry Chotate in her first ceramics class, and never looked back. Osti continued her education earning a masters degree in Education. Anna Mitchell taught Osti the southeastern style of pottery in 1987.

William Cabbagehead
1989 - Blowgun Darts



For his skill in blowgun and dart making, William Cabbagehead was designated as a master craftsman during the 1989 Cherokee National Holiday.

William spent many years teaching and working in the Ancient Village at the Cherokee Heritage Center.

Ella Mae Blackbear
1990 - Basketry

For her skill in basketry, Ella Mae Blackbear was designated as a master craftsman during the 1990 Cherokee National Holiday.



Clarence Downing
1990 - Carving

For his skill in carving, Clarence Downing was designated as a master craftsman during the 1990 Cherokee National Holiday.

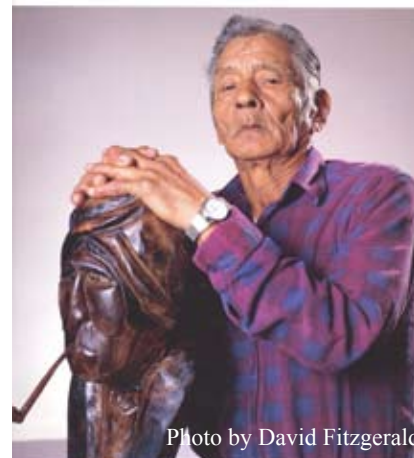


Photo by David Fitzgerald



Lorene Drywater
1990 - Traditional Clothing

“...jobs were hard to get for my daddy...it was one of (mama’s) wash days that I decided to cry for a doll ...mama was walking down a path that lead to the creek...I was walking behind her...my eyes were full of tears...she stops, bent down...she said “here pull up this weed, come to the creek bank, wash the dirt off the roots, (and) I will show you how to make a doll...that’s how I learned to make Buffalo Grass Dolls...”



Lizzie Jane Whitekiller
2002 - Quilting

Ms. Whitekiller was from Hulbert, Ok. Her mother taught her how to make a quilt from old flour sacks when she was young. Ms. Whitekiller had ten children and used to make everyone of them a quilt form Christmas. Her way of preserving this craft is by teaching her children and granddaughters how to quilt.

Ruth England
1990 - Traditional Clothing

For her skill in Traditional Clothing, particularly in tear dresses, Ruth England was designated as a master craftsman during the 1990 Cherokee National Holiday.



Photo by CNAPS

Rosie Chewie
2003 - Basketry

Ms. Chewie is the daughter of Marie Proctor, who was chosen in 2000 as a Cherokee National Living Treasure for her artistry in traditional buck brush Cherokee basketry. This is truly an example of the tradition of passing down cultural knowledge, for it was her mother, Marie, who taught Ms. Chewie the art of basket weaving. Ms. Chewie creates baskets from both honeysuckle and buck brush, using natural dyes such as walnut and bloodroot.



Photo by CNAPS



Mary Foreman
1990 - Basketry

For her skill in basketry, Mary Foreman was designated as a master craftsman during the 1990 Cherokee National Holiday.



Kathryn Kelley
2003 - Basketry

Mrs. Kelley was raised in the Echota community in Adair County, Oklahoma. Her father was fluent in the Cherokee language. She creates traditional Cherokee honeysuckle baskets using natural dyes such as black walnut, bloodroot and pokeberry. She is continuing the tradition by passing her knowledge down to her family, community and friends. She has taught the art of basketry in Grove and Jay, Oklahoma, under the JOM program.



**Margaret Wilson
2001 - Quilting**

For her skill in Quilting, Margaret Wilson was designated as a master craftsman during the 2001 Cherokee National Holiday.



**Lucille Hair
1990 - Weaving**

For her skill in Weaving, Lucille Hair was designated as a master craftsman during the 1990 Cherokee National Holiday.

**Wanna Lou Barton
2002 - Turtle Shell Shackles**

Wanna's mother and teacher, Peachie Smith Hendricks, also made traditional Cherokee turtle shackles. Wanna began making shell shakers in 1986. Her mother taught her how to clean the turtle shells, fill the shells with river pebbles and add the leather. The women wear turtle shell shackles during the Cherokee stomp dance.



**Thomas Muskrat
1990 - Carving**

For his skill in Carving, Thomas Muskrat was designated as a master craftsman during the 1990 Cherokee National Holiday.



**Jeannie Sapp
1990 - Basketry**

She was one of the most creative and inovative of the Kenwood basketweavers. Collectors and museums prized her whimsical creations, including the Smithsonian Institution and the Heard Museum.

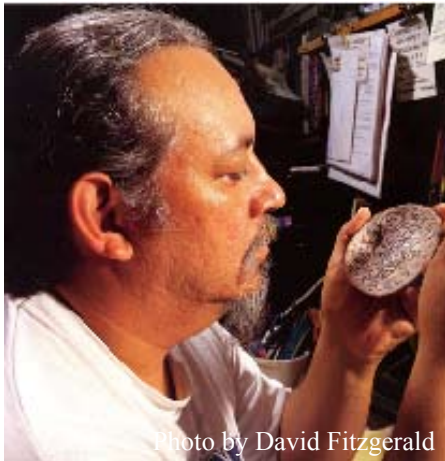


Her work was inspired by animals she had seen in the woods near her home, and ones she had seen in books. She would sometimes embelish each figure with beads of color or add eyes.



**Jim Buckhorn
2002 - Bow Making**

Mr. Buckhorn is from Rose, Ok. Robert Mclemore his grandfather, taught Jim to make bows at the age of twelve. He has been making bows for over 27 years making his bows out of hedge apple wood. Mr. Buckhorn also makes his own cornstalk arrows.



Knokovtee Scott
1990 - Carving

For his skill in carving, Knokovtee Scott was designated as a master craftsman during the 1990 Cherokee National Holiday.

Photo by David Fitzgerald

Maxine Stick
1990 - Basketry

For her skill in basketry, Maxine Stick was designated as a master craftsman during the 1990 Cherokee National Holiday.



Marie Proctor
2000 - Basketry

For her skill in Basketry, Marie Proctor was designated as a master craftsman during the 2000 Cherokee National Holiday.

Richard Shade
2001 - Bow Making

For his skill in Bow Making, Richard Shade was designated as a master craftsman during the 2001 Cherokee National Holiday.



Wendall Cochran
1991 - Traditional Clothing

Mr. Wendell Cochran has many talents: he is a self-taught artist, designer, decorator, Cherokee scholar, oral historian and a bona fide master of traditional Cherokee clothing. Engaging over four decades of journeyman study and application, Mr. Cochran is a skilled tanner and has the knowledge to classify, harvest and process natural materials to make woven textiles, create cloth and thread, produce pigments and dyes, ornaments and accessories.



Pollie Whitekiller
2001 - Quilting

For her skill in Quilting, Pollie Whitekiller was designated as a master craftsman during the 2001 Cherokee National Holiday.



Noel Tim Grayson
1998 - Bow Making/Flintknapping

Noel's earliest remembrances of being interested in bows was around the age of 4 or 5, when he made a bow from a stick and the shoe string from his older brother's boot. His father, a few years later gave him exact instruction on making a bow, describing how to select the tree, and how to shave the wood in the way that would insure a strong bow. His father gave him instructions in the same way as he was instructed, and most likely, in the same way his father before him.

Bessie Russell
1999 - Basketry

Bessie came interested in basketry over four decades ago and decided to take a basic basket class. Her interest grew into a passion and it has seen her win many awards in art shows and her work travel around the world.

Bessie enjoys sharing her knowledge with others and encourages anyone interested in basket making.



Photo by David Fitzgerald

Wynona Dreadfulwater
2000 - Weaving

Wynona Dreadfulwater, of Briggs, Oklahoma, was selected for her mastery of loom weaving. She is among the few Cherokees who have mastered the art form. She learned weaving from her mother, Lucille Hair, who was also designated a Cherokee Living Treasure in 1990 for weaving. For over two decades, Wynona has been weaving in the Weaver's Building located in Briggs. She also spends time teaching the art to others.



Alan Herrin
1991 - Bow and Arrow Making

Dr. Herrin began shooting the traditional bow and arrows as a small child and made his first bow when he was eight years old. Herrin has served on many committees, organizations and written books sharing his knowledge with others.

Dorothy Ice
1991 - Weaving

Dorothy is one of the many students who were taught at the Sequoyah Weavers. She learned how to master loom weaving and how to incorporate Cherokee symbols and patterns into the beautiful wool weavings.



Photo courtesy of the Cherokee Phoenix

Eunice O'Field
1991 - Weaving/Basketry

For her skill in Weaving and Quilting, Eunice O'Field was designated as a master craftsman during the 1991 Cherokee National Holiday.



Photo by David Fitzgerald



Anna Huckaby
1991 - Basketry

Anna has a natural talent for basket making but also has had a wonderful impact if the Cherokee community through her voice. Anna is a Cherokee speaker and has worked with thousands of people around the world translating Cherokee and teaching the language to those interested.

Richard Rowe
1996 - Carving

Mr. Rowe was from the Moodys Community. Mr. Rowe was a skilled artisan in the traditional art of carving. He uses such materials as bone, stone and wood to produce beautiful and cultural works of art. He is well known for his wonderful carved knife handles.

Scott Rackliff
1991 - Flintknapping/Carving

Mr. Rackliff enjoyed sharing his passion for flintknapping and carving with the thousands of visitors who came to the Cherokee Heritage Center. Mr. Rackliff work at the Heritage Center until his passing in 1994.



William Foster
1997 - Bow Making

William Foster was born and reared in Adair County, Oklahoma, in the community of Rocky Mountain. He is the son of original enrollees John and Jennie Batt Foster. William is a self taught Bow and Arrow maker using the wood from the bois d'arc tree. He has been practicing his craft for the past forty years and presents many of his finished art to friend and family.



Hastings Shade
1991 - Carving/Gig Making

Hastings Shade had an extensive traditional knowledge, particularly his ability to make Cherokee marbles, black smithing and gig making. He made fishing and frog gigs that were made to be used. Hastings was a traditionalist and a teacher.

Shade served one term as deputy chief of the Cherokee Nation, from 1999 to 2003, with Chad Smith



Nadine Wilbourn
1997 - Basketry

Nadine Wilbourn was born in Cherokee County, Oklahoma and reared in the Barber Community and Locust Grove Community. She is the daughter of Fannie Nofire and Charlie Mankiller. She has received honors for her honeysuckle baskets at the Five Tribes Museum, also. She worked at the Cherokee Heritage Center demonstrating the art of basketweaving.



**David Neugin
1994 - Bow Making**

For his skill in Bow Making, David Neugin was designated as a master craftsman during the 1994 Cherokee National Holiday.



**Nancy Smith
1992 - Turtle Shell Shackles**

For her skill in Turtle Shell Shackles, Nancy Smith was designated as a master craftsman during the 1992 Cherokee National Holiday.

**Tom Webber Wildcat
1995 - Turtle Shell Shackles**

For his skill in Turtle Shell Shackles, Tom Wildcat was designated as a master craftsman during the 1995 Cherokee National Holiday.



Photo by David Fitzgerald

**Betty Jo Smith
1991 - Traditional Cooking**

For her skill in Traditional Cooking, Betty Jo Smith was designated as a master craftsman during the 1991 Cherokee National Holiday.



**Lena Blackbird
1996 - Basketry**

Lena came interested in basketry over three decades ago while working at the Cherokee Heritage Center in the Ancient Village from 1986-1999. She is primarily self taught and has many art show ribbons proving her mastery of round reed materials.



**Thelma Forrest
1992 - Basketry**

Forrest has been making traditional Cherokee baskets for 30 years using honeysuckle, buck brush and river cane. She said cane is the toughest material to work with.

“My students always tell me the cane is hard to work with,” she said. “It’s hard to find people who work with cane because it is so hard to use. Things can get revived if you encourage young people,” she said.



George Fourkiller
1992 - Basketry

For his skill in White Oak Basketry, George Fourkiller was designated as a master craftsman during the 1992 Cherokee National Holiday by Principle Chief Wilma Mankiller.



Edith Catcher Knight
1992 - Traditional Clothing

For her skill in Traditional Clothing, Edith CatcherKnight was designated as a master craftsman during the 1992 Cherokee National Holiday by Principle Chief Wilma Mankiller.

Minnie Jumper-Handle
1992 - Doll Making

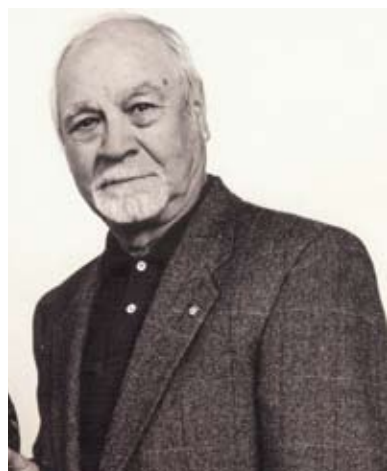
For her skill in Doll Making, Minnie Jumper-Handle was designated as a master craftsman during the 1992 Cherokee National Holiday by Principle Chief Wilma Mankiller.



Jess Oosahwe
1993 - BlowGun/Darts

For his skill in Blow Gun and Dart Making, Jess Oosahwe was designated as a master craftsman during the 1993 Cherokee National Holiday.

Jess worked at the Cherokee Heritage Center and taught visitors blow guns and flintknapping.



John Ketcher
1992 - Weaving

Ketcher is skilled at loom weaving blankets and also speaks the Cherokee language. His parents were Sallie Downing and Frank Ketcher, both Cherokee. He began his education in schools at Yonkers and Wagoner and completed school at the Sequoyah Orphans Training School.

He served 10 years as deputy chief of the Cherokee Nation with Principal Chief Wilma P. Mankiller from 1985 to 1995.



Luther "Toby" Hughes
1994 - Carving

Toby was born in Westville, Oklahoma, and was raised by his full-blood Cherokee grandfather, a member of the Nighthawk Keetoowah Society, who taught Toby the traditions, religion and heritage of the Cherokees.

At an early age, Toby began to carve on wood that he gathered from the forests throughout his homeland. Equipped with just a knife and the teachings of his grandfather, he soon mastered the traditional art of carving.