

# Three Hundred Years of Indian Woods, 1717-2017: Tuscarora's Reservation in North Carolina

Tercentenary Conference, October 7-9, 2017--Hope Plantation, Windsor, NC  
29 July 2017 Public Program



Indian Woods in Bertie County--detail from Jonathan Price-John Strother Map of North Carolina., 1808 (courtesy of Library of Congress)

The organizers of *Neyuheruke 300 and Beyond* ([Neyuheruke.org](http://Neyuheruke.org)) and Hope Plantation, Windsor, N.C., have planned a three day conference and festival to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the creation of Tuscarora's Indian Reservation in North Carolina in 1717. The event coincides appropriately on 7-9 October 2017 during Indigenous People's (Columbus) Day weekend. Established by treaty between the Tuscarora Nation and the colonial government of North Carolina, the Indian Woods Reservation in Bertie County served as a land base for those Tuscarora who remained in North Carolina following the Tuscarora War of 1711-15.

Titled "Three Hundred Years of Indian Woods, 1717-2017" the conference features a wide range of scholarly, commemorative, and family activities over the three day holiday weekend. No place could be more suitable for the conference as Hope Plantation was the home of North Carolina's governor David Stone, who along with his father Zedekiah served as

commissioners for the adjacent Tuscarora Indian Woods Reservation. The conference goal is to explore the history, archaeology, and cultural life of Indian Woods reservation from its creation in 1717 through 1804 when it was leased to the State of North Carolina; and with further memories of the reservation through the 20th and 21st centuries.

**T**he conference also features an authentic "Three Sisters" garden planted with heirloom corn, beans, and squash seeds grown yearly and saved until today by Tuscarora farmers on their Tuscarora Reservation near Niagara Falls, NY. The garden will be harvested at the conference by visiting Tuscarora demonstrating the many uses of corn products and other native plants. Traditional Tuscarora crafts, arts, and music as well a "social" will enliven the conference. Throughout the festival, historic Hope Plantation will be open for tours and other activities.

**W**hile many of the activities of the conference are for the general public, registration is required to attend some lectures, meals, and tours. We are grateful to several sponsors who have donated time, services, and funds to support this program. For full program information and registration see [Neyuheruke.org](http://Neyuheruke.org) and/or [HopePlantation.org](http://HopePlantation.org) or call Historic Hope at 252-794-3140. For program content, conference engagement or sponsorship, and related matters, contact Dr. Larry E. Tise, Conference Organizer, Department of History, East Carolina University at [tisel@ecu.edu](mailto:tisel@ecu.edu).

## **Program**

(\* included in general registration; \*\*additional charge for these events)

### **6 October, Friday**--at Hope Plantation and Conference Hotel

3-5 p.m.      Registration: Tuscarora representatives, speakers, and other guests may pick up registration materials either at Hope Plantation or at Conference Hotel

**7 October, Saturday**--at Hope Plantation

**History Conference: *Three Hundred Years of Indian Woods, 1717-2017***

8 a.m. Conference Registration at Visitor Center Museum

**Note: \*Tours of Hope Plantation buildings available with registration or by separate ticket purchase; Tuscarora heritage arts demonstrations and vendors available all day.**

**\*Conference Session I (Visitor Center Museum)**

8:30 *Kanonyok*--opening speech--Tuscarora Nation

Larry E. Tise, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC  
Welcome and "Searching for Tuscarora's North Carolina Homeland"

8:45 Troy A. Richardson, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
"Resisting Assimilation; Tuscarora, Saponi and Tutelo Students at William & Mary and Fort Christanna, 1690-1715"

9:15 David La Vere, University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
"King Tom Blount of the Tuscaroras: Skillful Defender and Political Opportunist"

9:45 Buck Woodard, American University, Washington, D.C.  
"*Take up the Hatchet...and go to War with us'*: The Tuscarora of Indian Woods during the French and Indian War"

10:15 Q&A and Discussion of Troy Richardson, La Vere, and Woodard Presentations

10:45 Break

11 a.m. Stephen Feeley, McDaniel College, Baltimore, MD  
"Reservation, Outpost, or Homeland? Indian Woods in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century"

11:30 Jolene K. Rickard, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (Introduction David Serxner, Hope Plantation)  
"[Tuscarora Beading and the North Carolina Glengarry Caps]"

12 noon Q&A and Discussion of Feeley, Serxner, and Rickard Presentations

12:20 Morning session concludes

**\*\*Lunch** (Visitor Center--separate registration to assure seating; limited onsite purchase)

12:40 Jane Mt. Pleasant, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
"Paradox of Productivity: Lessons from an Indigenous Agriculture"

1:30 Break (to visit museum and outdoor programs)

**\*Conference Session II** (Visitor Center Museum)

1:45 Joshua Irvin, McDaniel College, Baltimore, MD  
"Ties to Home: Tuscarora Autonomy and the Sale of Indian Woods 1801-1831"

2:15 Gerald W. Thomas, U.S. Government Senior Executive (retired) & Author,  
Laurel, MD  
"Indian Woods: A Lost Reservation"

2:45 E. Thomson Shields, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC "'The Indian  
Gallows: A Poem,' by William H. Rhodes (1846): Folk Tradition to Literature,  
Literature to Folk Tradition in North Carolina"

3:15 Q&A and Discussion of Irvin, Thomas, and Shields Presentations

3:45 Break

4 pm Warren Milteer, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC "Race and  
Ancestral Ambiguity in North Carolina: Finding Indigenous People in Bertie  
County Records"

4:30 Marvin "Marty" Richardson, Haliwa-Saponi Legacy Project,  
"From Indian to Colored: The 1835 North Carolina Constitutional Convention  
and Its Impact on Meadows Indian Identity and Sovereignty"

5 pm Q&A and Discussion of Milteer and Marty Richardson Presentations

5:20 Afternoon session concludes

**\*Indian Woods Community Social at Blue Jay Recreation Center, Indian Woods  
Community** (sponsored by Blue Jay, Spring Hill, King's, St. Francis, and Beacon Light  
Communities)

6:30 pm Conference guests arrive at Indian Woods Community Event

8:30 pm Conference guests depart Indian Woods Community Event

**8 October, Sunday**--at Hope Plantation

**Family Day: *Tuscarora Heritage , Memories, and Corn Husking Bee***

**Tuscarora Heritage Session** (Visitor Center; free and open to the public)

10:30 Tuscarora Heritage Talks--Vincent Schiffert, Tuscarora Nation, Speaker

12 noon Heritage Session Concludes

**\*\*Lunch** (Visitor Center--box lunch; separate registration; limited onsite purchase)

12:30 Arwin Smallwood, North Carolina A & T University, Greensboro, NC  
"Life at Indian Woods"

**Note: \*Tours of Hope Plantation buildings available with registration or by separate ticket purchase; Tuscarora heritage arts demonstrations and vendors available all day.**

**Tuscarora Corn Husking Bee** (on the grounds; free and public presentation invited)

2 to 5 p.m. Tuscarora Corn Husking Bee

Traditional Tuscarora Arts & Crafts

**\*\*Tuscarora Cornbread and Corn Soup Dinner** (on grounds; registration or tickets onsite)

6 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner

7 p.m. Tuscarora Social, Music, and Songs

8:30 Dinner ends

**9 October, Monday--Indigenous People's Day**

**Student Day: *Tuscarora Heritage for Students***

9-12 noon Hope Plantation and Indian Woods Conference Leaders offer educational programs for public school classes

**Note: Educators should contact Hope Plantation directly to schedule special programs and tours on this date at [HopePlantation.org](http://HopePlantation.org) or at 252.794.3140**