

March 2017



MAJOR RIDGE HOME

CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM/

THE RIDGE REPORT

Chieftains Annual Herb & Plant Sale Scheduled for April 8th & 9th

It's time to dust off your gardening gloves and dig in the dirt again! Eagerly anticipated by area gardeners, the Chieftains Herb and Plant Sale will be held this year on Saturday, April 8th and Sunday, April 9th at the Coosa Valley Fairgrounds, rain or shine. Sale hours are 8am to 4pm on Saturday and 12pm to 3pm on Sunday.



Sale co-chairs Ruth Forrester and Susan Hortman will once again lead a dedicated group of volunteers who help to make the sale a big success each year. As expected, they have selected the finest plants suitable for growing in our area from several well-known regional nurseries. All plants are healthy and fresh—they're delivered the day before the sale.

The sale will feature over 30 + varieties of herbs, along with beautiful organic vegetables, native, and unique heirloom plants. Plenty of annuals and perennials will be available, allowing customers a chance to refresh their sun or shade plants after the fall drought and harsh winter. Knowledgeable volunteers and Master Gardeners will be on hand to help you select the right herbs and plants for your garden.

Shoppers may also purchase beautiful containers at the sale, or bring their own clean pots for Nan Henson and her team of volunteers to design and plant on-site.

New plants featured in this year's sale include a "mojito" mint, a "ginger" mint, pink chintz thyme, figs, sunflowers, mini bell peppers in various colors, and a minibel tomato that is perfect for growing in containers. In addition, there is a pre-order sale for large trees and shrubs with limited availability. Visit the museum's website to see this list of plants, then call to order ahead of the sale.

Current 2017 members of the museum are invited to our member preview sale the evening of April 7th from 6:30-8:30pm. Renew your membership today to purchase your plants before the sale opens to the public the next day!

Credit and debit cards will be accepted in addition to checks and cash. All proceeds benefit Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home. The Herb & Plant Sale is sponsored by Friends of Chieftains Museum, Inc.

Be sure to mark your calendar for April 8th and 9th and come to the Chieftains Herb and Plant Sale!

For more information about the sale or the museum, visit www.chieftainmuseum.org or call (706) 291-9494.

Floyd County Seed Swap Brings New Audience to Chieftains



Visitors listening to Dr. Brian Campbell's lecture on Cherokee agriculture during the event.

The museum was pleased to host the Fourth Annual Floyd County Seed Swap in conjunction with a Family Free Day on Saturday, February 18th.

The Seed Swap is an informal event co-sponsored the museum along with the Berry College Environmental Studies Program, Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful, Action Ministries Rome, the Rome Federated Garden Club, and Rome Master Gardeners. The purpose of the Seed Swap is to encourage the production and protection of heirloom seeds and plant varieties that are at risk of being lost in order to provide a sustainable and diverse landscape in our community.

Seed saving was particularly important to Cherokees like Major Ridge in order to sustain his family through the winter months and provide crops for the spring and summer.

The program began with a presentation from 11am-12pm on how to properly save seeds by Dr. Brian Campbell, Director of the Berry College Environmental Studies Program. After the presentation, garden enthusiasts shared or traded seeds, cuttings, bulbs, and plants with other members of the community at the museum until 2pm to the sounds of The Barbaric Yawps, a bluegrass band from Berry College.



Visitors participating in the seed swap portion of the event.



Bluegrass band, The Barbaric Yawps, performed during the event.

Future gardeners were also able to complete garden related crafts in the Haweis Cherokee Mission School classroom at the museum during the event, which drew a total of 135 visitors to the museum.

We hope that the museum can continue to host the Seed Swap in the future as we seek to continue the legacy of heirloom plants in our community.

Museum Featured as a Learning Lab for Berry College Anthropology Students

Several Anthropology students at Berry College are learning how to creatively represent Cherokee history and culture at Chieftains this semester. These students chose the museum as a community partner for their research project in an Applying Anthropology course taught this semester by Dr. Brian Campbell, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Environmental Studies at Berry.



Projects the students are working on include an interactive cabinet that lights up different plants according to their season, a puzzle that matches medicinal plants with the condition they cure, QR codes on some of our permanent exhibit panels that will allow visitors to learn more about the Cherokee people by using their smartphones, a “voting” station that makes the visitor choose whether they would vote for the Treaty of New Echota, a landscape feature that deals with acreage and slave labor on the Ridge farm, and a seed saving exhibit that illustrates how the Cherokee preserved their crops from year to year.

All student projects should be finished and installed at the museum in April. Thank you to Dr. Campbell and all of his students for helping our visitors explore new topics at the museum!

Chieftains To Offer Lawn & Garden Workshops

The museum is proud to partner with the UGA-Floyd County Cooperative Extension, Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteers of Floyd County and the Rome/Floyd Yards and Gardens Program Development Team to host a series of lawn and garden workshops through the spring, summer, and fall of 2017.

Our workshop series begins on Saturday May 6th at 11am with “Gardening in Containers” presented by Floyd County Extension Coordinator Keith Mickler. Participants in our June 24th workshop, which requires a small registration fee, will get their hands dirty in a “How to Make Hypertufa Pots” activity that begins at 10am at the museum. Fall brings new topics to our workshops with “Decorating for the Holidays” at 10am, and a Family Free Day on November 11th where mud ball seed bombs will be made by children and families to distribute on the hillside behind the museum.

All workshops, with the exception of the June 24th event, are free and open to the public. For more information or to register for a workshop, contact the Floyd County Extension Office at 706-295-6210.



Collections Corner

Reproduction United States War of 1812 Uniform



Regulations issued in February 1812 called for a single breasted “coatee” with red collar and cuffs. However, the year 1812 saw many changes to uniforms due to a shortage of blue cloth. Coatees made of drab, black, brown, or gray cloth were issued to various Regular Army infantry regiments during the winter of 1812-1813. These were made in the same manner as the regulation coatee with red cuffs and collar and in most cases with the white binding. In February 1813, the white binding was dropped altogether.

The uniform seen here was introduced in May 1813 when uniform regulations went through another revision. This uniform would remain in service with only minor alterations into the 1820s.

Cherokee volunteers for the United States in the War of 1812 did not wear this uniform. Because they were not given standardized uniforms, Cherokee volunteers used what they already owned. Many Cherokees wore a mixture of traditional and American attire like linen shirts, deerskin moccasins, and leggings. Warriors wore beaded or decorative sashes, scarves, belts, garters, silver gorgets, armbands, and earrings. Some Cherokee men shaved their heads and sported facial or body tattoos while others wore colorful turbans adorned with feathers or other ornamentation.

This reproduction uniform is currently on display in the museum courtesy of a loan from Richard Riggs.

Landscape Signs Enhance Outdoor Classroom at Chieftains

New exhibit panels were recently installed on the museum campus to enrich the “outdoor classroom” on the grounds. The signs feature information about Cherokee agriculture and the Ridge plantation to provide visitors with historical information as they tour the museum landscape. One sign also includes a map showing the location of various outbuildings on the Ridge farm based on the 2007 Historic Structure and Cultural Landscape Report compiled by the National Park Service.

The signs were written and designed by Berry College student and volunteer Tessa Howard, who also received funding for the project through a grant from the college. Artwork on some of the panels, including the map of the property, was created by Claire Howard, Tessa’s mother, who is also the art teacher at Berry College Elementary and Middle School.

This new landscape feature has already caught the eyes of many visitors to the museum as well as those walking on Riverside Parkway. Ms. Howard is currently working on some additional signs for the property, including a new sign for the archaeological dig site near the house as well as a sign about the Ridge plantation to be installed near the Riverwalk at the back of the property.



Tessa Howard (left) and Claire Howard pose with one of the new landscape signs

Fowl Play!



**CHIEFTAINS MUSEUM/
MAJOR RIDGE HOME**

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at chieftainmuseum.org

Stop by the museum this spring to see our two newest additions to the property—a pair of red-tailed hawks. Spotted at the end of February, the pair have created a nest on the museum campus and can be seen almost daily as they fly gracefully through the air, then swoop low to the ground in search of prey.

For many Native American groups, red-tailed hawk feathers are sacred and often used for ceremonial and religious purposes. Hawks are also messengers bringing good omens to those that see them. The Cherokee refer to red-tailed hawks as “Ta-wo-di Eg-wa” in their language. Be sure to come to the campus to visit with our feathered friends this season!



Upcoming Events

April 7th:

Plant Sale Preview

April 8th-9th :

Annual Herb & Plant Sale

May 6th:

Gardening in Containers Workshop

June 24th:

How to Make Hypertufa Pots Workshop