



TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

We have reason to be thankful. With our federal recognition, we now have more opportunities available to Monacan people than we've ever had before. There are federal scholarships available to Native people that our students are now able to apply for. We can now access health care through the Indian Health Service. And, there are federal monies available to those who qualify through the Department of Housing and Urban Development that can help with purchasing a home. Please take advantage of these opportunities if you are in need or

share these opportunities with someone who would benefit.

To learn more about these federal resources, please visit the Monacan Nation website (under Government tab) contact the Monacan Tribal office at 357 South Main Street, Amherst, VA, 24521, or telephone the office at (434) 363-4864.

~Chief Kenneth Branham

SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHT

There are many scholarships available to both state and federally recognized Native American Students. This section highlights a sample of scholarships with upcoming deadlines for the benefit of current and future students. For information on additional scholarship opportunities, visit www.bie.edu/ParentsStudents/Grants and studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa or check with your school's financial aid office.

American Indian Services offers a scholarship for undergraduate students attending universities, colleges, junior colleges, and technical schools. The next application cycle opens November 2, 2019 and is due February 1, 2020 for school terms starting in April, May or June of 2020. Applicants must be at least one quarter enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe to qualify. Full application requirements and additional information regarding this scholarship opportunity can be found at www.americanindianservices.org/students/ais-scholarship.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tribal Office: 357 South Main Street, Amherst, VA 24521 • (434) 363-4864

TribalOffice@MonacanNation.com

Tribal Mailing Address: PO Box 960, Amherst, VA 24521

Monacan Ancestral Museum: 2009 Kenmore Road, Amherst, VA 24521

www.monacannation.com • Facebook: Monacan Indian Nation

Newsletter Submissions: MonacanNews@gmail.com



50TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING

Chilly but beautiful fall weather greeted us all for our 50th annual homecoming on Saturday, October 5. Folks started gathering early that morning dropping off things to be auctioned, handmade items for the craft room, baked and canned goods for the food room, and prepared items for lunch.

The day came together as a wonderful way for friends to greet friends and for families to reconnect. For many of our tribal citizens who live outside the area, this is one of the few but favorite times to reconnect each year, and many travel for miles to do so.

The delicious meal prepared by the church family started at 11 and featured an assortment of foods including fried chicken, roast turkey, meatballs, barbecue, vegetables, salads and desserts. Most were able to find seating inside, but overflow guests found tables on the outdoor deck. In all, the church raised \$8600.

In the early afternoon, the Monacan youth demonstrated the dancing skills that they've been learning as part of the youth culture class while wearing regalia that they worked on themselves.

Shortly afterward, the auction began for the college scholarship fund and lasted well into the afternoon. This year's auction was very successful netting \$2600.

The Monacan Ancestral Museum was open all day for visitors, as well, and had brisk business. As a result, the Museum raised \$1800.

As the day wound down, many tribal citizens took the opportunity to visit the tribal burial grounds and Ash Garden on Bear Mountain and St. Paul's Episcopal Mission Cemetery on Father Judge Road or stop by one of the local orchards for apples.

Please mark the date on your calendar now for next year's Homecoming—it should be the first Saturday in October, October 3, 2020—so you won't miss the fun!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The **Tribal rolls** are now open for seniors (65 and older), and children (0-18) of currently enrolled tribal citizens. Rolls will be open to new applicants of all ages beginning November 18. Should you have any questions, please contact Enrollment@MonacanNation.com

Tribal citizens can now apply for their new Tribal ID cards (either by submitting via mail or in-person by appointment only, no walk-ins). Forms are available on the Monacan Nation website.

For questions, please contact Enrollment@MonacanNation.com

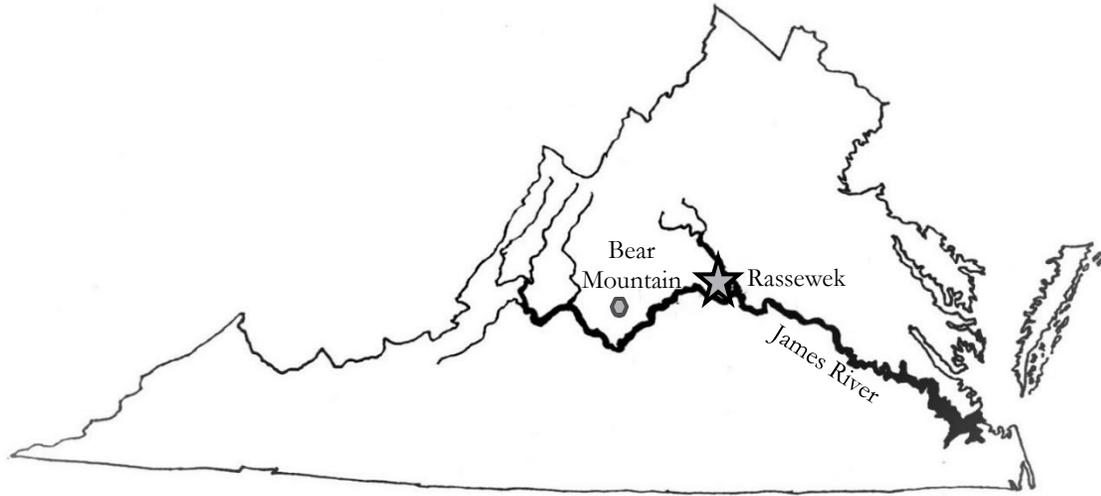
Yearly Citizen Pledge

As a reminder, each year tribal citizens are encouraged to pledge \$52.00 to the tribe for support of office operations, upkeep of tribal buildings, and funding of various initiatives including our Elders Program, Food Bank and Youth programs.



IN THE NEWS

Rassewek



When John Smith drew his map of Virginia in 1612, he identified the location of the Monacan capital of Rassewek as the point where the Rivanna and James Rivers meet. According to an October 6 article in *The News and Advance*, Dr. Jeffrey Hantman, Professor Emeritus with the Department of Anthropology at the University of Virginia, equated the importance of Rassewek to that of the Powhatan Confederation’s capital of Werowocomoco, a site that was recently purchased by the National Park Service. Today Rassewek is known as Point of Fork, and is the location selected for a water intake and pump station by the James River Water Authority to serve the growing populations of Fluvanna and Louisa Counties. The proposed project is currently on hold after it was determined that the

consulting archaeologist who voiced approval for the use of the site was not sufficiently qualified to make that recommendation based on standards developed by the National Park Service, and a former employee of the archaeology firm has come forward alleging misconduct in the management of the site.

The Monacan Indian Nation and other consulting parties are working to block the placement of the pump station on this historic site and move the pump station to an alternate location. Visit the Monacan Indian Nation website (under News and Events) for information on signing a letter of support to save Rassewek.

UPCOMING TRIBAL EVENTS

November 16	Tribal Council Meeting 9am	Tribal Hall
	Tribal Meeting 11am	Tribal Hall
December	No Tribal Council Meeting or Tribal Meeting	

PLACES TO VISIT

Rassawek

There are multiple locations throughout Amherst and the state that are pertinent to Monacan history and culture. In this section we feature a brief summary of one of these locations for educational purposes and to encourage visitation of these sites by tribal citizens.

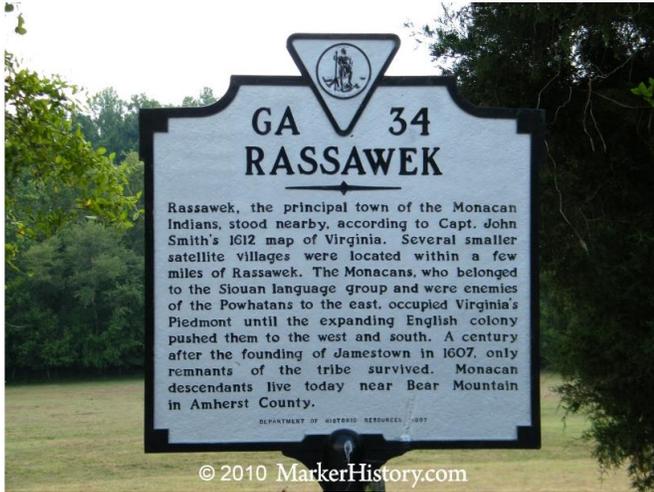


Image courtesy of www.markerhistory.com/rassawek-marker-ga-34/.

Used with permission.

Rassawek is the historical capital of the Monacan tribe as recorded at the time of the Jamestown Settlement. It is located at the junction of the James and Rivanna Rivers in what is today Fluvanna County, VA. Although there are only archaeological remains of Rassawek today, a historic road marker commemorating the location can be found along Rt. 6 in Columbia, VA, 1 ¼ miles west of the intersection with Stage Junction Road. The point of land where the historic Rassawek was located is today referred to as Point of Fork and is visible from the Rt. 690 bridge over the James River just south of Columbia and from the Columbia Boat Ramp on the south side of the river. See page 3 for more information on Rassawek and efforts to preserve this historic location from development.

HISTORY CORNER

This year marked the 50th anniversary of our annual Monacan Homecoming. The St. Paul's Episcopal Mission first began hosting the homecoming in 1969, the same year that the Washington Post published an article titled: "The Amherst Cherokee: Virginia's Lost Tribe." Although the article perpetuated a myth that the Monacans living near Amherst were actually a remnant of Cherokee who had moved north along the ridgeline and settled at the edge of the Virginia Piedmont at some point prior to the Indian Removal Act and Trail of Tears, it is otherwise largely favorable in its portrayal of the Monacan tribe. Through interviews of various tribal members living both in Amherst and Glen Burnie, MD, Amherst County clerk of Court William Sandidge, and John Haraughty of the

St. Paul's Episcopal Mission, the article strove to paint a picture of what life was like for the Monacan tribe in the years shortly following desegregation and the Supreme Court ruling in *Loving v. Virginia* that overturned the Racial Integrity Act and Virginia Sterilization Act. It speaks of the Monacans who worked in the apple orchards along Tobacco Row and of the reasons that some tribal citizens opted to relocate their families to the Baltimore area. The article even mentions current chief Kenneth Branham when he was an honors student and baseball player at Amherst County High School. To read this article in its entirety, as well as numerous other newspaper articles related to the Monacan Tribe, visit the Monacan Ancestral Museum.