Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma (and Nebraska)

Presenter: Deb Josh-a-wi-di-hu-kuts Echo-Hawk

Pawnee Seed Preservation Project
Title VI Elder Meals Program
Pawnee Corn brought from Nebraska

Our Pawnee ancestors hand carried their seeds from the homeland to present day Pawnee, Oklahoma.

These seeds were nearly lost over the 135 years ...
Pawnee Seeds
Preservation Project in 1997
Pawnee Corn
The **Pawnee Seed Preservation Project** works to foster a new generation of young food growers by learning and using tribal heritage seeds and planting techniques that introduce tribal members to agricultural traditions of the Pawnee tribe while teaching the community the value of growing and consuming local, healthy food.
Reciprocal relationships are a blessing- Ronnie and Deb celebrating progress of our Pawnee Seed Bank

17 gardens in Nebraska and 7 in Pawnee, Oklahoma
Traditional Native Food

• Indian Tacos!
• Commodities!
• Food Assessment conducted now ...

We are collecting Recipes from pre-commodity times...
Who Controls our Land?

• Non-Natives Collect 84.5% of Agriculture Income on South Dakota Reservations

• 2014 The USDA released 2012 Census of Agriculture for Native American Reservations results of non-native farmers and ranchers dominates 84.5% of all agriculture income on South Dakota Reservations.

• In terms of land control, non-native producers control nearly 60% of all agriculture land and 65% of all the active farms and ranches on Native American Reservations.
2017 Elder Garden hills
We have a lot to learn about Bison ...
Bison Jerky

Elders loved it!
Internships are important for giving our youth a glimpse of what the Tribe needs in the future. This summer Interns the training included:

• Learning how to grow through permaculture.
• How to monitor and journal their observations on the farm and a variety of gardens throughout the state of Nebraska.
• How to identify DNA markers with the crops to guarantee the purity of the heritage Pawnee corn seed.
• Other essential processes to learn a sustainable way of growing.

See FaceBook: Pawnee Seed Preservation Project
Seed Preservation Project inspires Pawnee to get excited about their history, heritage

- The Grand Island, Nebraska Independent, July 2017
Throughout the 2017 fall and winter, several workshops and events will be facilitated to recruit and train tribal and community members. The proposed **workshops** and **events** are:

- Food Forest design and implementation.
- Garden design and implementation.
- Work days for food forest and garden planting and maintenance.
- Fall harvest of traditional Pawnee corn and other local crops.
- How to till and prepare the garden for the next season.

March 2018 till April 2018, with the assistance of the Pawnee Seed Preservation Project, educational and horticulture consultants, tribal and local community members participated in work days to clear paths along the creek and in 2018-2019 will plant seedlings for the food forest and a spring garden.
Pawnee Seed Preservation Project expects that the project has fostered a sense of ownership and excitement around the idea of native and local food growing, heritage seed preservation and usage, how to transfer tribal knowledge and stories around traditional agriculture to younger generations, and that participants will have a sense of how to incorporate traditional and local foods into their everyday diets.

In the meanwhile, the elders of our tribe benefit by having our Elder meals supplemented ... not only from the seeds of our ancestors, but from the “Kitchen Sink Seeds” as well.
Lettuce, radishes, chive, tomatoes, squash, Pecans all come from the nearby greenhouse.
Pumpkin Soup ...

Yum!
Blue Corn ...
Thank you!

Deb Echo-Hawk
FB: Pawnee Nation Elders
FB: Pawnee Seed Preservation Project