

# 2014 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

## Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Cultural Resources Committee



*Members of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation gather to celebrate Native American Day*

The Cultural Resources Committee (CRC) is the Tribe's governing body that oversees the preservation of cultural sites and resources for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (YDWN). For the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, preservation and understanding of the culture and language of their ancestors is at the core of their values. YDWN is a national leader in the protection and preservation of indigenous cultural sites and resources. This role has been expanded with the establishment of the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. In addition to site protection, the CRC oversees the rebuilding and revitalizing of the Patwin language, including using a unique tri-generational learning program with tribal members. They are also developing a history program and have created the largest Patwin archival document and photograph collection.

The Cultural Resources Committee has promoted the revitalization of other California Indian languages through the sponsorship of the Living Language Circle Conference, which brings together Native American language teachers throughout California to share knowledge and experiences. The CRC also sponsors numerous community outreach programs, including efforts in helping local school children, working with university professors on Patwin naming projects, and collaborating on an online media project about Cache Creek. The CRC engages in hosting many different visitors to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. As part of these tours, they show visitors ways in which the Tribe preserves its history, language and culture. The YDWN CRC also helped organize and participate in California Native American Day celebrations at the state Capitol in Sacramento. In 2013, then Tribal Chairman and CRC member, Marshall McKay gave the opening remarks.

An important issue for many tribes is the protection of cultural resources and sacred sites. One of YDWN and the CRC's most significant accomplishments was the Glen Cove Easement. In partnership with the Cortina Band of Wintun Indians, the CRC was able to secure a permanent, legally binding cultural easement over land in Glen Cove on the Carquinez Strait, which is part of ancestral lands. The Cultural Resources Committee also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with two other Patwin tribes to work together and support each other's efforts to protect Patwin cultural sites.

The Tribe and CRC are actively visible at the national, state and local levels, participating in and organizing conferences such as the National Congress of American Indians, the California Indian Conference and Gathering, a National Tribal Leader's Forum, and the UCLA Good Native Governance Forum. The YDWN Tribal Council and the CRC were instrumental in developing an initiative to create a California Tribal College (CTC), gaining the support of 47 tribes.

Learn more about the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation: <http://www.yochadehe.org/>