Memory-making: 'Selugadu' style

Celebrate Native American history at the Hagood Mill

FOR THE JOURNAL

PICKENS — In observance of Native American Heritage Month, the Pickens County Cultural Commission invites you to join the friends of the Pickens County Museum for a special, and free, day of milling, memories and a Native American Celebration at the Hagood Mill Historic Site and Folklife Center. The Mill will be operating, rain or shine, on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

"Selugadu" (Cherokee for cornbread) celebrates our Native American influences. A number of groups will be represented, including individuals born and raised here, as well as those who have made South Carolina their home.

Hosted by Reedy River Intertribal, this sixth annual event will begin with a "Presentation of the Colors," honoring America's veterans, and will continue throughout the day with a program of drumming, dancing, singing, storytelling, demonstrations and games. Reedy River's "sachem" (head-man), Pat Langley, will be present to interpret Native American culture, along with Dr. Will Goins, chief executive officer of the Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes of South Carolina.

Native American dancing will be a big part of the celebration. Reedy River Intertribal invited several other native groups across the state to participate. From the Carolina lowcountry, the "Keepers of the Word" Drum Circle will return again this year. Champion pow-wow dancer Austin Sweat (Eastern Shawnee) will perform, too. Dancing will include audience participation dances and a "candy dance" for the youngsters. Native American flute music (of different styles and tribes) will be presented by Roger Whitmire, along with songs in Cherokee performed by the Reedy River Intertribal Singers.

Native jewelry and crafts will be demonstrated and available for sale, including Sachem Langley's award-winning beadwork, Reedy River member Gale McKinley's split white oak basket making and John and Jeanne Fry of Conscious Art Studio with an array of Native American art, music, flutes and drums.

Activities for youngsters include face-painting with native designs and participation in drumming on a kid's drum.

Another delight for children, as well as the young at heart, will be the presence of the Foothills Indian Horse Club with their Colonial Spanish horses. These horses descend from the first horses brought to the New World by the Spanish, and are similar to the wild horses that roam the West. The club is affiliated nationally with the American Indian Horse Registry and the Horses of the Americas Registry. Children can paint the horses with their hand prints in the style of the Plains Indians.

The Crawford Collection of local stone tools and artifacts will be on display, and the Foothills Chapter of the S.C. Archaeology Society will do free artifact identification of any stone tools visitors wish to bring. Chapter member Roger Lindsay will have his "river-cane" technology exhibit of atlatls, blowguns and arrows. Mill site regulars include bowmaker Bruce Chrysler and flint-knapper Steve Compton.

The Hagood Mill hosts a variety of folklife and traditional arts demonstrations each month, including blacksmithing, bowl-digging, cotton-ginning, flintknapping, moonshining, leatherworking, quilting, spinning, woodcarving, basket-making and more.

The Hagood Mill operates rain or shine the third Saturday of every month and is located three miles north of Pickens or five and a half miles south of Cherokee Foothills Scenic Hwy. 11 off S.C. Hwy. 178 at 138 Hagood Mill Road. Hagood Mill is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.; tour the buildings and grounds and visit the Mill Site Gift Shop.

For more information contact the Hagood Mill Historic Site and Folklife Center at 898-2936 or the Pickens County Museum at 898-5963.



FOR THE JOURNAL

A Native American dancer performs a grass dance. Celebrate Native American heritage Saturday at the Hagood Mill in Pickens.



FOR THE JOURNAL

Dr. Will Goins leads a dance. He and other Native American dancers will perform at the Native American Celebration at the Hagood Mill Historic Site and Folklife Center on Saturday.