



National Trail of Tears Association

Conference & Symposium

September 28 - 30, 2026
Embassy Suites | Kennesaw, GA

Tentative Schedule

Sunday

- **2:00 pm-5:00 pm**
Pre-Conference Event | New Echota State Historic Site, Fort Means
- **8:00am-2:00pm**
Conference Registration

Monday

- **6:30-8:45am** | TOTA Board Breakfast
- **9am-12pm** | TOTA Board Meeting
- **1:00-2:00pm**
Land, Language, and Women: A Cherokee and American Educational History | Keynote Speaker: Julie Reed
- **2:15-3:15pm**
NPS Report - Carol Clark
- **4:00-5:00pm**
Southeastern Indians in the American Revolution | Tammy Byron, Young Harris College
- Community Night | Chief Hoskin Cherokee Nation Youth Choir

Tuesday

- **8:00-9:00am**
Conference Registration
- **6:30-8:45am** | Breakfast
- **9:00-10:00am**
1st Concurrent Session
- **10:15-11:15**
2nd Concurrent Session
- **11:30-12:30** | Lunch
- **1:00-5:00pm**
Field Trip: Bartow History Museum and Booth Western Art Museum

Wednesday

- **8:00-11:00am**
Conference Registration
- **6:30-8:45aEm** | Breakfast
- **9:00-10:00am**
3rd Concurrent Sessions
- **10:15-11:15**
Speaker Alice Taylor-Colbert
"Resilience & Revolution: Native Peoples in 18th Century South Carolina"
- **11:30-12:30** | Lunch
Will Chavez and Traci Sorrel
- **12:45-1:15pm**
Closing Remarks | Jack Backer

1st Concurrent Session Speakers

- *"Extremely white, tenacious, and glittering with mica:" Cherokee Unega Across Six Centuries of Ceramics"*
Co Presenters: Ruthie Dibble, Peabody Essex Museum | Joseph Zordan, Harvard University
- *"Cherokee Girls at Salem and Their Needlework"*
Johanna Brown, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA)
- *"Cherokee Baskets at Old Salem and their River Cane material: a Cultural Keystone Species"*
Martha Hartley, Old Salem Museums & Gardens

2nd Concurrent Session Speakers

- *"The Midas Curse: The Gold, the Cherokee, and the Removal"*
Mike Wren
- *"Locating Fort Means"*
Jeff Bishop, Funk Heritage Center
- *"Creek Culture and Removal"*
Christopher D. Haveman, University of West Alabama

3rd Concurrent Session Speakers

- *"Where have the Nûnně'hi Gone?: Faith and Colonialism in Cherokee Country"*
Greg Smithers, Virginia Commonwealth University
- *"The Holy Ghost in the Cherokee Mountains: Missionaries, Hymns, and Landscape Spirits"*
James A. Owen-UGA
- TBA
Melissa Payne, Cherokee Nation Freedmen Community Liaison
Town Park Room



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