



July, 2021

Greetings Relatives,

As we head into the heat of summer, we are sending you all good wishes for health and wellness!

We begin with a deep and heartfelt bow of gratitude to Melissa Nelson as she shifts into her new role as the President of the Board of Directors. I am so grateful that Melissa continues to be a part of the strength of our circle. She is an ongoing mentor and guide and remains committed to our work and the communities we serve, *chiokoe utte'esia, chiokoe utte'esia, chiokoe utte'esia*.

We are excited to share with you all some of the good work we have been doing! Steadily and beautifully, the development of our new farm at Heron Shadow is unfolding, our partnerships are growing and strengthening across the region, and we are excited to safely get back to work with our communities in ways we have not been able to in nearly a year and a half.



Heron Shadow

As you have heard, we have [new land in Sonoma County](#) on the ancestral territories of the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo. We began the year hard at work on infrastructure and entered into summer breaking ground on our first permanent planting beds at Heron Shadow! So far this year we have:

- Installed a new greenhouse which is already home to new seed starts, all nourished by good, clean water flowing from our new water filtration and expanded storage system that includes three new 5,400 gallon water tanks and a new pump house.
- Tended the trees that needed to come down that we have milled to be regenerated and re-envisioned into bountiful garden beds and new shade spaces for tender plants and quiet conversations.
- Planted new trees to expand our orchard and the produce we can share with our communities: nectarine, apricot, almond, peach, pear, cherry, elderberry, plum, and redwood.
- Received more than 100 plant donations, both native plants and other types. We send our deep gratitude for the generous sharing of plant gifts that are now part of our ever-growing Native plant nursery and fields!
- Upgraded the farmhouse with new roof, windows, second story flooring, and major safety and electrical upgrades.
- Held cultural burns as part of fire mitigation, land tending, and soil health.

We are planting at Heron Shadow! This year we are planting Quapaw Red Corn, Buffalo Creek Winter Squash, Ohkay Owingeh chiles, Tohono O'odham Tepary Beans, Seneca Bear Paw Beans, melons, tomatoes, eggplants and more. Stay tuned for volunteer workdays coming soon!



Native Foodways

Spring has brought forth our transition to no-till beds at our Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden (IVOF&G) at the College of Marin, with beans, chiles, Seneca white corn and Quapaw red corn now growing in the fields, and time to tend the California Native Ethnobotanical garden area. The field is looking beautiful!

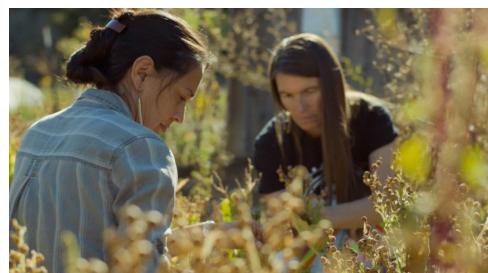
What's Next?

Our plans for the rest of this year are to re-introduce many of the public gatherings and volunteer days we were not able to hold last year. We will be organizing several small group public volunteer opportunities where we can once again be together out on the land and enjoy our hands in the soil, planting seeds, tending to plants, learning and sharing, and harvesting the rewards together at our Fall Harvest Gathering. Stay tuned for our calendar of events that will be released soon. We look forward to seeing you!

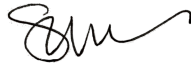
We are deeply grateful to our donors and community, please consider [a donation today](#), your generous support makes this work possible.

As we enter the summer months ideal for growing, with long days and bright sun, we give thanks for the sustenance these months provide and allow us to put forth our mission and revitalize our ancestral ways.

Thank you for being part of our circles and working alongside us!



In gratitude,



Sara Moncada (Yaqui), CEO

Images

Our growing *onëo*, Seneca White Corn, at Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden
TCC team with Fire Forward completing our first cultural burn at Heron Shadow
TCC CPO Arlene Kato walking the line in controlled burn
TCC Native Farmer Ben with new seed starts in our new Greenhouse
The team spring planting at Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden
Sara and Melissa in field at IVC last seasons harvest



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