

# News Release



## **Event: 4th Annual Yuchi Homecoming Gathering**

-- a living history celebration of our area's earliest inhabitants.

**Location:** Laurel Run Park, 264 Laurel Run Park, Churchill, Tennessee 37642.

**Latitude 36.49418 & Longitude -82.67972 Phone:** 423 357-8110

**Time:** June 9-10th, 2012 (Saturday from 10AM to 5PM, & Sunday from 10AM to 4PM.)

**Note:** Open to Public, No admission charge

**Contact:** Chief Lee Vest at [leevest022@yahoo.com](mailto:leevest022@yahoo.com).

**GPS:** N 36° 29.769 W 082° 41.262 17S E 348843 N 4040305

Long before the Cherokee, East Tennessee and the Great Valley was home to the moundbuilding cultures of the Yuchi and Koasati (Cussetta) Peoples. It is from the Yuchean Language that the name "Tennessee" comes. The Yuchi will be gathering for the Third Annual Homecoming Gathering at Laurel Run Park.

Chief Lee Vest advises me that The Yuchi Homecoming Gathering will again return this year to Laurel Run Park in Church Hill Tennessee, situated along the Holston River. It will be on the second weekend in June --

## **June 9 & 10, 2012**

A Return to the location at Laurel Run Park in Church Hill, Tennessee better reflects our Tennessee Tribal Roots at this time. Our ancestors had a town (village site) in this area, just as they did at Saltville. We have many artifacts from this site that were given to us by Holliston Mills. This site was the setting for the movie "The River", starring Mel Gibson and Sissy Spacek. There are two nice waterfalls close by, and plenty of game animals...bear, deer, turkey, etc to enjoy.

See [http://www.tnvacation.com/vendors/laurel\\_run\\_park/](http://www.tnvacation.com/vendors/laurel_run_park/) for more info and pictures and map/directions.

The tribe will set up a hunting & gathering camp circa 1750's with sleeping shelter and arbors. We will be open to the public at 10 am to 5 pm Saturday and 10am to 4pm Sunday.

The Yuchi Nation will showcase these events daily: Traditional campfire cooking of traditional foods traditional cooking/kitchen items, gardening medicine and cooking plants, hide curing, salt making, children's games, Story telling, Yuchi drumming & dancing, flute music, hunting and war weapon display, blow gun demo, genealogy, networking and more will be shared.

There will also be a Trade Blanket. Bring items to trade. This is an old tradition, Indians trading with Indians. Eventually Indians trading with pioneers. Bring furs, arrowheads, jewelry, plug tobacco, jerky, money, etc.

And once again Woktela of the Yuchi National Archive will be recording Yuchi family oral traditions.