The 57th annual Klamath Salmon Festival, sponsored by the Yurok Tribe, took place on Saturday, August 17, 2019. The Tribe’s plans related to the removal of the Klamath River dams and the reintroduction of the California condor in Yurok Country inspired the theme for the festival, which was “Skue’n ‘Owook, Can’t Wait for Tomorrow.” Several thousands of attendees enjoyed a full day of activities including live music, stick game tournaments, shopping at over 100 vendor booths, a live basketweaving demonstration area, and of course, a traditional salmon meal. As Yurok Chairman, Joseph L. James said, this event, “Presents a perfect opportunity to share our rich culture and heritage.”

The California Indian Basketweavers’ Association, with support of our funder, the Yocha Dehe Community Fund, was proud to sponsor, 7 of the 10 talented weavers demonstrating at this year’s Festival with the three other weavers being graciously sponsored by the Yurok Tribe. The weavers represented both California Indian Basketweavers’ Association member tribal communities in addition to several out of state tribal communities from the Pacific Northwest including weavers from Yakima and Cow Creek, Oregon. This year’s basketweaving area, included not only a large-scale basketweaving demonstration but also a “pop-up” gallery tent which housed samples of raw basketweaving materials, basket caps, baby baskets, burden baskets, cooking baskets, woven baby rattles and regalia. In addition, a doll-sized regalia display from a local class held at the Klamath River Book nook was displayed.

Demonstrators worked on several different weaving projects and were happy to answer festival attendee’s questions related to their unique, cultural weaving practices and techniques. This extremely successful event was organized, for the second year in a row, with help, from CIBA’s own Vice Chairperson, Alice Lincoln-Cook Karuk. We’d like to thank the weavers who participated in this event including: Gil Paiute and Valerie Calac Yakima, Denna Dodds Karuk, Beth Gipson Cow Creek, Jennifer Goodwin Karuk, Lena Hurd Yurok, Jarrod Lincoln Karuk, Denise McKenzie Towalo/Yurok, Wilverna Reese Karuk and Theresa Surbaugh Yurok.

—Rebecca Tortes, MPA
Mountain Cahuilla/Luiseño/Assiniboine Sioux
Greetings fellow Basketweavers and allies. Isn’t it amazing how quickly time goes by? Although it is the start of another year, it seems like just yesterday we were attending the Oroville Gathering. This year CIBA will be celebrating its 30th Annual Gathering. I was 9 years old when the first gathering took place at Ya Ka Anna near Santa Rosa, 25 when I attended my first CIBA gathering at Pala Reservation, and 26 when Lori Sisquoc pulled me aside and asked me if I had some time. I said “Sure how much do you need?” She replied, “A lifetime.” As I turn 40 this year, I realize that a large portion of my life involved growing up with CIBA. When I first started out with CIBA in 2005, we were in a state of transition. Jennifer Bates, a founding board member, and Chairperson had stepped down, and Lucy Parker picked up the reins. In 2009 Clint McKay became Chairman and I served as his Vice-Chair until 2016 when he stepped down and I became Chair. CIBA has taught me a lot about administration, program development and more importantly, an appreciation of different California tribal customs and traditions.

I have learned so much and modeled many of our Soboba tribal cultural programs after our CIBA programs. The founders of CIBA had it right: The preservation and perpetuation of California Indian basketry IS the most important work we do. Times may change but the one thing constant we rely on is the materials and techniques used in our traditional baskets. It is vital we keep that tradition alive.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to have had the opportunity to sit on the CIBA Board of Directors for the last 14 years. After the recent birth of my third child, I have decided to take some time off to spend it with my growing family. I know that the new leadership will do great things for our organization and I have faith that CIBA’s Executive Director, Rebecca Tortes MPA will continue to work to build our CIBA programs; CIBA is very lucky to have her on our team.

I look forward to seeing you all in June at the Gathering, as a member who gets to participate with her family.

Respectfully, Carrie Garcia
Luiseño/Cahuilla
Board Chairperson of CIBA
My name is James Windell Smith, and I have been working in the back office on CIBA’s behalf since 2004. I volunteered my services for the first two years or so; it later became a paid position. The work here involves a variety of topics:

Accounting – Recording CIBA’s Revenues, Expenses, Assets and Liabilities in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP)

Financial Reporting - Reporting CIBA’s financial results and condition to the Executive Director and Board of Directors.

Grant Reporting - Working with the Executive Director to develop the reports to support Grant Proposals, Interim and Final Grant Reporting Requirements.

Budgeting/Planning - Working with the Executive Director and Treasurer to project CIBA's Revenues and Expenses.

Compliance – Reporting to Local, State and Federal Government entities on CIBA’s operations.

Insurance – Working with Broker and Underwriters to ensure adequate insurance is in place to support CIBA’s operations.

If the words sounds dry that’s because it is; however, I enjoy the work and supporting CIBA’s mission. My affinity for Native American Culture comes from many connections in the Navajo and Hopi communities from living in Flagstaff, AZ for many years; and from my Mother and Uncle who are both intimately dedicated to Native American legal work (water and mining rights activism and religious freedom representation, respectively).

On a personal note I live in the Sierra Foothills with my wife and son – with two older sons in school, working and living on their own now. I am an avid backpacker, a Certified Master Gardner, a cross-fit athlete and a geeky Audubon Birdwatcher.

Sincerely and in gratitude,
Windell

2nd Annual Eastern Sierra Basketweavers’ Gathering

On October 18th-20th, the Owens Valley Paiute Shoshone Cultural Center and Bishop Paiute Tribe collaborated with CIBA to host the 2nd annual gathering of local Paiute and Shoshone basketweavers in Bishop, California. The event began on Friday evening with a community centered discussion about the Positive and Negative Aspects of Retaining Traditional Basketry for Future Generations. The next day was devoted to workshops which ranged from a miniature cradle board workshop to small round coil basket workshop. Instructors Jenny Dick, Jessica Bacoch, Darlene Murphy and Melanie Bryan were great and patient teachers who shared their knowledge and techniques with the community. We wish to thank the teachers, the Bishop Paiute Tribe, Tara Frank and Anoda Nelson from the Paiute Shoshone Cultural Center, the planning committee and everyone who attended.

CIBA & The Trial Pesticide Program Council (TPPC)

What is the TPPC? Created in 1997, TPPC is a tribal technical resource program and policy development dialogue group that focuses on pesticide issues and concerns in Indian Country and Nationwide. The TPPC assists tribes in building pesticide programs, providing pesticide education, researching, developing and presenting a broad range of tribal pesticide-related issues and concerns.

CIBA issued a statement regarding the use of chemicals and its effect on native plants and those that gather the plants for traditional uses such as: medicine, food, basketry, etc. on private and public lands, near waterways and drift. Knowing that many weavers use their mouth as a “third hand” this direct contact with possible contaminated plants became an important issue and CIBA becoming an active member of TPPC.

CIBA and TPPC working together have established the importance to be aware of chemicals used near native plants especially the concern of “drift” while chemicals are being used to control invasive plants and other invasive pests.

TPPC works with groups such as National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC), Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), the EPA American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO), the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee, State-FIFRA Issues Research & Evaluations Group, and Certification & Training Group. TPPC presently consists of representative from 23 tribes and 3 Inter-tribal Organizations.

CIBA has developed two brochures (Northern and Southern) regarding pesticides working with TPPC and EPA. The brochures are titled “Pesticides...What Basketweavers Should Know”. These brochures are handouts for CIBA members and public. Another brochure needs to be developed for central California so that the whole state will be covered.

CIBA will continue to be an active member of TPPC working with tribes, native organizations and its members to help make available environmentally friendly options to prevent or eliminate pests.
Thank you to everyone who attended and participated at the 29th Annual Basketweavers’ Gathering and Showcase was held at Berry Creek Rancheria’s Event Center on June 21-23, 2019. It was wonderful to hear the laughter around the tables, watching everyone work on their baskets, and share stories. This year, we had a great turn out of basketweavers and families attend from throughout California.

One of the highlights was the addition of two panel discussions; one led by CIBA Board Member Donald Salcedo Quechan/Laguna Pueblo that discussed his research about Basketweaving and Mental Health and the second, an Elder’s Panel discussion moderated by CIBA Board Member Heidi Lucero Acjachemen/Mutsun Ohlone. The panelists who shared their inspiring story are Susan Billy, Gracie Dick, Delia “Dee” Dominguez and Bunny Silvas. In addition to the discussions, the youth workshop tables continue to be a success and an important way to engage youth with projects at their level. You might have the youth walking around with their Tule Duck Decoy made with teacher Johnny Sartuchi or Tule Mat made with teacher Gil Calac Paiute.

Further, we wish thank our 2018 and 2019 host Berry Creek Rancheria Tribe for their generosity in hosting us for two years, and to their staff for going above and beyond to help make this years’ event a success. Thank you to all of the teachers and demonstrators who provide time, energy and inspiration to everyone at their tables.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year!

—Diana Terrazas Paiute, CIBA Board Member
Attendees work on a mini cradleboard project.
Photograph ©2019 John Pinson

Teacher Johnny Sartuche Wùksachi works with several youth on tule duck decoys.
Photograph ©2019 John Pinson

Clint McKay Dry Creek Pomo/Wappo/Wintun helps a gathering participant working on a project.
Photograph ©2019 John Pinson

Myza Maisel-Zamora Luiseño works on a coil-style basket.
Photograph ©2019 John Pinson

Carmen Moreno Wuckchemni/Tachi proudly displays a large, woven gambling tray.
Photograph ©2019 John Pinson

Denna Dodds Karok shares a current project with another Gathering attendee.
Photograph ©2019 John Pinson

Carmen Moreno Tachi displaying a Tachi poster to attendees to Gathering attendees.
Photograph ©2019 John Pinson
Help Create the Resource Directory!

Each week, our office receives calls from interested parties who are looking for California Indian basketweavers to weave baskets for them, help them identify a basket, teach and/or demonstrate their basketry and present on area specific, tribal cultural history. In the past, CIBA had created and printed a “Resource Directory” of CIBA members who were open to being contacted in relation to these type of inquiries. CIBA will be working on creating an updated 2020 California Indian Basketweavers’ Resource Directory and as such, we are currently seeking members who would like to be added to the directory.

If you or someone you know might be interested in becoming a part of the directory, please download the Resource Directory Internet Form at: https://cibaorg.files.wordpress.com/2019/01/californiaindianbasketweavers27resourcedirectory28129.pdf

We’re really looking forward to your input!