



## Nikwasi to Cowee: Cultural Corridor

By Lee Berger

Our own Rotarians, Stacy Guffey and Ben Laseter, explained how the Nikwasi Mound and the Cowee Mound comprise a seven (7) mile portion of the Cultural Corridor in our county and our neighboring counties.

Stacy traced the 200-year history and the interaction of the Cherokee Nation and the population of WNC from the pre-revolutionary war times through the forced removal in the mid-1800s, followed by the forced assimilation of the Native Americans and their forced attendance at boarding schools, to the present day Nikwasi Initiative.

He told a story about taking a group from Mexico on a tour and being asked why there were no tour guides, museums, and site information at the Nikwasi Mound. The tourist (who was of student age) noted that in Mexico, the historical sites from a similar time period were quite busy with tourism.

Historically the Nikwasi Mound was higher, with a Council House on top and was probably surrounded by cornfields and woods. Over time, the height of the Mound has diminished, and while residents of Franklin knew of the Mound, they really did not know much about the significance or about the deep history of the Mound, nor was this knowledge really shared beyond the local area.

Ben explained that the mission of Mainspring (formerly named the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee) is the conservation of the waters and the heritage for the six (6) western counties of NC. Mainspring became involved with the Nikwasi Initiative for many reasons, but one major impetus is that within 200 feet of their office is the Nikwasi Mound and the Greenway along the Little Tennessee

A number of years ago, Mainspring assisted the Cherokee tribe with a river cane harvest site in the Otto area. This particular river cane is used by the Cherokee in basket making. From this partnership as well as the political issues surrounding the ownership and maintenance of the Nikwasi Mound, Mainspring saw an opportunity to "move past" these political issues and move together to create this Cultural Corridor which now runs from Otto to the Cherokee Nation: Otto, Nikwasi Mound, Cowee Mound, Needmore, Bryson City and Cherokee. Ben also noted that the head of the Little Tennessee is actually in Rabun County.

Recently, the Cherokee Nation purchased the property to the west of the Nikwasi Mound (Dan's Auto) and Mainspring has purchased the Simpson Oil property. The Mainspring office is on property that was Duncan Oil.

Ultimately, a dream that is actually a concept on paper is for there to be a green space that, looking west, would begin at the bridge over the Little Tennessee River and encompass the Nikwasi mound as well as the old Dan's Auto property. This area would have walking paths, a museum, and kiosks with information about the history and significance the Cultural Corridor, Nikwasi\*\* to Cowee\*\*.

\*\*Interesting side note: Nikwasi means star place in Cherokee and Cowee means place of the deer clan.



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# FLYWHEEL

Weekly Online Newsletter of The Rotary Club of Franklin, N.C.

Online at [franklinrotary.com](http://franklinrotary.com) Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter

Wednesday December 20, 2017

Chartered 10 November 1927 District 7670 Club 6013 Meet Wednesdays at Noon-First Presbyterian Church

## Fred's Funnies

**This Will Warm your Heart at Christmas time..**



There was a man who worked for the Post Office whose job was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses.

One day, a letter came addressed in a shaky handwriting to God with no actual address. He thought he should open it to see what it was about.

The letter read:

*Dear God,*

*I am an 83 year old widow, living on a very small pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had \$100 in it, which was all the money I had until my next pension payment.*

*Next Sunday is Christmas, and I had invited two of my friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with, have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope...Can you please help me?*

*Sincerely, Edna*

The postal worker was touched. He showed the letter to all the other workers. Each one dug into his or her wallet and came up with a few dollars. By the time he made the rounds, he had collected \$96, which they put into an envelope and sent to the woman.

The rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of Edna and the dinner she would be able to share with her friends.

Christmas came and went. A few days later, another letter came from the same old lady to God. All the workers gathered around while the letter was opened. It read:

*Dear God,*

*How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me? Because of your gift of love, I was able to fix a glorious dinner for my friends. We had a very nice day and I told my friends of your wonderful gift.*

*By the way, there was \$4 missing. I think it might have been those idiots at the post office.*

*Sincerely,*

*Edna*

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## The Rotary Club of Franklin Officers and Board Members 2017-18

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Assistant District Governor: Sean Gibson

President: Judy Chapman

President-elect: Janet Greene

President-nominee: Rich Peoples

Secretary: Patsy Parker

Treasurer: Jim Garner

Vocational Service: Rich Peoples

Community Service: Patrick Betancourt

Youth Service: Larry Hollifield

International Service: Stacy Guffey /Susie Ledford

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Membership Chair: Amy Manshack

Program Chair: Debbie Tallent

Public Image Chair: Paul Garner

Flywheel Editor: Ashlie Mitchell

Sgt. At Arms: Tom James/Kyle Ledford

Immediate Past President: Lenny Jordan

*Thanks for all you do in service!*

## Upcoming Events



### It's Time to Pack Those Back-packs!!!

Franklin Rotary will pack backpacks for CareNET the last Monday of every month from 4-6pm. That would mean we are scheduled for the following dates:

- January 22, 2018
- February 26, 2018
- March 26, 2018
- April 23, 2018

**-April 27th—29th—** All District Club Conference: Kingsport, Tennessee

## 50 50 Drawing

1 Ticket —\$1.00

3 Tickets —\$2.00

5 Tickets —\$3.00

10 Tickets—\$5.00

25 Tickets—\$10.00



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Club Of Franklin

**No Meeting Next Week**

**Happy Holidays!!!**

**January 3rd—Rachel  
Hoskins: Franklin Press Pub-  
lisher**

