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Poarch Brings Major Native American Conference to Mobile

400 Visitors Provide Shot-in-the-Arm to Tourism Industry

POARCH CREEK INDIAN RESERVATION, Alabama – June 11, 2010– As part of their continued commitment to bringing tourists dollars to Alabama , the Poarch Band of Creek Indians will host the United Eastern and Southern Tribes’ (USET) semi-annual conference June 13 through 17 in Mobile. The five-day event is expected to bring 400 visitors to the region including Native American leaders representing 25 federally-recognized tribes—some from as far away as Maine. The conference will be headquartered in Mobile with activities scheduled for both there and in Atmore.

“We are so proud to welcome visitors into our part of the country” said Chairman Buford L. Rolin, “Our tourism industry has been through a tough time lately. Being a good neighbor has always been important to us, and we are thrilled to bring our USET colleagues here and have the chance to help our local economy.”

The week will begin with a charity golf tournament on Sunday, June 13th, at the Timber Creek Golf Club. The tournament will raise money for the USET Scholarship Fund. The activities will continue Monday with an opening reception at the historic Battle House Hotel in Mobile featuring the Azalea Trail Maids (the official ambassadors for Mobile). Tuesday, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians will invite attendees to Atmore, for a cultural night at the Pow Wow Grounds. The celebration will feature open kettle cooking, traditional dancing, games and music. Later, visitors will be transported to the Wind Creek Hotel and Casino for a night of gaming.

“We are so fortunate that we still are able to call our ancestral lands home,” said Chairman Rolin. “We are eager to share our Poarch culture with all the attendees. We’re also excited to show off one of the prettiest and most interesting towns in America -- Mobile -- that has its own unique history and offerings.”

USET is a non-profit, inter-tribal organization, whose purpose is to create a forum for tribes, government and agencies to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest. Committees will meet for three days to discuss a wide range of issues that affect Native Americans including education, health, use of natural resources, social services, and legislative and economic development.

This will be the first time in more than two decades that the Poarch Band of Creek Indians has hosted a USET meeting.

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