

received
3.14.94

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I am writing to ask for your assistance in two areas. I thank you in advance for any aid.


First, in my capacity as President of the University of Central Florida's American Indian Club I would ask for any literature, brochures, posters, and/or anything you could send us to aid this new organization in its stated objectives of understanding historical, cultural, traditional, and current thought relative to the American Indian and of informing the interested public. We have several events scheduled through this academic year, the first of which, the International Fair, is scheduled for Sept. 27, 1993. Any and all help would be truly appreciated by our fledgling organization.

Secondly, I am a student majoring in Botany with a Chemistry minor and am a member of Dr. Howard Mile's Natural Products Research Group. One of my courses is an Honor's Research Project in Botany. Part of this involves the ethnobotany and distribution of a particular plant. This plant, "Ilex vomitoria", commonly called yaupon, carolina tea or yaupon-holly, was and is the source used in preparation of the "black drink". The original area of growth in the southeastern portion of the North American continent was increased to a much larger area by various means. Possibly by trading, tribal relocation (forced or otherwise), or even by early Europeans who also used the plant as a beverage drink.

Any knowledge you can send to me regarding the plant's use in your tribal area; was it brought or traded to that area, was it always growing there, is it still used and for what purposes; would aid me greatly in my research/study.

I can only offer in return to send you a copy of the results of this study with your help mentioned, at the very least, bibliographically.

I am of Creek, Cherokee, and Irish descent and sought this plant specifically for my project because of its ethnic significance.

Thank you,


John E. Toole Jr.

Please !