



Georgia Cherokee Community Alliance
A Non-Profit Organization serving
Cherokee Citizens residing in Georgia

February 15, 2023

Ellen Honeycutt, President
Georgia Native Plant Society

Re: Cherokee Rose-Georgia Official State Flower

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is to address the issue of the Cherokee Rose and the myth that surrounds it. The Cherokee Rose is not a native plant nor does it have any significance to Cherokee culture. It was introduced into Georgia by importers through the port of Savannah for landscaping by wealthy landowners. Its origin is China and it propagated easily throughout the Southeast.

Cherokee citizens will not have an issue with removing the Cherokee Rose's designation as the state flower. I personally have been involved in the preservation of Cherokee Culture and especially significant plants used by the Cherokee prior to the Trail of Tears in 1838. I am a Cherokee Nation citizen, a Cherokee elder, past President of the Georgia Trail of Tears Association, Board Member for the National Trail of Tears Association, and currently am the Vice-President of the Georgia Cherokee Community Alliance. My passion is the preservation of significant Cherokee plants and am the project Chairman for the Cherokee Garden at Green Meadows Preserve in Cobb County. The Cherokee Garden is an Interpretative Site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail through the National Park Service. Not only am I passionate about preservation of Cherokee plants but also am passionate about educating people about myths surrounding Cherokee culture.

I am recommending that the Cherokee Rose be removed as the State Flower and be replaced with a native plant that naturally occurs throughout Georgia.

Sincerely,

Tony Harris
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