

# Switchgrass Project



*The Switchgrass Arbor is located on campus at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas*

The grass arbor came about as a culminating activity for a two-year switchgrass research project. Haskell was awarded a contract by Fort Polk through the Engineering Research and Development Center/Construction Engineering Research Laboratories. The project allowed the university to collaborate with Fort Polk on research to determine the adaptability of switch grass as adequate ground cover for army installation lands.

During the week of October 20, 2006, School of Education (SOE) students participated in the building of the arbor on campus. The purpose for SOE student participation in this activity was twofold: to provide a service and to learn.



*School of Education Juniors, class of 2008, in the Wetlands cutting switch grass.*



*Darrel Frank, Dr. Wildcat, and Woody Wilson cutting switch grass with hedge trimmer.*

# Blessing

**by Cassie Kitcheyan**

Andy Yellowhair of the Arapaho nation was given the honor to bless the ground selected for the switchgrass arbor. Mr. Yellowhair burned cedar and prayed to the four directions to bless all of the elements used from Mother Earth for the building of the arbor.

An additional blessing for harmony of all participants was given by Benny Smith, a Cherokee Tribal member.



Former Haskell president, Dr. Karen Swisher.

This presentation was created by:  
Haskell Indian Nations University  
School of Education Cohort #13  
class of 2008

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of Siletz Indians of Oregon

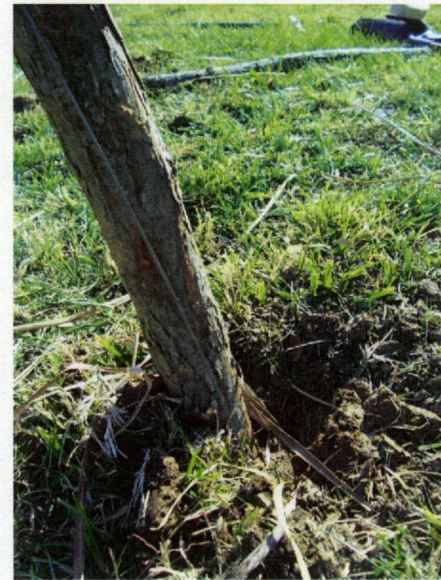
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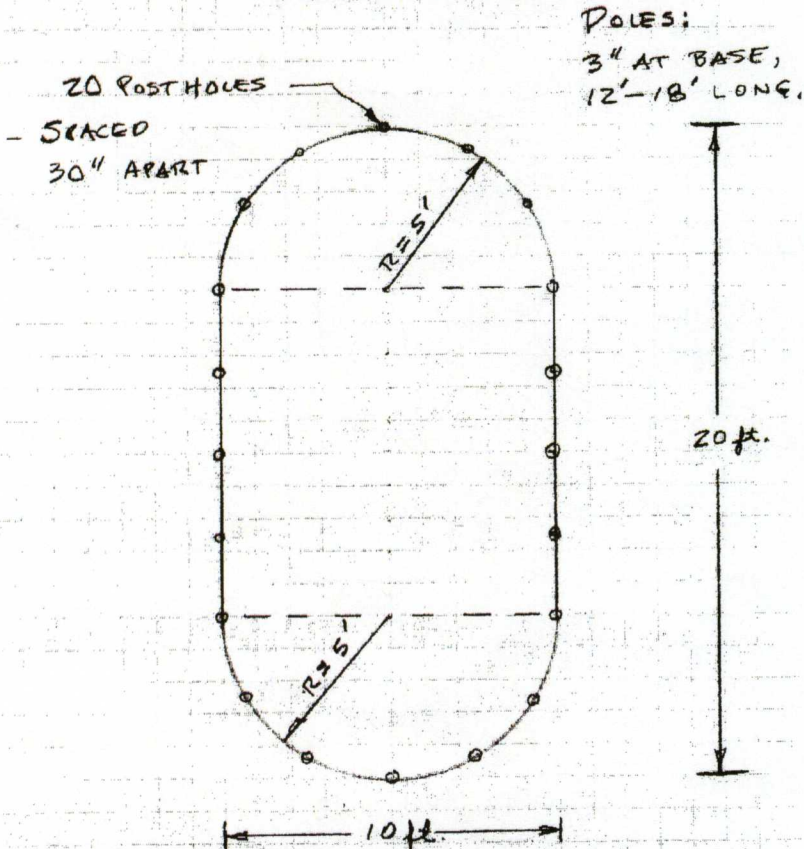
[www.haskell.edu](http://www.haskell.edu)  
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# Preparation



## GRASS-THATCHED ARBOR

### FLOOR PLAN



Setting the poles. The dirt is not yet pounded around the pole.



20 holes were prepared to set the poles for the arbor structure. A plan was made by Phil Cross, Caddo Nation.

8-23-06

