Teachings of the Seasons

"Finally, the last sense in which the Earth was mother was as a teacher. It was through the changes and beauty of the Earth that the Anishinaabe determined and accepted their place and time on Mother Earth and in the order of creation and the cosmos. The Great Mystery was the creator of all things and beings.

Mother Earth revealed, by means of her transformations, that there is a Kitchi-Manitou, and some believed that other manitous were created by the First Mystery and set in the world to preside over the destinies and well-being of every species of living, sentient beings.

By observing the relationship of plants, animals, and themselves to the Earth, the Anishinaabe people deduced that every eagle, bear, or blade of grass had its own place and time on Mother Earth and in the order of creation and the cosmos.

"From the order of dependence on other beings, the Anishinaabe determined and accepted their place in relation to the natural order of Mother Earth."

—Excerpted from The Manitou, The Spiritual World of the Ojibway by Basil Johnston

Photos: December Dickerson, 1995-1996

Jr. Miss Bad River (left) and Miss Bad River (right)

Photography by Amanda

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