Regional collaboration to develop plan for Great Lakes

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Chicago, Ill.—A Grandmother’s Song presented by Red Cliff Vice Chairman Mark Montano was part of the invocation he presented for the first convening of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) in Chicago last December. Montano also recognized the important, spiritual connection between tribal people and the natural resources and the ongoing concerns tribes have for the well-being of Mother Earth, especially the water.

The collaboration brought together statewide leaders from the Great Lakes states to focus on Great Lakes issues and improve coordination of Great Lakes initiatives. Montano’s song set the stage of ongoing tribal participation throughout the planning process.

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and tribal representatives rubbed elbows and shared remarks with Great Lakes regional governors, state and federal congressional representatives, mayors and staff from federal cabinet agencies during the first convention.

The meeting culminated with the signing of the Great Lakes Declaration, which recognizes the Great Lakes as an “international treasure” and acknowledges the numerous collaborative efforts involving multi-governments and non-governmental stakeholders who are already addressing Great Lakes issues.

The Declaration affirms the need to build upon the extensive regional efforts to date, to collaboratively work together with the Great Lakes community toward a common goal of protecting and restoring the Great Lakes ecosystem in order to address the new and continuing challenges and ensure a healthy ecosystem for future generations.

GLIFWC Board of Commissioners Chairman Mic Isham, Lac Courte Oreilles, signed the Great Lakes Declaration. Some representatives from GLIFWC member tribes also signed on behalf of their tribes, while others brought the declaration back to their tribal councils for consideration.

Wisconsin Act 118: The wetlands deregulation act?

By Peter David
GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—They say you can’t judge a book by its cover, and apparently the same is true of legislation.

Wisconsin Act 118, is often referred to by its proponents as the “Jobs Creation Act,” and what could be better than creating jobs?

But dig even slightly below the surface of this title and you will see that Act 118 could more accurately be called the “Wetland Deregulation Act.”

Act 118 significantly changed how, and when, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) reviews and issues permits for activities conducted on the state’s shorelines.

In the past, activities in the near-shore area were carefully regulated in order to protect the critical ecological values these areas possess. But some building and developing interests found the permitting process onerous and worked to have it changed.

Act 118 was passed in 2003, and the WDNR has since been busy developing the rules necessary for its implementation. The proposed rules (under the consideration by the State Assembly and Senate Natural Resources Committees at press time) exempt a number of activities from the permitting process and create general state-wide permits for others.

As examples, no WDNR permit or review would be required for a riparian landowner to deposit up to two cubic yards of sand, gravel or stone in the lake bed every five years (that’s enough to cover an area 13’ x 13’ nearly four inches deep), to rip-rap up to 75 feet of shoreline, or to conduct manual dredging. General state-wide permits, with a streamlined, “double check”, 30-day review process would be used to address situations such as the placement of clear-span bridges on navigable waters less than 35 feet wide, the placement of new culverts, and certain types of mechanical dredging.

Opponents to the legislation fear that the ecological functions of many near-shore areas will be degraded as a result and are concerned that the public will be unable to protect themselves from actions that may negatively impact them or their property values.

Under the proposed rule, a small percentage of the state’s waters—areas with particularly sensitive qualities—will not be subjected to the relaxed permitting standards of Act 118. These include state natural areas, trout streams, “Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters”, and water with “scientific value” identified by the WDNR. Included in the latter category are waters with rare species, certain ecologically significant coastal wetlands along the Great Lakes, and of great interest to many tribal members, wild rice waters identified by the WDNR and the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission.

This last point must be stressed: in order for wild rice waters to be protected (See Wisconsin Act 118, page 15)
Fishermen work around ice, wind on Gichi Gami

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Staff Writer

Saxon Harbor, Wis.—Despite dramatic temperature fluctuations and shifting ice floes, tribal commercial fisherman pulled in a good catch last winter on Lake Superior, or Gichi Gamii in the Ojibwe language. With whitefish stocks booming and trout continuing a strong recovery, fishermen successfully netted open water areas along the south shore.

“This season was marked by above average winds that prevented ice from forming on the main body of the lake,” said GLIFWC Fisheries Biologist Bill Mattes. “Tag operators were able to run later in the season because of the open water created by the winds.”

Locked in ice during most winters, Saxon Harbor east of the Bad River reservation was available to commercial fishermen this year. The tribal tug Thomas C. Mullens battled through near-shore ice on some days and became temporarily froze-in on others while working nearby gill nets. Warm southerly winds and arctic air currents wrangled over the position of ice floes around the harbor.

Peter Andrews, one of several tribal fishermen on the Mullens, said the crew has done fairly well finding whitefish, the target species. Gill nets were effective on the lakebed, in around 7-150 feet of water where the bottom-feeding whitefish congregate. Fish species generally occupy specific areas of the water.

“I haven’t seen a salmon since I’ve been here,” Andrews said in early Feb- ruary. A popular fish with sport anglers, the exotic salmon species are usually found away from the bottom, closer to the surface. They also appear in and around Lake Superior tributaries. Tribal codes require a one-mile set back from river mouths to protect salmon.

The Mullens and other commercial tugs invariablyfind some lake trout in their nets. Since the tribal harvest quota is restrictive, however, commercial fishermen tend to shy away from lakes. Licensed fishermen receive a limited number of lake trout tags; once all the tags are filled, fishing for all other species shuts down as well.

Commercial fishermen are allowed to release healthy lake trout from their nets and put them back into the lake,” Mattes said. With valid lake trout tags for both Wisconsin and Michigan waters, the crew of the Mullens is eligible to harvest fish on either side of the invisible state line.

GLIFWC Great Lakes fishery staff conducted monitoring at Saxon Har- bor, Houghton and Marquette throughout the winter, recording the length and weight of the tribal catch. Technicians also remove scale and otolith, or ear bone, samples from each fish to help determine their age.

“Over time we can track different age groups of fish with the monitoring data,” Mattes said. “It’s essential information to evaluate the health and size of fish populations.”

An interagency workgroup of GLIFWC, tribal and state biologists analyze fisheries data annually to determine quotas and bag limits for key species like lake trout. Seasonal survey results, biological monitoring data and sport and commercial fishing harvest totals are primary indicators in evaluating the fishery, Mattes said.

Tribes declare for 2005 spring spearing in Wisconsin & spearing and netting in Minnesota

In Wisconsin, the Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake, Cliff, and St. Croix crooked muskellunge, and 431 lakes plus 5 lake chains. Out of the safe harvest figure of 89,927 walleye for all ceded territory lakes, the bands declared a combined total of 43,692 walleye for the 2005 season.

Lakes were also declared for muskellunge. The combined muskellunge declaration is for 1,912 muskellunge from a safe harvest total of 4,818 muskellunge in ceded territory lakes.

In 2004, the spring spearing season in Wisconsin ceded-territory waters ran from April 9 through May 8, where a total of 405 tribal members from six bands speared on 188 lakes. A total of 27,564 walleye were harvested from 185 lakes. Numbers of other gamefish harvested were 151 muskellunge, 281 whitefish, 175 bass, and 20 northern pike. Average lengths were 15.4 inches for walleye and 38.1 inches for muskellunge.

The spring 2005 spearing season will mark the twenty-first consecutive year for this traditional, off-reservation treaty fishery.

Minnesota

The Mille Lacs, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake (Sokaogan), Red Cliff, and St. Croix bands declared walleye and muskellunge from 313 lakes plus 5 lake chains. Out of the safe harvest figure of 89,927 walleye for all ceded territory lakes, they declared a combined total of 43,692 walleye for the 2005 season.

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Mille Lacs Lake northern pike study to begin in spring 2005

By Nick Milroy, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Biologist

Odnah, Wis.—With the successful walleye tagging study wrapping up, state and tribal fisheries biologists have focused their attention on planning and conducting a tagging study of the Mille Lacs Lake northern pike population.

During spring 2005, fisheries assessment crews from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), and Fond du Lac Band (FDL) will use trap nets to capture, tag and release adult northern pike. Biologists hope to tag at least 2,000 of these fish. The last northern pike tagging study on Mille Lacs Lake ran from 1992 through 1998 and was conducted solely by the MnDNR. The current study is being proposed for two years.

State and tribal fisheries biologists are undertaking this cooperative tagging study to generate an up-to-date estimate of northern pike abundance that is consistent with other modeling efforts. Harvest characteristics and impacts will also be examined as will the seasonal movements and the spatial distribution of northern pike in Mille Lacs Lake.

The marking phase of this study is expected to begin in tributary streams to Mille Lacs Lake in late March or early April. Trap netting and tagging activities will gradually expand into the Rum River and other areas of Mille Lacs Lake as ice melts and sampling conditions allow.

Tribal netters should expect to see some northern pike in their catches that are marked with plastic tags which stick out from the side of the fish next to the dorsal fin. These tags will be yellow in color and will have “MN DNR” plus a number printed on them.

Tribal and GLIFWC crew clerks will document tag numbers as they are encountered in tribal catches monitored in 2005 and in future years. MnDNR crew clerks are planning to collect similar information from state-licensed anglers in conjunction with their annual creel surveys.

State and tribal survey crews also plan to conduct a recapture survey shortly after spring netting is completed using the same commercial gill nets. These nets will be set on a short term basis at a variety of locations throughout Mille Lacs Lake.

On the cover

Fresh fish! Sharon Hallberg purchased four lake trout right off the boat from Peter Andrews on February 3 at Saxon Harbor for $1.00 a pound. Andrews and a small crew of tribal fishermen operated a commercial tug out of the harbor through the winter. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)
Red Cliff prepares for spring spearing and netting

Quotas, lakes, mercury concerns & fish tales

By Sue Erickson

Red Cliff, Wis.—Planning for the spring spearing and netting season starts early for GLIFWC member tribes. Lakes must be named and quotas declared prior to a March 15th deadline when declarations are submitted to the state in both Wisconsin and Minnesota.

For the Red Cliff Band, speeches were called together at a February 1st meeting to name lakes and discuss the amount of fish the tribe needed to declare for the 2005 season. That information would then be brought to the to the Red Cliff Tribal Council for approval. One concern voiced early on at the meeting was that tribal quotas were down on most lakes, decreasing harvest opportunities on many lakes.

Mark Duffy, Red Cliff tribal conservation officer and spearer, estimated that quotas in lakes commonly used by Red Cliff were down nearly 25%. “Adding lakes to our list will make up for that decrease,” he said. The Red Cliff Band usually harvests most of its declared quotas. Last year, band members took 95% of the fish declared. By Joe Dan Rose, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Section Leader.

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A fish tale

As related by Red Cliff’s Marvin Defoe, who saw it himself!

Marvin was early at a boat landing one evening, waiting for dusk before going out spearing. Standing by the shore, he noticed a highway sign, a rock rising out of the water not too far off shore. On that rock a sole acorn. It wasn’t long after he noticed the acorn that he saw a squirrel up in a nearby tree. It also had his eye on the acorn. Pretty soon that squirrel whipped down the tree trunk and, quick as a wink, jumped onto the rock. He sat there, acorn in hand, apparently ready to enjoy a snack. Suddenly, the water bubbled and swirled near the rock, and in an instant, a musky jumped up and grabbed the acorn, all in a suitably swift and successful with the Red Cliff Hatchery in the past. LaFernier also reminded tribal members of the opportunity available at Mille Lakes this spring, both for netting and spearing. In 2005, the eight Ojibwe bands with treaty rights in Mille Lakes may jointly harvest 100,000 pounds of walleye and 12,500 pounds of northern pike. Red Cliff’s share of that joint quota is 7,143 pounds of wall-eye and 803 pounds of northern pike. The tribe also declared an allocation of 22,500 pounds of yellow perch, 714 pounds of cisco and 1,000 pounds of burbot. Red Cliff tribal members are allowed five netting permits per person to make a trip to Mille Lakes Lake worth the time and expenditure. “It is a long way to go and sometimes conditions are rough, so the tribe tries to provide ample opportunity for those who travel there,” LaFernier said. Another issue raised at the meeting was mercury contaminant levels in walleye. LaFernier passed out GLIFWC’s color-coded mercury maps so spearers could identify which lakes commonly used by Red Cliff members had higher levels of mercury in the walleye. The maps are designed to help tribal members select lakes with lower levels of contamination.

For Marvin Defoe, Red Cliff Tribal Council member and spearer, mercury contamination concerns are a high priority, and he intends to label his fish as it is bagged. “I’m going to color-code bags of my fish this year so I don’t handout fish with high mercury levels to families with kids or pregnant women,” he commented. Of course no gathering of fisher- men can go without the opportunity to tell some fish tales. Stories started to flow once the meeting was adjourned, including the one when Marvin Defoe speared a musky and swung it, lighting mad, into the small spearing boat. That mad musky got his revenge on Marv’s unwitting spearing partner, sinking his needle-sharp teeth into Jimmy Hudson’s posterior. Ouch! “Oh, yeah, and then there was the time...”

GLIFWC to survey Wisconsin & Michigan ceded territory lakes

By Joe Dan Rose, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Section Leader

Odanah, Wis.—Each year during spring biologists with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) survey select lakes to assess the spawning adult walleye population. GLIFWC conducts these population surveys on behalf of its member tribes to generate sound scientific data that will help in the understanding and management of fisheries resources within Wisconsin and Michigan ceded-territory waters.

These surveys allow GLIFWC biologists to estimate the population of spawning adult walleye using electrofishing boats. The surveys start once the ice cover has left the lake and water temperatures warm-up enough to stimulate spawning. These mark and recapture surveys usually last 3-5 days. During the marking phase of these surveys, biologists will capture adult walleye, mark them with a fin clip or floy tag, and release them back into the lake. Crews will then allow time for marked fish to mix with unmarked fish throughout the lake.

During the recapture phase of these surveys, a one night recapture run will be conducted along the entire shoreline, noting the number of marked and unmarked fish captured. After collecting biological data, all fish will be released alive. The lakes scheduled for spring 2005 mark-recapture surveys are listed to the right.

Wisconsin

Siskiwit Lake (Bayfield Co.)
Long Lake (Chippewa Co.)
Upper St. Croix (Douglas Co.)
Butternut Lake (Forest Co.)
Dame Lake (Oconto Co.)
Sand Lake (Oconto Co.)
Squirrel Lake (Oconto Co.)
Birch Lake (Sawyer Co.)
Chetek Lake (Sawyer Co.)
Windfall Lake (Sawyer Co.)
Annabell Lake (Vilas Co.)

Big Muskellunge (Vilas Co.)
Big St. Germaine (Vilas Co.)
Harris Lake (Vilas Co.)
High Lake (Vilas Co.)
Kentuck Lake (Vilas Co.)
Lake Laura (Vilas Co.)
Presque Isle Island (Vilas Co.)
Sherman Lake (Vilas Co.)
Square Lake (Vilas Co.)
Bass/Patterson Lake (Washburn Co.)

Michigan

Pomery Lake (Gogebic Co.)

For additional information or questions regarding these surveys, contact Michele Wheeler, inland fisheries biologist; or Joe Dan Rose, inland fisheries section leader at (715) 682-6619.

Red Cliff tribal spearfishermen meet with members of their tribal council, Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF) representatives and GLIFWC enforcement during an annual spring spearing meeting. The meeting is used to determine the amount of fish needed by tribal members and which lakes they prefer to use. Similar meetings take place at other GLIFWC member reservations in preparation for spring spearing and netting seasons. Pictured above are Red Cliff Councilman Marvin Defoe, VITF Representative Leo LaFernier; GLIFWC Warden Mark Bresee; Red Cliff Councilman Mark Montano, and Red Cliff Conservation Enforcement Officer Mark Duffy. (Photo by Sue Erickson)
The Great Lakes
ash in policies

By Tina Adler, Contributing Correspondent
Environmental Health Perspectives

When a national resource has 8,300 miles of shoreline and 6 trillion gallons of fresh water—making it the largest surface freshwater system on Earth— it’s no surprise that a few problems have surfaced in the Great Lakes, two Canadian provinces, and multiple tribal lands, and you’ve got a political hot spot known as the Great Lakes basin. Add to this picture vast numbers of individual efforts the collaboration in 2003, the Cuyahoga River. The fires began in 1936, when a spark from a blowtorch ignited waste oil flowing on the river. Ecosystem restoration continued until the early 1970s, when policy makers and others decided to crack down on pollution.

Nowadays, the fires are history and the lakes are cleaner. But the Great Lakes regions are still troubled by many other issues, including: the pollution of coastal wetlands, the poor condition of the lake bottoms, low levels of dissolved oxygen, and sediment contamination. For years, the Great Lakes basin has suffered from severe pollution problems, one of the most dramatic being recurring fires on one of Lake Erie’s arteries, the Cuyahoga River. The fires began in 1936, when a spark from a blowtorch ignited waste oil flowing on the river. Ecosystem restoration continued until the early 1970s, when policy makers and others decided to crack down on pollution.

Collaboration and task force, Buchsbaum says. The GLBTS is a Canadian–U.S. agreement to work toward virtual elimination of 12 toxic, persistent, bioaccumulative substances from the Great Lakes basin and to reduce levels of an additional 15 substances from the environment around the Great Lakes. The agreement leaves it up to companies to decide how to achieve these goals, Kuper says. Environmentalists don’t like that it’s voluntary, “but it’s the most efficient way of meeting the targets and time tables,” he asserts. “And it’s working—we’re on track to meet the GLBTS goals by or before the 2006 deadline.”

Another concern is that efforts to coordinate and prioritize during tight budget times might be an excuse by policy makers to do less rather than more, says James Zorn, a policy analyst with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), which represents the interests of 11 Ojibwe tribes. Zorn cochairs the collaboration’s persistence bioaccumulative toxins strategy team.

What’s lacking in restoration efforts is not priority setting but substantive policy or legislation to control the problems. Zorn says. Finally, he says, the devil is in the details: “It’s a big step if these divergent groups can agree on the priorities, but the question is will they agree on the specifics?” At the same time, Zorn appreciates that “Congress is more likely to listen when tribes speak as part of a collaboration on such issues as protecting habitat and resources.”

In response to concerns that the prioritizing will be more of a pruning, Gulezian says that the strategy teams are taking the approach of looking at policies, programs, and procedures already in place, and identifying which are the most effective at meeting the collaboration’s goals. The outcome won’t necessarily mean more funding for priority issues or pet programs, but instead, he believes, better use of existing resources. (See Tribes want more input, page 5)
TRIBES WANT MORE INPUT INTO GREAT LAKES DIVERSION DECISIONS

(Continued from page 4)

DIVERGING DIVERTIONS

Managing the use of Great Lakes water supplies is another hot topic in the basin, and one that is being addressed outside of collaboration efforts. The Great Lakes governors and the premiers of Ontario and Quebec are in the process of implementing a set of principles outlined in the Great Lakes Charter Annex of 2001. The annex is a good-faith agreement signed by the Great Lakes governors and premiers to protect the basin’s water supplies. Since signing the annex, the governors and premiers have been developing plans—or “implementing agreements”—to turn the principles outlined in the annex into legally binding standards.

The governors and premiers, in consultation with an advisory team of representatives from industrial, agricultural, municipal water supply, shipping, and environmental groups, are developing a management plan for regulating water diversions and withdrawals. The goal is to create uniform water management standards based on the annex principles for the states and provinces.

The central concern of the agreements is water diversions, or the permanent removal of water from the lakes—for example, to supply drinking water to several towns. Among other directives, the draft implementing agreements call for states to use collective decision making when deciding on proposals for significant new or increased water uses. The draft agreements also require that the basin be improved by any new or increased diversion or significant use of water.

The CGLG itself has received about 200 public comments on the drafts of the implementing agreements since releasing them in July 2004 for public review, says Lisa Wojnarowski, a CGLG program associate. Additional comments went to state and provincial governments. The state and provincial staffs who developed the agreements are now revising the implementing agreements based on those comments. Their goal is to have revised versions to the governors and premiers by this summer, says Wojnarowski.

CGLG is saying that the agreements fail to make precise, enforceable recommendations. “We feel the proposed agreements do not provide a sufficient level of protection of waters in the Great Lakes basin,” says Lifkoi. “All jurisdictions [should] agree to the national standards that promote the greater water conservation measures to make more efficient use of this finite resource.”

The Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation, a public policy foundation in Toronto, invited four water conservation experts to review the draft agreements, and they agreed that the conservation measures outlined do not go far enough, as they wrote in a report to the foundation. At the same time, the experts wrote, the agreements need to be much simpler with more clearly stated principles.

Shortjaw cisco considered for endangered species listing

By Bill Mattes, GLIFWC

Great Lakes Section Leader

Lake Superior—the shortjaw cisco is currently being considered for listing as a candidate species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). The cisco is also listed as a “Threatened” species by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and as a “Species of Special Concern” by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has requested a status review of the shortjaw. Based on the status review, if the species is warranted for listing, there will be opportunities for input by all affected and interested parties regarding candidate conservation and listing. The listing process includes public review, and prior to official public review, the FWS is required to consult and coordinate with affected parties.

The FWS Endangered Species Branch, located in East Lansing, Michigan, is the lead office for shortjaw cisco ESA issues. If anyone has questions regarding the shortjaw cisco, they can contact Bill Mattes, Great Lakes Section Leader at 715/682-6619 ext.120.

Buchbaum, however, considers the standards outlined in the agreements unprecedented in their level of protection. He is “cautiously optimistic” about the future of the agreements, “because there is consensus over the principle that we need to take a stronger action over diversions,” he says. He would always like to see the standards be tighter, he says, “but the general framework is good.”

The controversy now is over who will sit at the table when water use proposals are being reviewed. Buchbaum says. “Unlike standards for water use in other areas of the country, the Great Lakes standards would be guided by what’s good for the lakes’ ecosystems, instead of by local economic pressures or whoever managed to claim water first.”

Tribes in the Great Lakes basin argue that they have been excluded from the drafting process of the agreements, says Ann McCammon Solits, a policy analyst with GLIFWC. The draft agreements say that states must consult with tribes about all proposed diversions or withdrawals, but “mere consultation is insufficient,” McCammon Solits wrote in comments presented in October to the CGLG. “The states do not have unfettered discretion to authorize withdrawals or diversions that would adversely affect or undermine treaty-guaranteed rights,” she asserted.

Representatives of the CGLG and tribal leaders met at the end of January to discuss the tribes’ and Canadian First Nations’ grievances. The governors’ representatives made clear that the agreement will not abridge treaty rights, and that they understand the tribes’ concern about being part of the process, says Zorn. However, how much the government plans to seek tribal participation remains unclear. At the same time, tribal governments could interfere with the process if not included, he notes.

FUTURE FUNDS

The long-term effect of these recent policy initiatives is hard to predict. The outcome will depend, in part, on how advocates manage to compete during tight budget times for federal dollars. Congressional representatives from Great Lakes states plan to reintroduce legislation to boost federal funding for the Great Lakes. The Senate’s Great Lakes Environmental Restoration Act proposes $6 billion for the lakes over the next 10 years, up from roughly $700 million. A similar House bill seeks $4 billion over five years. With billions of dollars going to huge restoration efforts like those for the Chesapeake Bay and the Everglades, advocates in the north hope to garner a similar financial commitment to ensure the Great Lakes continue to live up to their name.

(Reprinted from Environmental Health Perspectives 113: A174-A177(2005))
Hair in a snare

Mapping American marten range in Wisconsin

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer

Mellen, Wis.—The only steel you’ll find on these fur traps consists of a stout wire impaling a red chunk of beaver meat. Two boards, a few nails and strips of rodent grade glue board round out the parts list for this benign contraption.

Wildlife specialists from the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) strung a mid-winter trap line of “hair snares” across Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to determine the whereabouts of the struggling American marten, or waabizheshi.

“The survey is essentially to document the presence or absence of martens throughout the National Forest,” said Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC wildlife biologist.

The biologists attached the snares—framed by two boards nailed into a “V” shape—to 240 trees in northern Wisconsin. Affixed to the inside of the “V,” an appetizing serving of beaver meat coated with ripe crawfish oil clung to a short length of wire. In order to reach the bait, martens were required to pass across segments of glue boards commonly used to catch mice and rats around the house. Although not sticky enough to capture a marten, the glue traps do a nice job picking up hair samples.

“Animals can enter from the top or bottom of the snare,” Gilbert said. “Either way, the glue strips pick up a sample whether the animal makes it to the bait or not.”

Along with the one to two pound pine martens, other small furbearers inevitably discover the snares, leaving behind hair and sometimes a puzzle for biologists to solve. Some of the evidence, like swatches of raccoon hair, is fairly easy to identify. Gilbert said. Anything that appears to be left by a marten or fisher gets shipped to a Michigan State University (MSU) laboratory in East Lansing for confirmation through DNA testing.

“I expect the vast majority of the samples will be from fishers and other animals,” Gilbert said. “Marten hair might make up around 15% of the total.”

Gilbert submitted 235 segments of hair to MSU graduate student Bronwin Williams who is preparing the samples for DNA analysis. Williams conducted a similar hair survey on the nearby Ottawa National Forest during summer 2004 using the very same snares employed in Wisconsin. Survey results are expected in early summer after DNA testing is complete.

Biologist Jonathan Gilbert examines the interior of a hair snare. Sticky pads in either end capture hair of animals attempting to reach the bait—a piece of beaver meat. (Photo by COR)

Familiar territory

On the Chequamegon half of the combined, million acre national forest, Gilbert and GLIFWC Wildlife Technician Ron Parisian have invested the last 15 years studying and monitoring martens. The animal remains on the Wisconsin endangered species list following reintroductions in the last quarter of the 20th century.

With assistance from North Central Research Station staff, Gilbert and Parisian currently monitor 13 martens in a 50 square mile region centered in southwest Ashland County. Each animal is collared with a custom radio transmitter that reveals not only where an animal is located, but also whether it is active or at rest.

“We’re looking for patterns,” Gilbert explained. “What are the conditions that influence marten activity; specific weather conditions, temperature or other factors?”

All the information collected on the Ojibwe clan animal, waabizheshi, is vital to understand why the Wisconsin population is declining or simply laboring to maintain steady numbers. Gilbert said preliminary data from the hair snares confirm that martens generally exist right around the original reintroduction areas, with very few animals showing up in outlying regions. By comparison, pine martens are flourishing and expanding in nearby Minnesota and Upper Michigan forests.

“The adults and their young experience rather high mortality and reproduction is low. More work needs to be done to better understand the marten’s decline,” Gilbert said.

2004 off-reservation treaty deer harvest by tribal registration station (final figures)

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<td>15</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,050</strong></td>
<td><strong>933</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,983</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S. Forest Service staff assemble scented lures at a GLIFWC facility for attracting martens from long distances. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

For more immediate results USFS Biologist Pat Zollner rigged several 35 mm cameras equipped with infrared trigger switches to further document wary animals at the baited snare. Biologists are curious about how martens behave around the snares seasoned with meat and natural lures.

While a number of flying squirrels—frequent visitors to the snares—showed up on the film, the experiment yielded only one good marten picture, an animal known to researchers as “Archie.” Captured and fitted with a radio collar by GLIFWC staff last fall, the male is one of a two martens known to reside in this stretch of mature hemlock-hardwood forest.
Wild turkeys adapting to northern habitat, climate

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Staff Writer

Ashland, Wis.—Wild turkeys re-entered to far northern Wisconsin one year ago experienced good breeding success and are adapting well to the higher latitude.

According to reports from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and landowners, birds in many of the release sites appear to be in excellent shape as winter draws to a close.

A total of 160 wild turkeys were trapped by rocket-fired nets in the Merrill area and transported to six re-release sites. Three of the greater Ashland agricultural region and three in the vast forestslands around Brule. Because much of the land has been farmed, biologists monitoring the flocks have had some difficulty evaluating breeding success in the whole area following the 2004 mating season. A handful of broods, nevertheless, were identified in the region by late summer.

To trace the turkeys, the farm fields and pastures of east-central BayFIELD county near Ashland offer excellent viewing opportunities for natural and landowners and residents. Todd Naas, DNR wildlife biologist, said that at least 10 broods have been identified in the area. Last year’s cold, wet spring seemed to have little impact on reproduction success and regularly observed broods included an average of eight young turkeys, known as pouls. Unltd. years few wildfowl professionals supported wild turkey re-lease at high densities, contrary to the deep snow and cold of typical northern winters impediments to survival. Wild turkeys, however, have proven heartier than first believed and can successfully locate food sources in diverse habitats.

In spring 2006 three new wild tur- key management zones will appear on the map, all within the Wisconsin-ceded territory. State and GLIFWC biologists monitoring the turkey transplants are expected to discuss potential harvest quotas once the population appears healthy enough to support hunting sea-sons.

In recent years, most wild turkey harvests by treaty hunters have occurred in Burnett County and a few other loca- tions scattered along southern portions of the ceded territory.

The Wisconsin treaty spring tur- key hunting season runs from April 13 to May 22. In fact, what tending, weather left water open in Canada far later than usual.

In addition, agricultural crop fail-ures in large areas resulted in grains being left in the field rather than har- vested, providing an abundant food sup- ply to migratory birds. As a result, many ducks did not move through Wisconsin until late in the year. The impact of these environmental conditions likely dwarfed the impact of hunting regula-tions in determining what kind of sea-son local hunters had.

It is also possible our regulations have been more conservative than was necessary in the past. If our regulations have less impact than was thought, it may be possible to apply liberal regula-tions under a wider array of conditions than previously considered. There, however, a great inertia to overcome in the approach, according to a great many hunter’s expectations. Our expectations of what kind of season we are likely to experi-ence under liberal regulations may need to be adjusted from what they have been in the past. Without that change in per-spective, there is likely to be resistance to even any change in management ap-proaches.

Scientifically, AHM is still in its infancy, and it is not without shortcomings. Present models rely too greatly on data from mallards and species with smaller populations. Species with less of a presence in the harvest are poorly addressed at present. But the AHM ap-proach to management is not fixed; like other management tools it can be modi-fied and improved over time. And it is important to remember that other ap-proaches used had limitations as well. In fact, the application of science to waterfowl management is largely a process of learning. Working with the complex and variable systems that nature produced over a millennium, it’s not surprising that we still have a ways to go in understanding them.

Company to market chemical compounds derived from birch bark

By Karen Danielsen, GLIFWC Forest Ecologist

The Anishinaabe have gathered the bark of paper bark since time immemo-rial. Recognizing its unique qualities, such as its tenacious resistance to decay, paper bark has been used as birch bark to produce chemical derivatives, such as betulin and betulinic acid, for commercial purposes. This year, the company expects to market betulin (which has been shown to produce healthy skin to be used as an ingredient in cosmetic products). Working with the complex and variable systems that nature produced over a millennium, it’s not surprising that we still have a ways to go in understanding them.

Research for isolating and extracting triterpenes from birch bark began at the University of Minnesota, Duluth in its Natural Resources Research Institute. The Institute, as its mission statement reads, “fosters the economic development of Minnesota’s natural resources in an environmentally sound manner to promote private sector employment.” Consequently, the Institute served as an incubator facility for the fledging Naturtech LLC, which was recently established at its Duluth, Minnesota campus in order to produce chemical derivatives, such as betulin and betulinic acid, for commercial purposes. This year, the company expects to market betulin (which has been shown to produce healthy skin to be used as an ingredient in cosmetic products). Working with the complex and variable systems that nature produced over a millennium, it’s not surprising that we still have a ways to go in understanding them.

Resources

www.naturtech.com
www.duluthsuperior.com/wildlife/birchbark.html
www.mnr.state.mn.us

Spring 2005  •  Wildlife •  Page 7 Mazina’igan
Durable plant collections bound for public & tribal schools

Anishinaabe plant names used

By Karen Danielsen, GLIFWC Forest Ecologist

Odanah, Wis.—Botanists collect plants for documentation and scientific purposes, meticulously noting the location and date of the collection, neighboring plants, habitat type (northern upland forest, boreal forest, etc.) and other pertinent information. An herbarium, which can consist of one small cabinet to a large building filled with many cabinets, serves as a storage facility for these collections.

If prepared and stored properly, these plant collections, referred to as herbarium specimens, can remain intact for decades, if not centuries. In fact, some plants collected as early as the 1600’s continue to be studied by modern-day botanists!

Students often use herbarium specimens to learn about plants. Unfortunately, herbarium administrators, charged with the security of these specimens, often restrict access for younger students. The jostling of these specimens by rambunctious juveniles tends to produce, understandably, a slight edginess in most herbarium administrators.

Empathizing with these herbarium administrators, Kathleen Morgen, an environmental educator for the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (University of Wisconsin Extension), proposed developing robust replicas of herbarium specimens that could be used by aspiring botanists of all ages. She wanted these replicas to be durable enough to withstand a youngster’s rough handling, yet sophisticated enough to sustain an adult’s interest.

Borrowing from a simple concept demonstrated by Mike Airoldi, a former Wisconsin high school teacher, she proposed laminating color copies of freshly prepared herbarium specimens to be distributed among the public and tribal schools in Northern Wisconsin. These specimens would look like the real thing, only they would be better—resistant to rips and stains. To implement her plan, she applied for and received funds from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board, using matching funds and services from the Cooperative Education Service Agency District 12 and the USDA Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. She also requested assistance from GLIFWC to help with assorted technical tasks and to provide the known Anishinaabe name(s) for each collected plant (as approved by tribal elders).

During the summer and autumn of 2004, employees from University of Wisconsin Extension (Extension) and GLIFWC collected and identified 200 plants from various public lands in Northern Wisconsin including the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Flambeau River State Forest, and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. USDA Forest Service employees assisted with plant identification.

After collection, Extension employees prepared the plants as herbarium specimens by first placing the collected plants into a standard plant press—consisting of newspaper, cardboard and special absorbent cardboard (called blotters) securely strapped between two pieces of wood. Then, while still in the press, the plants were dried at room temperature in low-humidity conditions (in high-humidity conditions, botanists often dry plants in a well-ventilated wooden box using the heat emitted from 100-watt light bulbs).

Finishing the process, Extension employees gently arranged and glued each dried plant on to a separate 11x17 inch, stiff, acid-free, piece of archival quality paper. Employing computer technology, the finished herbarium specimens were scanned to create digital images, a contemporary form of storage.

Botanists usually attach labels, printed with the information recorded at the time of collection, directly on to the herbarium specimens. However, for this project, GLIFWC employees added electronic labels to the digital images.

From the completed labeled digital images, GLIFWC and Extension employees printed master copies, each measuring 11x17 inches. Color-copying of these masters produced 36 copies of all 200 labeled plant images, which were subsequently laminated for that extra child-proof protection.

The outcome is a stunningly attractive hands-on educational tool. A gorgeous image of adjimaag (American mountain ash, Sorbus americana Marshall) adorns stark white paper with bursting ruby-red berries and deep-green leaflets methodically arranged along purplish stems. Another image, of oginiiminagaawanzh (bristly rose, Rosa acicularis Lindl.), displays abundant ruset-colored prickles, seemingly poised and ready to injure anyone tempted to pluck its fluorescent-pink flowers.

Other images display more subtle beauty, such as wiigobaatig (American basswood, Tilia americana L.) with its enormous, jagged-edged leaves punctuated by delicate veins, and kaukaagwanzh (hemlock, Tsuga canadensis L.) filling the white background with stubby needle-leaves, tinted bright green on one side and milky-green on the other. If framed, these images could easily emulate fine art.

Kathleen has written an accompanying user guide full of additional information. Without question, the project partners have accomplished the goal of producing a useful, hands-on educational resource for both children and adults. Furthermore, the project has introduced a few basic insights to the Anishinaabe relationship with plants.

For more information on this project, please contact Kathleen Morgen at (715) 685-2676 or kathleen.morgen@ces.uwex.edu

Project Partners: University of Wisconsin-Extension (Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center), Cooperative Education Service Agency No 12., Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, and USDA Forest Service (Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest)
By Peter David, GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

A January 31 ruling by a federal judge in Oregon has had an immediate impact far from the borders of the Beaver State. A lawsuit by Defenders of Wildlife and 18 other groups challenged a 2003 federal action which downlisted the status of wolves in the northwestern United States. The purpose of this action was to delist wolves entirely within the Eastern DPS, and preparing a similar proposal for the Western DPS. Some groups in Wisconsin were already contemplating approaches to a public harvest that could occur following delisting. These actions will have to be revisited following the court’s ruling that the downlisting process failed to meet the intent of the Endangered Species Act, as well as the obligation to restore listed species to a significant portion of their historic range.

The ruling is seen as a significant victory for wolves and wolf proponents. Although the USFWS is still reviewing the decision (and pondering whether an appeal would be appropriate), the ruling restored Endangered status and federal protection over large parts of the United States where wolves were once found but have thus far demonstrated little or no recovery. This will be viewed positively by many Ojibwe, who hold a unique cultural linkage with their brother, ma’iingan.

Other, especially some Wisconsin and Michigan livestock raisers, and some individuals who hunt bears with dogs in Wisconsin, view the ruling as a setback.

Wisconsin & Michigan wolves back on the endangered list

These groups had supported downlisting in the two states believing that wolves had recovered within them, and feeling that the additional control mechanisms that become available with delisting, including the application of lethal control to depopulating animals, were needed. Without them, they warned, individuals may decide to take wolf control into their own hands. (The ruling has little immediate effect in Minnesota, where wolves have been listed as threatened for over two decades.)

The federal judge appeared to agree that wolves in the two states likely have recovered, but left it to the Service to decide how to revisit the delisting proposal. One possibility would be to delist only in the two states (and perhaps around the metapopulation area), as a broader controversy over recovery status is likely to exist, but even this proposal could take a year or more to accomplish. From a purely scientific perspective, the ruling may also provide an interesting experiment for the Wisconsin population. Had the downlisted status stood, and delisting followed, efforts might have begun to initiate a harvest season, to keep the number of state wolves near the population goal of 350 currently listed in the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan. This goal was an estimate of the state’s “cultural carrying capacity”—a level that most people in the state would accept. Others felt that this goal was too low—including many Ojibwe, who feel a greater acceptance (i.e. a higher cultural carrying capacity) for ma’iingan.

Since some population models suggest that the ecological carrying capacity for wolves in the state may be only about 500 animals, they argued it would be better to let the wolf population approach that level, and see how the state’s human population responds to that level before expending a great deal of effort to suppress the wolf population to a level that may be lower than necessary. With the current state wolf population exceeding 400, this ruling may buy enough time to determine the accuracy of the population models, and the true tolerance level Wisconsinites hold for the brother of the Ojibwe.

Famous Dave steps down from BIA post

Washington D.C.—Dave Anderson, a LaCoeur Oceilles tribal member better known as Famous Dave in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota, formally resigned his position as Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, effective February 12, after serving a year under the Bush Administration. Anderson feels that he can more effectively impact Indian Country by “focusing my time on developing private sector economic opportunities for Indian entrepreneurs,” as opposed to managing the daily operations of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Anderson is well-known for his successful chain of restaurants, Famous Dave’s. He has founded three companies now publicly traded on Wall Street and has created 100,000 new jobs in America. He remains committed to developing economic opportunities in Indian Country.

Mille Lacs Band marks 150th anniversary of 1855 Treaty

Mille Lacs reservation, Minn.—About 500 members of the Mille Lacs Band celebrated the 150th anniversary of the 1855 Treaty on February 22nd. The 1855 Treaty created the Mille Lacs reservation. The Treaty, which was signed in Washington, D.C. on February 22, 1855, recognized four fractional townships along the southwestern shore of Mille Lacs Lake and three islands in the southern part of the lake as the Mille Lacs reservation.

An interpretive display was created as part of the celebration. It will also be on display at the Grand Casino Hinckley from March 14-28 and at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum from April through August 2005. (Information taken from the March 2005 Ojibwe Imaginowin)

New deputy forest supervisor on the CNNF

Park Falls and Rhinelander, Wis.—Jeannie Higgins will fill the position of Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF), according to a February announcement by Anne Archie, CNNF supervisor. Prior to this appointment, Higgins last held the Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor position on the Nez Perce National Forest in central Idaho.

She has worked in a variety of positions on the National Forests in the Western United States since 1987, including small sales forester; GIS coordinator; National Environmental Policy Act coordinator; Fish, Wildlife, Botany and Planning Staff Officer; District Environmental Coordinator; Operations Forester, District Ranger, and Planning Staff Officer.

Menominee Indians tale of recovery: first sturgeon season in a century

Menominee, Wis.—The Menominee Indian Nation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources celebrated the Menominee’s first sturgeon season in a century during a celebration February 5th at Keshena, Wis.

The celebration kicked off the first of two scheduled lake sturgeon fishing seasons this year for tribal members who obtained a sturgeon fishing license.

Historically, tribal members would wait for sturgeon to migrate in the spring along the streams and river to have them with spears. Sturgeon was a mainstay in the tribal diet. However when two dams were placed downstream on the Wolf River in the 1800s and 1920s, lake sturgeon could no longer move upstream onto the reservation. To allow for a tribal sturgeon harvest, the USFWS stocked over 56,000 lake sturgeon into Legend Lake since 1994 to establish a sturgeon fishery.

Assessments reveal that there are now sufficient lake sturgeon over 40 inches to provide a limited tribal harvest season. (Information from a USFWS New Release, February 2, 2005.)

U.S. Coast Guard to address giant loophole in invasive species program

Buffalo, New York—Great Lakes United (GLU) along with other environmental organizations called upon the US Coast Guard (USCG) to stop granting exemptions to 80 percent of the ocean-going vessels that enter the Great Lakes claiming they don’t carry ballast. In a recent press release GLU spokesperson Jennifer McManus stated, “The Coast Guard’s program has a loophole big enough to drive a cargo ship through.” She pointed out that the ships carry “residual water and sediment that can harbor invasive organisms” and that since 1993 the USCG has allowed more than 80 percent of ocean-going vessels to bypass ballast water discharge contents onboard or use approved treatment to prevent invasive species introduction.

On January 7 in the Federal Register the USCG admitted its ballast water program to protect the great Lakes from invasive species omits at least 80 percent of the ocean-going vessels that enter the Great lakes each year.

Ships heavy enough with cargo declare no ballast on board, whereas they very likely have residual tons of ballast and accompanying sediment and organisms. The Coast Guard is collecting public comments and will hold a public hearing on “no ballast on board” management strategies on May 9 in Cleveland, Ohio. (Information from a January 18, 2005 Great Lakes United press release.)
Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor re: powerline

Now I think most of you would agree that there are too many lights on in Now if you vote tonight in favor of negotiating with the American Transmission Company (ATC), you are going to start in motion a series of pressures that will ultimately end up in you selling the rights to ATC to cross public land in Northwestern Wisconsin, and by doing that you are going to create a demand for more coal-fired electricity from either the Dakotas, or you are going to create a demand from northern Manitoba, the home of the Pimichicimac Cree. Their territory has been turned into a northern slum so we can keep our lights down here. I have heard, by negotiating with this company, you will threaten our livelihood, which is wild rice. This is one of the few places on the planet to do that. The reason we can do that is we have clean water; we have light air pollution. That’s why we can do this; that’s why I can feed my family on this rice.

Now if you vote tonight in favor of negotiating with the American Transmission Company (ATC), you are going to start in motion a series of pressures that will ultimately end up in you selling the rights to ATC to cross public land in Northwestern Wisconsin, and by doing that you are going to create a demand for more coal-fired electricity from either the Dakotas, or you are going to create a demand from northern Manitoba, the home of the Pimichicimac Cree. Their territory has been turned into a northern slum so we can keep our lights down here. I have heard, by negotiating with this company, you will threaten our livelihood, which is wild rice. This is one of the few places on the planet to do that. The reason we can do that is we have clean water; we have light air pollution. That’s why we can do this; that’s why I can feed my family on this rice.

If it’s not just Nick VanderPuy talking; it is people from Lac Courte Oreilles who back in 1916 were forced by Northern States Power Company to give up 15,000 acres of their wild rice beds. That led directly to diabetes, drunkenness, and a wasted life for many, many people.

Chief Potac said it: “The White Man comes from the city to take this electricity to send it back so that painted people can live the life under the street lamp,” and that story is still true today.

That electricity will be used down in Chicago; it will be used in Waukesha County, in the Milwaukee area. They don’t want to have that. They don’t want to have that. The real true conservatives, vote for the white rice, vote for the clean water, and do not negotiate with this company until the ultimate end approaches. And as you have heard, by negotiating with this company, you put at risk dozens of other property owners who are going to say, “You know what we say? You know what we said? We said we are going to go along with the easy route, the three-quarters of a million dollars or the other route, with minimum environmental impact.

The next giant step towards the project occurred about six years ago, when former Governor Tommy Thompson earmarked $3 million from gaming revenues for the project and $350,000 for equipment, but another couple years passed before test drilling began on the 40 acres of land leased from the Red Cliff Band. Once testing was complete, Phase II of the project, construction of the buildings, began about a year ago.

The Aquaculture Demonstration Facility is largely about education and demonstrating a hands-on practical approach to aquaculture, or fish farming, Fischer says. Therefore, the facility will provide a learning environment for people in aquaculture or related businesses as well as for high school and college level science students.

Aquaculture is basically the raising of fish for consumption versus raising fish for stocking and conservation purposes, such as the Red Cliff Hatchery does. “We see aquaculture as providing economic development opportunities that are suitable to the northland environment; however, people need to be educated towards this particular business,” Fischer says.

Raising fish is like raising other live animals, he points out, and people need to understand their specific needs in regard to conditions, recognition disease and know what to do about it. Fish farms, like the orchards and farms in the area, provide fresh, wholesome food and can be raised in an environmentally sound manner.

The aquaculture facility will offer people a place to learn, first-hand, how to rear and handle fish. “There isn’t going to be anything like genetic manipulation going on. We’ll be teaching what is normal,” Fischer says, “through applied science.” Possibly there will be processing workshops for smoked and fresh fish, and marketing workshops. Fischer sees fish farming as an up and coming industry because fish populations are being depleted worldwide, creating a demand for domestically produced fish. Contamination in some fish (See Aquaculture facility, page 18)
Flowering rush: A spreading problem

Early detection can help stop this plant

By GLIFWC Staff

Odanah, Wis.—Flowering rush is a non-native ornamental plant that is just beginning to gain a foothold in the upper Great Lakes region. While the potential impacts of this plant are not well understood, it has proven to be aggressive where found, forming large, dense patches along shorelines and in wetlands.

What is flowering rush?
Where did it come from?

Flowering rush (Butomus umbellatus) is native to Eurasia. It is the only member of the flowering rush family (or Butomaceae) in the world. It was probably introduced to North America in the late 1800s, being first observed in Quebec around 1897. It is now common along the St. Lawrence River and the shores of Lake Champlain.

In recent years it has spread westward from these areas, helped in part by its sale as a garden plant. Although still relatively uncommon in the region, flowering rush is now established in scattered sites in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, including at least two sites in northern Wisconsin. It has been found outside cultivation as far west as Montana and Idaho.

Flowering rush is considered invasive in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Sale and possession of flowering rush is banned in Minnesota.

How to tell flowering rush apart from other shoreline vegetation?

Flowering rush can grow as an emergent, or submerged in water as deep as 10 feet. It is strongly rhizomatous, spreading underground to form extensive patches. The submerged leaves produced in deeper water are limp and flexible. Aerial leaves, produced in shallow water and on wet ground, are long, narrow and stiff, and can reach more than 3 feet tall. Flowering rush leaves do not have a blade and tend to twist spirally near the tip. Both the leaves and stems are triangular in cross-section.

Only flowering rush plants growing in shallow water or on moist ground produce flowers. The flower stalks may reach 5 feet, though they are usually shorter than this. About 20 or 30 attractive pinkish-white (rarely white or pinkish-brown) flowers of up to 1 inch across are produced in a terminal head. Each flower appears on its own stem, with each stem about the same length (2-4 inches) and coming from about the same point, forming a structure called an umbel (like a dill flowerhead). Each flower has three sepals alternating with three longer petals.

Flowering rush is a very distinctive and easily-recognized plant when in bloom. Except for some members of the carrot family, or Apiaceae, flowering rush is our only aquatic plant that produces flowers in umbels. (Flowering rush differs from carrot family plants in a number of other characteristics, though, with carrot family plants usually having round stems, small, white, 5-petaled flowers, and flat leaves.)

When not in flower, flowering rush can be difficult to detect, as it closely resembles the sedges, bulrushes, and arrowheads with which it often grows. There are some differences, though. Most sedges and bulrushes have stems that are more or less triangular in cross-section, but leaves that are flat or folded. Arrowheads often have leaves that are triangular in cross-section, and appear very similar to flowering rush when not in flower, but their roots are clearly segmented. Finally, most bur-reeds (Sparganium spp.) have leaves that are triangular in cross-section, but their flowerheads are not showy and resemble large burs. The flower stalks of flowering rush persist well beyond flowering time and can be helpful when searching for the plant in fall.

How does flowering rush spread?

Flowering rush is perennial, regenerating each spring from its underground rootstock. Dispersal is mainly vegetative, via small, pea-sized bulbils that form in large numbers along the rhizomes. These bulbils easily detach, and each one is capable of growing into a new plant. Bulbils and rhizome fragments can be dispersed by water, animals or human activities. Rhizomes and attached bulbils are sometimes spread by muskrats, which use plant material for their homes.

Flowering takes place in mid-through late summer. Only plants in shallow water or on wet ground produce flowers. Each flowerhead can produce thousands of seeds. The seeds float and can live for many years. Seedling establishment and survival is apparently low in natural habitats, though, as the seedlings are poor competitors with the existing vegetation.

Two types of flowering rush have been introduced to North America: a diploid type, with two sets of chromosomes, and a triploid type with three sets of chromosomes. Flowers of the diploid type are self-compatible and capable of producing large numbers of viable seeds, while those of the triploid type are self-incompatible and seldom produce seed. Triploid plants often produce bulbils in place of some of the flowers.

Only one of the approximately 12 known flowering rush populations in Minnesota produces viable seed, a factor which may be responsible for the low rate of spread of this plant in the state so far. Diploids probably have an advantage in long-distance dispersal, but triploids can spread vegetatively more rapidly.

Where does flowering rush live?

Flowering rush inhabits shores, riverbanks, marshes, ditches, shorelines, seasonally flooded fields, and other wet places. It typically grows as an emergent plant on wet ground or in shallow water, but can also grow completely underwater, forming persistent patches.

In its native Europe it tends to be suppressed by shoreline sedges and other species, and often forms a band between the shoreline community and the waters edge. It responds well to fluctuating water levels and quickly colonizes newly-exposed ground. Rivers, with their fluctuating water levels and ability to carry bulbils and seeds downstream, are quickly colonized.

What effects does flowering rush have on the environment?

Little research has been done so far on the effects of flowering rush on natural habitats. It has the ability to produce dense stands and can grow so densely that it interferes with shoreline uses. Along the Snake River in Idaho, it has been reported as “outcompeting the willows and cattails.”

In the St. Lawrence River watershed, at least one researcher considers it to be more aggressive in invading natural communities than purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria). It seems to have less effect on native plant communities than purple loosestrife, though, perhaps because flowering rush’s growth form doesn’t allow it to fill all the available space, allowing other plants to persist at low levels within the patches. Its effects on fish and wildlife are so far unknown.

What can be done about flowering rush?

Apparently little has been done to control flowering rush in natural habitats in North America. Control of even small populations can be difficult, as small fragments left in the substrate can regrow.

As with invasive plant control in general, leaving the native plant community intact can go a long way towards preventing the establishment and spread of flowering rush.

(See Flowering rush, page 13)
How can you help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in ceded territory waters?

By Jim Thannum

Invasive Species

Determine if the water body you intend to fish or rice to has been reported to have Aquatic Invasive Species. This can be done by watching for Exotic Species Advisory warning signs posted at boat landings, using the internet to access maps at GLIFWC’s web site http://glifwc.org, and examining maps at tribal registration stations that highlight aquatic invasive species. In addition, it is important to note that additional area lakes have AIS that are not listed on these maps.

It is important to realize that a lake may be infested with exotic species but has yet to be reported or heard. As a precaution, please take the prescriptive steps listed below and protect ceded territory waters for future generations.

Inspect and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from your boat, trailer, and equipment.

Curly pondweed

Curly pondweed begins to grow rapidly with the warming water temperatures of early spring, forming large, dense patches that can clog waterways. By midsummer the pondweed canopy begins to die back, and the resulting high oxygen demand caused by this decaying vegetation can adversely affect fish populations. If you have hard-to-treat equipment that cannot be exposed to hot water you can:

- dip equipment into 100% vinegar for 20 minutes to kill harmful aquatic species such as spiny water fleas and zebra mussels; or
- use a 1% salt solution for 24 hours to replace the vinegar dip.

This table provides correct mixtures for the 1% salt solution in water:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gallons of water</th>
<th>Cups of salt</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1 1/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>6 1/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>12 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
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</table>

If you notice flowering rush on the landscape, please report it to your state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or to GLIFWC. As for water gardening, lots of beautiful native substitutes for flowering rush are available. Swamprush (Savvinnia aspleniifolia) is an easy to grow perennial that can be planted anywhere flowering rush is used. It does well in full sun or part shade and prefers a moist soil. This rush has so far not been attempted. The fact that flowering rush has no close relatives anywhere in the world, suggests that it might be a good candidate for biological control in the future.

Biocidal control into insects and disease organisms that might infest flowering rush from other water populations might also control it in North America. This would be a major step forward in preventing the spread of flowering rush into other fresh waters.

Flowering rush

(Continued from page 11)

Manual control can be useful for small populations. The numerous bulgets along the rhizomes readily detach when disturbed, and each rhizome fragment or bulblet can produce a new plant. Therefore pulling is not recommended, unless a serious attempt is made to remove all the underground fragments. Digging might be appropriate for patches on exposed wet ground, where there is no immediate danger of bulblets or rhizomes floating away. Plants can be disposed of by composting away from water.

Cutting flowering rush patches about one inch above the ground can be an effective means of control. Several cuttings spaced through the summer is most effective. Digging the plants out, and spreading seed, can also significantly weaken the plants. Rhizome growth occurs late in the season, so cuttings of the shoots at this time may reduce vigor the following year.

Both Rhizome and flowering rush are difficult to control on flowering rush, as they tend to wash off the plant’s narrow leaves. If control with herbicides is attempted, care should be taken to avoid applying herbicides to surrounding water bodies (e.g. spawning areas for fish). Any attempt to control flowering rush in aquatic habitat must be done using herbicides formulated for use over water. Permits are required under applicable state regulations.

In ceded territory waters, including Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. Crab-eating minks have been used to control flowering rush in Europe. There is no evidence so far that wild dogs are having any impact on flowering rush in North America, though. In areas such as the Adirondack ponds, where flowering rush populations could be concentrated and subsidized with artificial feeding, this method might be effective.

Biocontrol research into insects and disease organisms that might infest flowering rush from other water populations might also control it in North America. Native plants propagated from local or regional populations are the most effective means of control. The approach that flowering rush has no close relatives anywhere in the world, suggests that it might be a good candidate for biological control in the future.

The best way to prevent the spread of flowering rush is to avoid planting it. After a day out on the lake, boat and equipment should be cleaned thoroughly, and bait buckets and live wells emptied well away from water. If at all possible, everything should be handled completely before heading out to the next lake.

As for water gardening, lots of beautiful native substitutes for flowering rush are available. Swamprush (Savvinnia aspleniifolia) is an easy to grow perennial that can be planted anywhere flowering rush is used. It does well in full sun or part shade and prefers a moist soil. This rush has so far not been attempted. The fact that flowering rush has no close relatives anywhere in the world, suggests that it might be a good candidate for biological control in the future.

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Workshops or prevention of invasive species

Apply HACCP techniques to aquatic invasives

**By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer**

Odanah, Wis.—Locating potential problem points in the food production process and developing plans to avoid them is all part of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)—a procedure now mandated in the commercial processing of seafood.

To help prepare tribal and other commercial fishermen to implement HACCP requirements, Michigan State University (MSU) Sea Grant, along with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), provided workshops for Lake Superior fishermen several years ago, introducing them to HACCP management during the processing of Lake Superior fish and fish products.

The same process used in the seafood industry is now being applied to the prevention of aquatic invasive species (AIS) through a HACCP management system developed by Ron Kinnunen and Jeff Gunderson, MSU Sea Grant.

Workshops targeting individuals involved in lake and fishery management as well as commercial businesses were invited to the one-day seminars to record information about the existence of AIS in specific water bodies and to record their own preventive measures. One of the forms used in the AIS-HACCP manual is an inventory sheet developed by GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Biologist Michele Wheeler for use by GLIFWC electrofishing crews during fall and spring surveys. “Because GLIFWC assessment crews monitor numerous lakes in the ceded territories during their seasonal assessments, it is critical that they are both aware if a specific lake contains AIS, which AIS species are present, and that all necessary precautions are taken not to spread the species to the next lake on our list,” Wheeler says.

Wheeler is also careful to organize her list of lakes, making sure that AIS-infected lakes, especially those containing zebra mussels and spiny water fleas, are done at the end of the survey week, so that boats and trailers can be steamed cleaned (over 200 degrees) and allowed to thoroughly dry.

The fishery crews have also been trained to be on alert for invasive species while on the water and to identify their location, if noted, with GPS coordinates. While some lakes may not be identified as containing AIS, it is possible that they have not been surveyed or reported as yet. “We encourage our crew members to be vigilant and to report as accurately as possible the location of any AIS noted in a water body,” Wheeler says.

The inventory checklist for the crew also emphasizes a thorough check and cleaning of boat and trailer along with routinely disinfecting boats and equipment including nets, measuring boards, aerators, drain holes, tanks, and drop nets.

The one-day workshops attracted participation from a broad range of professionals, including federal, state and tribal natural resource managers; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fisheries biologists; federal, state and tribal hatchery personnel; tribal environmental biologists; tribal and GLIFWC conservation officers as well as educators.

A video, From Net to Sale, developed by the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, was designed to accompany the AIS-HACCP workshops, but can also stand alone as a training mechanism on AIS-HACCP techniques. The video is available through Minnesota Sea Grant at 2305 E. 5th St., Duluth, Minnesota 55812; call (218) 726-8106 or e-mail seas@umn.edu.

The workshops were sponsored by the Administration for Native Americans and the Great Lakes Protection Fund.

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**Fish parasite spreads in northeast Wisconsin**

**By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer**

Odanah, Wis.—First discovered in fish on the Eagle River chain in 2000, the non-native parasite Heterosporis is showing up in additional lakes in northeast Wisconsin, including the Michigan border lake, Lac Vieux Desert.

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) biologists are advising tribal fishermen to be on the lookout for fish infected with the parasite.

While it is not known to kill fish or be harmful to humans, the fillet tissue of fish with Heterosporis contains white areas that resemble freezer burn.

“We’re encouraging tribal fishermen to turn in any fish they suspect carries this parasite,” said GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Section Leader Joe Dan Rose.

“Contact your local GLIFWC warden or any inland fisheries biologist, and we’ll arrange to collect the fish for testing,” Rose said.

Tribal fishermen in the Lac Vieux Desert, Mole Lake and Lac du Flambeau areas are most likely to encounter fish with Heterosporis, Rose said. Most recently, the parasite has appeared in fish on Big Arbor Vitae, Echo and Robinson Lakes.

While the parasite commonly shows up in yellow perch in infected areas, it has been identified in different fish species including walleye, northern pike and burbot.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has published tips to help keep the pathogen from spreading to other waters:

- Do not throw infected fish back into a lake or another natural water bodies. Instead place the fish in the garbage, burn them or bury them.
- Thoroughly dry all equipment (outside of boats and trailers, nets, measuring boards, aerators, drain holes, tanks, and drop nets) when moving from one waterbody to another. Heterosporis can survive under moist conditions, but is vulnerable to dry conditions.
- Drain all live wells and bilges away from lakes and rivers, on soil if possible, so the water does not run into a natural water body. Because it is difficult to dry live wells and bilges completely, these areas can be disinfected with a bleach solution of one cup bleach in five gallons of water.

Contact GLIFWC at (715) 682-6619 to report possible Heterosporis in fish or for more information.
Minneapolis, Minn.—On January 15, 2005 in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, Kendall Rice, at the age of 73, walked on. Born on October 14, 1931 at Quinter, Kansas, son of John and Edie (Quapaw) Rice, Kendall’s life was one that touched and helped many others. Among those were members of GLIFWC staff who participated in a cultural presentation by Kendall and his wife, Lillian, during one of GLIFWC’s first staff days about fifteen years ago.

A member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Kansas and the Native American Church, Kendall experienced hardship early in his life, especially when he was taken from his home at a young age to a boarding school in Marty, South Dakota. Like many young Indian children at boarding schools, Kendall was forbidden to speak his language, even to his relatives. Punishments administered by the Catholic nuns were severe, including isolation and beatings, for infractions of these rules. The school experience was so bad, that Kendall and a cousin ran from the school, walking, sometimes falling down and holding each other up, all the way back to their home in Kansas.

Recently, Kendall was able to share his experiences in boarding school during testimony to the Minnesota legislature in October 2004, just months before he walked on. His testimony was in support of a resolution proposed by the Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals asking the state to acknowledge the importance of the Ojibwe and Dakota languages and support the revitalization of these languages. These were the types of initiatives that Kendall and Lillian came to support and encourage—initiatives and programs that heal, empower and “reconnect” Indian people to the “natural way.”

Kendall actually left home and went out on his own at the age of 13, working to earn his way in a variety of capacities—dishwashing, farm work, whatever was available. In fact, farm work brought him to Wisconsin where he found work harvesting potatoes on a potato farm and where he and Lillian first met. After they were married, they made their way on Partridge Lake Road near Star Lake. They lived and raised their family there, following what Kendall called the “Indian way” or “natural way.”

The couple came into a role as cultural advisors and consultants following what Lillian describes as “going through our own pain with alcoholism.” It was during recovery that Kendall became aware that Indian people really needed to “reconnect” as they began to heal, which led him to extensive work with treatment programs, primarily as a cultural advisor. He began as a cultural advisor at the Ain-Dah-Ing Halfway House in St. Joseph, Michigan. “Kendall walked with people to find their own way and encouraged them to find that for themselves. He never pushed his own beliefs and values,” says Lillian, who spent 56 years with Kendall. He also traveled to Oklahoma while working with Ain-Dah-Ing and brought back the idea of sweat lodges to the area, she says.

Kendall also worked with the Mash-Ka-Wisen Treatment Center in Sawyer, Minnesota and the Gaawin Mmonke Resource Center in Superior, Wisconsin. He dedicated himself to cultural programs in conjunction with the language revitalization. Kendall envisioned a “Bringing the Bush to the City” program in conjunction with the language revitalization. Alliance spokesperson Margaret Boyer said he was hoping to establish more wild plant areas in the city, using city and county parks and several areas he had identified to re-introduce native plant species, because he knew the language was very connected to the Earth. He believed that to learn the language the children must also have strong connections with their environment and eventually connections back to their reservations. This effort to restore language and fundamental connections to the Earth are a major part of his legacy. In June 2004 Kendall was awarded Phillips Neighborhood Champion Award by the Phillips community in Minneapolis for community-orientation and teaching spiritual ways to the community. In 1996 Lillian and Kendall were awarded Outstanding Elders in recognition of their contribution to the fight against HIV and AIDS in Native America by the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center in Portland, Oregon.

Following his “natural way,” Kendall always loved the outdoors—hunting, gathering maple sap, fishing. “He was careful in the way he hunted, careful not to take does when they had young and taking only what we needed to eat,” Lillian says. “We lived off the land when the kids were growing up.” He also loved football and Nascar.

It was only after their children were grown that Lillian and Kendall moved to the Minneapolis area, largely to work with cultural and treatment programs there. Kendall’s brothers Andrew, William “Bill,” and Eddie; sisters Lillian, Audrey, Darlene, Dallas, and Marie preceded him in death. He is buried, by request, next to two children Loyd Morris and Rose Lynn. Those surviving Kendall include his wife Lillian; four sons, Richard, Arnold, Sherwin and William, one daughter Victoria (Mimi); one adopted daughter Myrna Medicine Horse; 19 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Wisconsin Act 118

(Continued from page 1)

tected from the negative impacts possible under Act 118, they must be identified.

Over the years, the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) has built a data base of wild rice waters, using data from harvest surveys, restoration efforts, and the results of aerial surveys and others. However, this data base is not complete, with new waters being added on an annual basis. Although most of these are smaller waters, with relatively little human harvest, they still provide great ecological value. They support many species of wildlife, provide duck hunting and trapping locations, and can help maintain water quality at the sites where they are found. If you believe that you may know of any rice beds that GLIFWC may not be aware of, please contact Peter David or Dan North at GLIFWC, (715) 682-6619, as soon as possible; efforts are underway to make the wild rice water date base as complete as possible before the next construction season. Miigwech for your help!

A call for old time recipes

A reader recently requested Mazina’igan to put out a call for old time recipes using foods traditionally harvested from the lakes and woods, like a recipe for preparing acorn soup or muskrat. If you have any recipes from grandma and grandpa for game or wild plants you would like to share, Mazina’igan would appreciate receiving them. Mail to Mazina’igan, GLIFWC, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, Wisconsin 54861 or e-mail to pio@glifwc.org. Miigwech!
Tribal leader seeks to ban Indian logos

Madison, Wis. (AP)—The head of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council called on lawmakers on March 8 to prohibit Wisconsin schools from using Indian logos and nicknames in what he called a historic speech meant to improve communication between the state and the tribes.

Raymond DePerry, chairman of the Red Cliff Chippewa and president of the council, said the mascots were discriminatory images of Indians that needed to be eliminated. He also said it was hurtful to see business communities or local communities to continue using derogatory terms to name Wisconsin waterways, singling out Squaw Bay in the Madison area.

“It is unfortunate that we must ask our Legislature to enact legislation outlawing such practices in our public schools,” DePerry said. “But it is even more painful that local school boards and public schools have allowed such practices to continue.”

DePerry’s speech marked the first time the tribes have been asked to formally address a joint session of the Legislature at the state Capitol. It also comes on the heels of a contentious period between lawmakers and the tribes, particularly over gambling issues.

DePerry said after the speech that he avoided talking about gambling because the tribes have made their positions clear on that issue.

Still, his call to ban Indian logos and mascots received a mostly tepid response. While the audience—many of them from tribes—erupted at DePerry’s call for legislation, a minority of lawmakers reacted enthusiastically.

There are 38 Wisconsin school districts at last count that have Indian logos, mascots or nicknames, according to the Wisconsin Indian Education Association.

Assembly Speaker John Gard, who invited the tribes to address lawmakers, said he was open to discussions about the legislation, but acknowledged it was a politically volatile issue.

Gard said his preference was to allow local school districts to take steps to change the mascots without a state mandate, but he promised he would not stand in the way of any legislation that would require such a change if lawmakers embraced it.

“We need to have a greater level of sensitivity to it,” said Gard, R-Peshigo.

The issue of Indian logos and nicknames has bitterly divided some school districts. While the tribes insist the symbols are derogatory, supporters say they are meant to honor Indians, not insult them.

The Osseo-Fairchild school board voted in July 2002 to change its chief-tain head logo to the letters “OF.” Four months later, voters upset by the change recalled four board members, and the new board reinstated the logo.

On the House side, where committee assignments were not yet firmed up, the tribes insist the symbols concern the constraints of some tribes.

Senate names leaders, members to committees for 109th Congress

As the 109th Congress gets under way, leadership is changing hands on key panels for Native American programs.

The big change is on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, with the retirement of chairman and longtime Indian Country friend Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.). Taking over as chairman is Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), also considered a friend by the Indian community. McCain is not new to this position: he chaired the committee from 1995 to 1997.

Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) will stay on the committee, but not as ranking minority member. That position will go to Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), who has served on the committee for the past several sessions.

In addition to Campbell, those leaving the Indian Affairs Committee include: Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), James Inhofe (R-Okla.) and new Democratic leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

Change for HELP

Changes have been made in other Senate committees important to Native Americans as well.

Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) will take over as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, which oversees Indian education and health programs housed in the Education Department and Health and Human Services Department.

Enzi replaces Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.), who will stay on the HELP committee, but will take over the helm of the Senate Budget Committee.

A second-term lawmaker, Enzi has been chairman of the Employment, Safety and Training Subcommittee. In a statement, Enzi identified flexibility in federal education initiatives and health care cost issues as top priorities for the new Congress.

Appropriations Committee

Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) is the new chair of the powerful Appropriations Committee, which sets spending levels for Native American and other federal programs. He replaces Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), who had to leave because of term limits.

Democratic leadership on both the HELP and Appropriations committees remains unchanged: Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) will continue as senior Democrat on HELP, while Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) will lead the minority on the Appropriations panel.

Democrats will have one fewer member on HELP this year with the retirement of Sen. John Edwards (D-N.D.), who did not seek re-election to the Senate while running for vice president. In his place, Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) will join the committee, replacing Campbell, and Democrats will see their membership reduced from 14 to 13 with the retirement of Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.).

On the House side, where committee assignments were not yet firmed up, Republicans have selected Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-Calif.) to head the Appropriations Committee. Lewis replaces Rep. Bill Young (R-Fla.) who has reached his term limit as committee chair.

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), Chairman

Republican

Ted Gregg, NH
Bill Frist, TN
Lamar Alexander, TN
Richard Burr, NC
Johnny Isakson, GA
Mike DeWine, OH
John Ensign, NV
Orrin Hatch, UT
Jeff Sessions, AL

Democratic

Edward Kennedy, MA
Christopher Dodd, CT
Tom Harkin, IA
Barbara Mikulski, MD
Jeff Bingaman, NM
Patty Murray, WA
Jack Reed, RI
Hillary Clinton, NY
Pat Roberts, KS

Senator Labor, Health, Education & Pensions Committee Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), Chairman

Republican

Judd Gregg, NH
Bill Frist, TN
Lamar Alexander, TN
Richard Burr, NC
Johnny Isakson, GA
Mike DeWine, OH
John Ensign, NV
Orrin Hatch, UT
Jeff Sessions, AL

Democratic

Edward Kennedy, MA
Christopher Dodd, CT
Tom Harkin, IA
Barbara Mikulski, MD
Jeff Bingaman, NM
Patty Murray, WA
Jack Reed, RI
Hillary Clinton, NY
Pat Roberts, KS

Senator Appropriations Committee Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), Chairman

Republican

Ted Stevens, AK
Arlen Specter, PA
Pete Domenici, NM
Christopher Bond, MO
Mitch McConnell, KY
Conrad Burns, MT
Richard Shelby, AL
Judd Gregg, NH
Robert Bennett, UT
Larry Craig, ID
Kay Bailey Hutchison, TX
Mike DeWine, OH
Sam Brownback, KS
Wayne Allard, OR

Democratic

Robert Byrd, WV
Daniel Inouye, HI
Patrick Leahy, VT
Tom Harkin, IA
Barbara Mikulski, MD
Harry Reid, NV
Herb Kohl, WI
Patty Murray, WA
Byron Dorgan, ND
Dianne Feinstein, CA
Richard Durbin, IL
Tim Johnson, SD
Mary Landrieu, LA

Training develops enforcement skills, interagency relations

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer

Wisconsin based GLIFWC wardens met with WDNR staff at Fort McCoy in mid-February, examining law enforcement protocols and brushing up on driving and shooting skills in the field.

“The WDNR training program went very well all around,” said Fred Maulson, chief warden at GLIFWC. “There was a lot of good information, and we continue to develop better working relations with our state counterparts.”

Ten wardens stationed at northern Wisconsin Ojibwe reservations traveled to the enforcement training center at Fort McCoy. Already cross-deputized with state enforcement credentials, one-half of the GLIFWC wardens completed the standard requirements for annual recertification. The remaining officers were just beginning the two-year process of gaining the authority to enforce Wisconsin conservation laws.

“Law enforcement in the ceded territory can be much more effective by working together with not only the states, but other agencies as well,” Maulson said. GLIFWC wardens stationed in Upper Michigan are planning to train with officers from the U.S. Forest Service later this year, he added.

Back in Odanah, GLIFWC wardens conducted exercises intermittently from late February through March. GLIFWC officers and instructors, John Mulroy and Mike Soulier, headed up the annual cold water rescue refresher on Chequamegon Bay. Wearing insulated wetsuits, participants moved between open water and ice, reviewing methods for safely conducting rescue operations on frozen lakes and waterways.

For many wardens, the less familiar component of this year’s training centered on technological advances. With assistance from grant monies, each GLIFWC officer received and worked with new laptop computers and digital cameras.

“A lot of the required daily logs and paperwork is condensed onto the computers,” Maulson said. “It’s a big time saver, freeing up wardens to be more versatile in the field.”

Maulson said the digital cameras will additionally make processing evidence in the field more efficient.

For additional information on GLIFWC’s Enforcement Division contact GLIFWC’s main office at (715) 682-6619.
Elections bring changes to GLIFWC Board

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer

Mille Lacs, Minn.—One time GLIFWC intern Mic Isham ascended to GLIFWC Board of Commissioners Chairman following elections on January 25. Isham served as Board vice-chairman since 1998, a position now filled by Curt Kalk, head of the Mille Lacs Band.

Comprised of individual tribal representatives from all eleven GLIFWC member tribes, the Board of Commissioners establishes policy and provides direction for the exercise of reserved hunting, fishing and gathering rights in the ceded territories of Wisconsin and portions of Michigan and Minnesota.

“GLIFWC does so much for the natural resources and the Ojibwe nation as a whole. Due to GLIFWC’s diligent data collection on fish, game and plants, we now have the best information ever about the natural resources in the ceded territories, and that benefits all of us, both Indian and non-Indian,” said Isham, a Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Ojibwe.

“The Board will continue to be a strong advocate for the rights our ancestors reserved for us in 19th century treaties. These rights are fundamental to who we are as a people, not unlike constitutional rights held by all Americans,” Isham added.

In the remaining position on the GLIFWC Board, Sokaogon’s Wayne LaBine continues on as treasurer following the recent elections.

Isham replaces long-time Board Chairman Tom Maulson of Lac du Flam-beau, who headed the legislative body for more than eleven years. Maulson’s departure comes on the heels of a political shift at the Lac du Flambeau reservation.

Since federal courts reaffirmed Wisconsin inland treaty rights in 1983, Maulson has been among the most visible advocates for off-reservation hunting and fishing. He will continue to chair the Voigt Intertribal Task Force, a GLIFWC standing committee that makes natural resource management recommendations to the Board. Maulson has held that position for the last twenty years.

An Environmental Studies graduate from Northland College in Ashland, Wis., Isham interned at GLIFWC in the mid-1980s, compiling a comprehensive inventory of wild rice in northern Wisconsin through aerial and ground surveys, elder interviews and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) data. He later held positions with the Wisconsin Conservation Corps, DNR, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and LCO Conservation Department.

For the past ten years he has served on the LCO Tribal Governing Board.

Aquatic invasive species coordinator joins GLIFWC biological staff

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Dara Olson, Mercer, Wisconsin, envisions spending a lot of time on ceded territory lakes this summer as GLIFWC’s new aquatic invasive species (AIS) coordinator. GLIFWC’s AIS program focuses on identification and control of invasive species in the region’s lakes.

Funded through the Bureau of Indian Affairs for one year, Olson’s position involves coordinating invasive species field work this summer and assisting with obtaining permits, tags, and training invasive species survey crews and one control crew.

According to Olson, she will also be surveying to help with development of a spatial management plan for aquatic invasive species and assist with planning an aquatic invasive species conference slated for this fall.

Having grown-up and attended high school in Mercer, Wisconsin, Olson is familiar with the area and attendings school events. During her four years at Northland College, Olson worked with the Northwoods Weeds initiative out of Washburn, Wisconsin. Olson is also involved with the Red Cliff Tribal Environmental and Natural Resources Department.

This past May Olson spent time on ceded territory lakes this summer assisting with the aquatic invasive species (AIS) coordinator. GLIFWC’s AIS program focuses on identification and control of invasive species in the region’s lakes.

As GLIFWC’s new AIS coordinator, Olson’s position involves coordinating invasive species field work this summer and assisting with obtaining permits, tags, and training invasive species survey crews and one control crew.

Additionally, this system also is a very good energy-saving tool for the facility, as the pumps to use a lot of energy when running full speed. With VSDs, the pumps do not run at full speed.

Discharge from aquaculture tends to be high in phosphates and nitrates, so the facility will use two settling basins to reduce levels of these nutrients, making the discharge environmentally safe.

Construction of the main rearing barn, a tractor barn and well building were all part of Phase II, now nearing completion. The project also envisions a Phase III, which would be the construction of an administration/classroom building.

Meanwhile, LaBine is pleased to see the facility on the brink of operation. He attributes success of the project to the efforts of many, including Red Cliff’s Tribal Chairpersons over the years, George Newago, Jeanne Buffalo-Falotico-Reyes and now Ray DePerry. He’s also grateful for the support of Senator Robert Jauch, Representative Gary Steidner, Jeanne Buffalo-Falotico-Reyes and now Ray DePerry. He’s also grateful for the support of Senator Robert Jauch, Representative Gary Steidner, and federal Congressman DAVE OBEY and Senator Robert Kohl.

Aquaculture facility

Inside the water quality lab, Fischer points to a computer which is hooked into the wells. A few clicks on the mouse and well read-outs are available on the screen, showing exactly how much the well is pumping. The wells are controlled by variable-speed drives (VSD), so they do not run continuously only to the extent needed. The system is very environmentally friendly as we are not pumping excess water from the aquifer, only what is needed at the various times in the hatchery processes, Fischer states.

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Red Cliff, Wis.—There’s a baby boom at the Red Cliff Tribal Hatchery. Hatching trays, raceways, and rearing tanks are all teeming with coaster brook trout, ranging from barely visible fry to the 16 to 18-inch brood stock that cruise the indoor raceways waiting for fish food to spray the surface of the water.

Inside the main hatchery building, the crew, including four temporary staff, fin clipped yearling coasters in preparation for the scheduled March stocking. Fin clipping was no small project, since 100,000 wriggling 6.5-inch fish had to be netted and clipped. That’s why the extra temporary crew was brought in, according to Sean Charette, hatchery manager. The yearlings were lightly anesthetized prior to fin clipping to make the procedure more manageable.

Disease-free for four years, the Red Cliff Tribal Hatchery is a Class A hatchery and the only producer of the Lake Nipigon strain of coaster brook trout nationally. The hatchery’s teeming tanks are a result of nine years’ work in rearing and stocking this particular strain of brook trout.

This winter the hatchery held 800,000 eggs in the process of hatching, about 100,000 one-month old fry and another 25,000 two-month old fry on the verge of feeding. For their first several months of life, the fry depend on their egg yolk for nourishment. The sac slowly becomes absorbed into the fish itself, eventually forming part of its stomach. “They start coming to the top of the tank when they are ready to start feeding,” Charette explains as he opens the cover to a tank blackened with the thousands of small fry hovering near the bottom. Sure enough, a few were swimming upward, an indication that the hatchery would soon be including them at mealtime.

This new batch would need room to grow. That’s one reason why the one-year olds needed to be stocked in early March. “We like to grow them to about nine inches because they have a better chance of survival when stocked,” Charette explains.

The hatchery also recently stocked about 76 six-year old brood-stock fish into the wild at Point Detour, which was also the destination for the yearlings. Buffalo Bay, Sand Bay and Raspberry Bay have also been stocked over the years. They are all locations which border the reservation.

At the Red Cliff Tribal Hatchery Brandon Smith, Joe Lamoreaux, Francis Cadotte, and Robert Charette undertook the project of fin clipping 100,000 yearling coaster brook trout prior to stocking them at Point Detour in early March.

The hatchery starts using fish for brood stock at age three, when they are at their prime, and releases them at six-years old, Charette says. Huge raceways in a separate building hold the brood-stock that are separated by year class.

Walleye production

This winter the hatchery is also engaged in an experiment—over wintering walleye in one of their outdoor rearing ponds. The problem with rearing outdoors during the winter relates to the lack of oxygen in the water, Charette explains. This winter the hatchery aerated one pond, using a windmill to pump in oxygen. So far, it is so good for the 1,000 nine-inch walleye, 5,000 “brookies” and many thousands of fatheads for forage that inhabit the pond. The experiment seems to be working.

The one-acre pond is monitored daily for temperature, oxygen level and gas in the water. Staff also monitor the thickness of ice, so the pond doesn’t freeze to the bottom, encapsulating all the fish in a giant ice block!

The walleye being raised will be returned to their lake of origin, Nelson Lake, as 12-inches plus, following the spring spearing season, Charette says.

The hatchery has two other one-acre ponds and has converted two former sewage ponds into two-acre rearing ponds. If the experiment is successful, other ponds will be used next winter for rearing.

The windmill helps cut down on electrical expense, one of the hatchery’s major operating costs, making the venture more practical and cost effective.

While it takes a lot of man-hours to monitoring all the hatchery’s fish inside and out, Charette credits the assistance of the Red Cliff Natural Resource Department staff, including Matt Symbal, Shelley Gurnoe and Brian Bainbridge, for the hatchery’s success.

Sean Charette, hatchery manager, checks one tray holding about 22,000 one-month old coaster brook trout fry. The hatchery produced a total of about 800,000 fry.

At two-months the coaster fry are on the verge of absorbing their egg sac and will be ready to feed. The hatchery rears the fish for about a year until they are 9 inches before stocking.

Coaster brook trout brood stock.

For the first time, the Red Cliff Tribal Hatchery used a windmill to aerate one of its rearing ponds which holds walleye and coaster brook trout. If successful, the fish will be stocked this spring.

Red Cliff Hatchery teeming with coasters

Experiments with over-wintering walleye

Article & photos by Sue Erickson, Staff Writer
Grandma Genny: The gift that keeps on giving

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Red Cliff, Wis.–It’s Friday and Grandma Genny’s little white sedan comes rolling into the parking lot of Red Cliff’s Evenstart building in time for her ten a.m. to 2:00 p.m. as a volunteer foster grandparent and walking a mile a day during the winter, two miles a day during the summer.

With bright, brown eyes and a ready smile, Genny explains, “I was going to retire but just didn’t seem to be in the cards for Genevieve Goslin, better known in the Red Cliff community as Grandma Genny. At 84 she’s still teaching art classes for the LCOOCC outreach since 1997, offering courses in weaving, beadwork, moccasin-making and drawing and painting. She has offered an outreach class every semester since 1997 with the exception of fall 2005.

Actually, over the years Grandma Genny has taught at all levels—Headstart, grade school and high school. She grew up in a culture of learning as she knew many of her stories when they sign-up for her LCOOCC classes; she’s probably worked with many of them as children. It was during her position as an assistant to the Indian culture teacher at Bayfield High School that she first acquired her title as more-or-less everyone’s “Grandma Genny.”

Grandma Genny’s career in education began following her husband’s death in 1979. Her career as a beader started when she signed up for a beading class in 1982 offered through Northland College’s outreach program. “Back then I knew absolutely nothing about beading,” she says. “But I also knew I wanted to do something more with my life.” She ended up graduating with an Associate of Arts degree in the State of American Indian Studies: Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceramics; Area of Concentration: Ceram...
**Transitive Inanimate**

Many food words are non-living, inanimate nouns. You must use VTI type verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VTI Pattern</th>
<th>Ojibwe Word</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ni...aan</td>
<td>naboob</td>
<td>I like soup.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gi...aan</td>
<td>naboob</td>
<td>You like soup.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O...aan</td>
<td>naboob</td>
<td>S/he likes soup.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Niizh—2**

Circle the 10 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Mino-oshki-gikinoonowin! Niwaabamaa a’aw aandeg.
B. Nigii-shaawii gaa-jaamitoom omaa megwaawaaq.
C. Gii dash, gii-shaawii. Gigitizimin gaye.
D. Baabaa baapagaakwe’i gaa.’
E. Wayiiba zaagibagaag dash baashaabigwani.
F. Ogaawag wii-naagizwi.
G. Giwii-ikidomin, “Miigwech, Giichi-Manidaa.”

**Niwiin—4**

VTI Roots are in Commands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VTI Pattern</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minwendaaan</td>
<td>naboob</td>
<td>I like soup.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jibaa’kwaad</td>
<td>—Cook!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninjiibaaktwaad</td>
<td>—Cook soup.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ojiibaaktwaad</td>
<td>—Cook soup.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ojiibaaktwaad</td>
<td>—Cook soup.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goojitoon! Try it!**

Translation below.

1. Mii-jiibaaktwaad__ naboob gisinaag.
4. Gii-kojipid__ ina onagizhiinsan?

**Translations:**

*Niizh—2*

A. Happy-New-Year! I see that crow.  
B. We survived when it was winter in the woods.  
C. You also you survived. We are older also.

*D. Woodpecker, s/he is knocking on things/trees. S/he’s hungry and s/he is busy.  
E. Soon the buds will come out, it will be blooming.  
F. Walleyes, they will be visible.  
G. We will say, “Thank you, Great-Spirit.”*

*Niswi—3*

**IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)**

**Down:**

1. Soup
2. Taste it!
3. And
4. I eat it.
5. Thank you.

**Across:**

1. Carrots
2. New young
3. Over there
4. That (animate)

---

**Niwaabandaan.**—I see it.

**Giwaabandaan.**—You see it.

**Owaabandaan.**—S/he sees it.

**Niwaabandaamin.**—We see it.

**Owaabandaanaawaa.**—They see it.

**Ninjiibaadhaan.**—I taste it.

**Gigojipidan.**—You taste it.

This VTI pattern continues for “an” ending verbs.

---

**Niwaabandaan.**—I see it.

**Giwaabandaan.**—You see it.

**Owaabandaan.**—S/he sees it.

**Niwaabandaamin.**—We see it.

**Owaabandaanaawaa.**—They see it.

**Ninjiibaadhaan.**—I taste it.

**Gigojipidan.**—You taste it.

This VTI pattern continues for “an” ending verbs.

---

**Ziigwan—It is Spring**

Gibakad na’? Jiibaakwewigamigong, ina gibiijimaandaan i’wi wiisiwin?  

(Are you hungry? In the kitchen, do you smell that food?  
It is done cooking. I like them carrots.  
When it is summer, I eat watermelon.

Every day when it is breakfast, I eat a banana.  Do you like pea soup?  
Do you like chicken soup?  I do not like white rice.

I boil it, wild rice.

When it is spring, Ojibwe they boil down sap.  It tastes good.)
Native Plants to Color
Know your Native Plants

This reddish-stemmed plant is usually between two and four feet tall. The blue-violet flowers brighten the fall landscape. If you look closely you may see it while waiting for the school bus in September. The forest is where this plant calls home.

Wild lupine adds a splash of deep blue to the meadows in the southern range of the north country region. Don’t confuse this wild plant with the “domesticated” lupine found in gardens and along roadsides!

This showy flower is found in rain gardens, roadides, and wetlands. The leaves are a cool, powdery green, and the flowers are bright blue with a hint of yellow.

You might want to put this plant in your garden because of its lovely lavender flowers. These showy flowers begin blooming at the end of summer, after most other flowers have wilted. What a delightful surprise to find this colorful flower along the brushy roadside!

The showy, red and yellow flowers of wild columbine hang on glossy red stems from May to July. The flower is composed of five points that reach toward the sky. The forest is home to this plant.

It is easy to see where this plant gets its name. The petals of this flower are bright yellow, and the center is all black—like a dark eye. The black-eyed Susan grows in meadows.
Good reading from Indian Country

Memories evoke greater appreciation for Lac du Flambeau elders

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer

Author and former NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw calls Americans who came of age during the Great Depression and Second World War the “Greatest Generation.” Bound by values like honor and love of family and country, they persevered through many hardships, making sacrifices that yielded immeasurable benefits for later generations.

Indian Country has its own role of Greatest Generation heroes and heroines. Like their white countrymen, they transcended the crippling economic depression of the 1930s and served the United States at home and abroad during World War Two. But there’s more to their story. In spite of ongoing assimilation efforts, like boarding schools, regardless of reservation out-migrations to urban areas in search of employment, these American Indians of the Greatest Generation managed the incredible responsibility of keeping time-honored lifeways alive. Under pressure to abandon sacred and defining traditions, many Indian people held in secret their language, spirituality and unique world view.

Unassuaged but outstanding in character, elder Indians salvaged and preserved the past, passing on their cultural know-how to the people of today. In the upper Great Lakes region, Ojibwe elders routinely educate those willing to learn. A growing appreciation among young tribal members of Ojibwemowin (Ojibwe language) and traditional environmental knowledge are key elements to their legacy.

The new release, Memories of Lac du Flambeau Elders, captures more than a dozen stories of life and endurance on a northern Wisconsin Ojibwe reservation. Born in the second and third decades of the last century, this Greatest Generation comments on childhood recollections and how the Lac du Flambeau community has evolved through the years; they describe family dynamics, favorite pastimes and offer advice for living a good life.

Originally appearing as a serial in the monthly paper Lac du Flambeau News, the interviews collected in Memories are the product of an oral history project directed by Elizabeth Tornes in 1996. A staff of tribal volunteers—oftentimes friends or relation to the elder—conducted most of the interviews utilizing a standardized list of questions. Since the interviewer’s voice is omitted from the transcript, readers may find it helpful to photocopy the questionnaire, which is located in an appendix, as a reference and bookmark.

While each individual describes a distinctive life story, Memories reveals a common history shared by the elders. Traditional hunting, fishing, gathering and gardening provided sustenance to Lac du Flambeau families. They canned everything from vegetables to fruits of abundance (or in the leaner months, venison to vegetables) to avoid running short on food. Furthermore, they converted boxes into snow sleds, played any number of games and had the run of the forests, marshes and lakes surrounding the Flambeau community.

Life at Flambeau during this period, however, was far from easy by just about any standard. Children as young as four were pulled from their households and forced to enroll at the on-reservation boarding school sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Separated from their families for extended periods, Flambeau children were forbidden to speak Ojibwemowin and schooled in vocational skills to encourage assimilation.

A lot has changed, but far from eliminated. Ojibwe culture and language transcended many challenges through the efforts of these Greatest Generation tribal members. Filled with humor and heartache, good times and adversity, Memories reveals the weighty, often subtle, contributions of elder Indians at Lac du Flambeau.

An introductory historical timeline by Leon Valliere Jr. provides context for the elder interviews, explaining key events and milestones that shaped life in Ojibwe Country. Historical images interspersed with contemporary black and white elder portraits by Greg Gent bring life to each story in the book.

Published by the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures, Memories is available through the University of Wisconsin Press, bookstores and online vendors.

Book profiles

Indian Country with current facts, figures and issues

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

A handy and thought-provoking resource on American Indians, George Russell’s latest edition of American Indian Facts of Life: A Profile of Today’s Population, Tribes and Reservations contains a plethora of facts along with commentary regarding America’s tribal population. First printed in 1994, the new 2004 edition provides updated facts and figures about American tribes in a succinct and easy-to-read format.

Loaded with interesting statistical data as well as graphics and historic photos, the book presents an historic overview, including the ever-changing America policies toward tribes and a discussion of their impact on tribes and Indian people over the years—information often missed in history texts.

One of Russell’s main concerns is tribal survival. He includes a section on the future, which is especially thought-provoking for the Indian reader. With an emphasis on the issue of blood quantum and the dilemmas it poses for tribal identity in the future, Russell points to the possibility of the vanishing Indian as “Indian blood” become more diluted. Calling it “genetic roulette,” Russell says, “There is a generational genetic time bomb quietly ticking in Indian county; it’s called blood quantum.”

The book also responds to commonly asked questions—an excellent tool for teachers; provides a guide to determining genealogy for Indian people, and contains a study guide/quiz on the information covered throughout the book.

Russell is a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan. He has successfully built a career in civil engineering and construction in Phoenix, Arizona. His business career followed college and a stint in the US Army. He also produced the first edition of Reservations Map in 1990. American Indian Facts of Life and Reservations Maps are interactive with the www.nativedata.com website. They are published by the Native Data Network, 9027 North Cobre Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85028. The book sells for $16.00, paperback.

Old Coast Guard Station to be Indian cultural center

After several years of negotiations, public education, project revisions, public hearings, County Board changes, redesigning of the site, a series of Milwaukee Journal Sentinel editorials, and solid support from the American Indian community, HONOR/Loonsfoot and Milwaukee County have finally signed a lease for renovation of the old Coast Guard Station on Milwaukee’s Lake Michigan shoreline.

The Coast Guard station, the first station ever built, will become an Indian Education and Cultural Center. It will be the site for implementation of Act 31, a Wisconsin law that requires the teaching of Indian history, government, and culture to all public school students three times during their 12 years in school. Act 31 is largely unimplemented and under funded by public schools and in fact Wisconsin lags behind other states in this area.

Despite the fact it has the most federally recognized tribes east of the Mississippi, what does this mean as the next steps? Fund-raising of course is the big challenge. Raising $3.5 million in the next two years is a bottom line. Architectural plans are in place. Some contributions have already been received. A local office is operational. A business plan is being developed. And a lot of coordination is underway.

For those interested in contributing to the project send your gift or pledge to HONOR, 6435 Wiessner Road, Omro, Wisconsin 54963 and earmark it “Coast Guard Station project.” Your gift is tax deductible.

(Reprinted from the Jan/Feb 2005 HONOR Digest.)
MAZINA'IGAN (Talking Paper) is a quarterly publication of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, which represents eleven Ojibwe tribes in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Subscriptions to the paper are free. Write: MAZINA'IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861, phone (715) 682-6619, e-mail: pio@glifwc.org. Please be sure and keep us informed if you are planning to move or have recently moved so we can keep our mailing list up to date.

MAZINA'IGAN reserves the right to edit any letters or materials contributed for publication as well as the right to refuse to print submissions at the discretion of the editor.

Letters to the editor and guest editorials are welcomed by MAZINA'IGAN. We like to hear from our readership. The right to edit or refuse to print, however, is maintained. All letters to the editor should be within a 300 word limit.

Letters to the editor or submitted editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinion of GLIFWC. For more information see our website at: www.glifwc.org.

A Chronicle of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

Ziigwan 2005