Tribes assert sovereignty, affirm relationship with ma’iingan

By Sue Erickson & Jason Kekek Stark

Odanah, Wis.—The region’s first contemporary state wolf hunts are in full swing in both Minnesota and Wisconsin with media tallying the rising kill numbers daily, but many tribes have asserted their sovereignty in acknowledgment and affirmation of their well-established relationship with ma’iingan (wolf). Tribal concern about the hunts in Minnesota and Wisconsin stem from biological/management issues and from a deeply felt connection to ma’iingan, a brother to the Anishinaabe people.

Tribes questioned the unilateral decision to hold these wolf hunts, actions taken by both Minnesota and Wisconsin with no tribal consultation on the matter. As co-managers of the natural resources in the ceded territories, where most of the wolf population resides, tribes expected to have input into such important resource management decisions.

In Wisconsin, the state set a total harvest figure to be 201 wolves. The current state harvest scheme will reduce the population to a level the tribes consider ecologically unsound, culturally inappropriate and potentially unsustainable. The tribes’ goal is for all suitable wolf population to be at or above current levels, thus enabling wolves to perform their appropriate ecological and cultural functions.

The difference in tribal and state management goals makes it virtually impossible to reach consensus on harvestable surplus, an essential first step in determining quotas and issuing declarations. As a result, the tribes claimed every wolf in the Wisconsin ceded territory consistent with their treaty reserved right to have wolves on the landscape as necessary to effectuate the tribes’ rights and goals for ma’iingan.

In recognition that the state does not have unfettered discretion to exercise its management prerogatives to the detriment of the tribes’ treaty reserved rights, the state lowered the harvest limit to 116 wolves available to state-licensed wolf hunters, allocating 85 wolves to the tribes. This means the population will be reduced by about one-eighth rather than by one-quarter as originally intended in the development of the 2012 season.

Despite the reduction in numbers to be harvested in Wisconsin, many believe the imposition of a hunt so soon after delisting is unwise and hasty, advocating for more long-term cooperative planning on the management of ma’iingan. With wolf mortality from poachers, road kills and hunting by one-quarter as originally intended in the development of the 2012 season.

Report highlights reduced toxic emissions in Lake Superior basin

By Sara Moses, GLIFWC Environmental Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—Lake Superior is one of our greatest natural resources. The lake’s unique ecosystem sets it apart among the Great Lakes. Recognizing that toxic chemicals represent a threat to the Great Lakes, the International Joint Commission (IJC), which regulates waters shared by the U.S. and Canada, challenged the governments of these two countries to virtually eliminate the release of chemicals of concern into these waters, starting with Lake Superior. The rallying cry of the citizens who originally brought this challenge to the IJC in 1989 was, “If not Lake Superior, where? If not now, when?”

The governments accepted the challenge and in 1991 created a Zero Discharge Demonstration Program (ZDDP) for nine toxic pollutants from sources within the Lake Superior basin. The ZDDP laid out a schedule to achieve zero emissions by 2020.

These “The Nasty Nine” include mercury, dioxin, PCBs and certain pesticides. Every five years, the Lake Superior Work Group’s Chemical Committee releases the Critical Chemical Reduction Milestones report, which reviews the progress of the ZDDP. The latest report was released in October 2012.

Although the emissions of some chemicals are difficult to track, the report indicates that we have been largely successful in meeting the 2010 goals of the ZDDP. For example, mercury emissions in the basin have been reduced by 80% since 1990. The largest remaining source of mercury emissions within the basin is mining and metals production followed by coal-fired power plants. Continued or increased mercury emissions from these sectors could make it impossible to reach the goal of zero emissions by 2020.

In addition to reporting on emissions of “The Nasty Nine” and progress toward the ZDDP, the Critical Chemical Reduction Milestones report also looks at the current levels and trends of these contaminants in air, water, fish and wildlife. In general, these pollutants have declined in the Lake Superior ecosystem over the past 30 years in response to lower emissions, although there are exceptions.

The report also highlights efforts undertaken by the tribes, states, provinces and federal governments to help eliminate chemical releases to the environment.

Despite the impressive reductions in emissions of these toxic chemicals from within the basin, many challenges remain. As we approach 2020, the virtual elimination year, it will become more and more difficult to reduce emissions with fewer sources left to target for reductions. Even if virtual elimination is achieved, these contaminants will continue to be transported by air and water into the Lake Superior basin from outside sources. In addition, even as we make progress toward reducing emissions and removing these long used chemicals from the environment, there are new chemicals of emerging concern being emitted. Many (See Reduced, page 16)
The Mishomis Book, The Voice of the Ojibway

The Mishomis Book, The Voice of the Ojibway (Continued from page 1)

Anishinaabe

People will cease to be the "Vanishing Americans?" Will Indian people emerge to lead as though the wolf is beginning to come back to this land. Will this prove that Indian

The Mishomis Book by Edward Benton-Banai appears below:

Editor’s note: The following excerpt is reprinted with permission from The Mishomis Book, The Voice of the Ojibway by Edward Benton-Banai. In his travels, Original Man and Ma-en’-gun set off on their different journeys. So, Original Man and Ma-en’-gun walked the Earth and came to know all of her. In this journey they became very close to each other. They became like brothers. In their closeness they realized that they were brothers to all of the Creation. When they had completed the task that Gitchie Manito asked them to do, they talked with the Creator once again.

The Ojibwe teaching holds that the destinies of Anishinaabe and ma’iingan parallel each other. The teaching as told in The Mishomis Book by Edward Benton-Banai.

GLIFWC’s Peter David receives Wetlands Restoration Award

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Madison, Wis. — The Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) recently honored GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist Peter David on October 25 with their annual Wetland Restoration Award. David’s long-time personal and professional dedication to manoomin (wild rice) restoration earned him the well-deserved recognition.

"As with many leading advocates for a cause, Peter’s duties are oftentimes indistinguishable from his personal passion. Peter is the leading expert on wild rice in Wisconsin and has done more to protect, restore, manage, promote, research and educate about wild rice than any other person in Wisconsin. It bears repeating—than any other person," wrote Ricky Lein, WDNR Wetland Habitat Team supervisor, in his nomination letter.

Lein cited Peter’s significant manoomin bed survey work, documentation and mapping of beds in addition to restoration initiatives as major contributions to the management of manoomin in Wisconsin. Successful in building partnerships in restoration projects, Peter’s work has produced flourishing new manoomin beds as well as enhanced historic beds benefiting humans and wildlife alike.

In addition to hours of field work, including resourcing and aerial surveys, Peter has pushed for the development of a tribal-state wild rice management plan, a comprehensive document that considers all aspects of manoomin—research, regulation, management, ecology, restoration, and potential threats. The Wetland Restoration Award aims at recognizing "on-the-ground wetland restoration work and efforts that promote wetland restoration including: private and public restoration projects; invasive species control projects; general wetland stewardship; research, programs or materials that encourage wetland restoration," according to the WWA.

The Wetland Restoration Award is one of three awards presented by WWA annually. This year the Wetland Protection Award recipients were Caroline Clarin and Alice Klink, and Mark Smith received the Wetland Enjoyment Award.

While Peter was honored to receive the award, he attributes successes to a team effort. “I feel more like it’s the face of a successful program, than an individual award here. So many other people make this possible and make it work. I was happy to accept it on behalf of all of them.”

Peter David, GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist. (photo by John Coleman)
Federal Act would redefine standards for mining permits

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Washington, D.C.—The National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act passed the House of Representatives in July with a 256-160 vote largely along party lines and is currently under consideration by the U.S. Senate.

The Administration “strongly opposes HR 4402,” stating that the bill would “undermine and remove the environmental safeguards, for, at a minimum, almost all types of hardrock mines on Federal lands.”

Basically, the bill streamlines the mining permit process, requiring the lead agency (the agency to make the permitting decision) to maximize development of the mineral resources while mitigating environmental impacts.

The lead agency would be required to make permitting decisions within 30 months while engaging other agencies and stakeholders early in the process. The lead agency would also be responsible for setting timelines to be met during various stages of the permitting process.

The bill defines domestic mine projects that would provide strategic and critical minerals as “infrastructure projects,” a definition that would also speed the permitting process.

The bill would limit the ability of civil groups to mount legal challenges, requiring litigation to be launched within 60 days of the permit approval and places limitations on attorneys’ fees, stating that the federal government will not be responsible for attorneys’ fees in these civil actions.

In its objections to the bill, the Administration states that protection of the public would be “circumvented by the bill’s provisions,” which allows for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review to be eliminated and circumspect public involvement in the process.

The bill also broadens the spectrum of minerals to be covered by the legislation. Currently, 17 minerals are considered to be “strategic” minerals, but the bill covers minerals that support manufacturing, housing, transportation and other sectors along with their important economic security and balance of trade.

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Update: Mining in the ceded territory

By John Coleman, GLIFWC Environmental Section Leader

Wisconsin:
- Wisconsin’s Senate Select Committee on Mining, chaired by Tim Cullen, is hoping to have a new iron mining bill out of committee by mid-December.
- According to the chairman, the bill will be substantially different from the Assembly bill pushed last year. Senator Cullen has stated that the drafting of the bill will include participation by all political parties. At least one public hearing on the legislation is proposed.

Michigan:
- Kennebec Minerals is blasting through Eagle Rock to the orebody at its Eagle project. In October the company reached the ore body after tunneling for approximately a mile into bedrock. They continue to construct surface buildings and other mine infrastructure.
- The proposed 21-mile haul road for ore from the Eagle mine site to the Humbolt processing facility is still being reviewed by permitting agencies. The road would involve 22 stream crossings and would directly impact 25 acres of wetlands.
- Recently there was a spill of pit water and clay from the Humbolt Mill site into local wetlands. The spill occurred during the construction of a wall to confine tailings that would be deposited into a pit lake at the site. The site is riddled with underground channels from historical mining, and the wall construction intersected some of the old workings.
- Orvana Minerals Corporation’s Copperwood project near Wakefield continues to work its way through the permitting process. The company has applied for a state mining permit, stream and wetland fill permit and a water discharge permit. The mining permit was granted, but the other permits are still under review. The company has not yet applied for a water withdrawal permit to take water from Lake Superior. The company has said that it is asking the local water utility to apply for the permit to supply process water for the mine.

Minnesota:
- GLIFWC and tribal staff continue to work with state and federal agencies to evaluate the proposed Polymet project. A second draft Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled to be released in the summer of 2013. In recent documents the applicant has proposed more complete capture of water leaking from the existing tailings basins. That water would be treated using reverse osmosis prior to discharge to area waterways or wetlands. Because the overburden and ore are expected to generate leachate containing substantial pollutants, the closure of the project at the end of mining is expected to require active water treatment.
- The Tacon iron mine near Eveleth, Minnesota has applied to the Army Corps for a wetland permit to fill 1,200 acres of wetland bog. This area would be used for construction of a third tailings basin for taconite production. Several tribes are in discussion with the Army Corps to ensure that natural resources of interest to the tribes are adequately protected.

National Forest lands:
- The Ottawa and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests are doing Environmental Analyses for prospecting for sulfide ores near Bergland, Michigan and near Medford, Wisconsin. Tribal staff have met with staff from both Forests to discuss these exploration plans.
Permit info for treaty hunters and gatherers

By Jonathan Gilbert, PhD, GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Camping
Free camping is available for tribal members while exercising their treaty rights on National Forests and Apostle Islands National Lakeshore campgrounds. Free camping is not available on any state or county campground. Please note, these camping permits are only required at developed campgrounds which usually have a cost to stay. They are not required at federal campgrounds or if camping outside of camp sites.

What is required?
You will need a camping permit issued by your tribal conservation department. Show your tribal ID to the official and provide any information requested. The official will ask in which national forest you wish to camp and will provide you with a payment card and a copy of your camping permit. You may obtain a camping permit for each national forest. Generally you will be provided with up to two payment cards at a time.

What do I do at the national forest campground?
When you locate a campsite at the campground, you will find a fee payment envelope at the site. Please complete all required spaces on the fee payment envelope. Then instead of putting a check or money into the envelope, you will place the fee payment envelope inside the envelope. Place the envelope in the fee payment tube located near the entrance to the campground.

Can I get additional camping cards?
There is no limit on the number of camping cards you obtain. Each time you return to the tribal permit office to obtain additional cards, you will be asked about your camping activity with the previous card.

Day fee use areas
Some areas on the national forests require a fee payment for the use of that area for the day. These are usually swimming beaches, trail heads, ski trails and some boat launches. Tribal members may obtain a free sticker for their car windshield if they are planning on visiting one or more of these places in the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest. The use of fee areas on other forests is very limited. Please note that these day-use stickers are not required to park in any place other than these day-use areas.

Gathering
Gathering activities fall into one of several categories so it is important to know what, how much and where you want to gather. Treaty gathering is permitted for the four national forests in the ceded territories and select Wisconsin state properties.
Wild Rice Permit—A wild rice permit is required to harvest wild rice. This is a separate permit from all other gathering permits.
General Gathering—A general gathering permit is required to gather most other plants. If you wish to gather balsam boughs, firewood, lodge poles or birch bark, you must obtain a non-timber forest products permit (see next permit). If you wish to gather maple sap you must have a sugarbush permit. For everything else you only need a general gathering permit.

General Gathering Permit—Non-timber forest products, you will need a large scale gathering permit. This is a separate permit for a specific resource (e.g. firewood or balsam boughs) and for a specific location. You must obtain this permit from your tribe’s conservation department. The tribe is required to consult with the property manager to coordinate this gathering activity with other management. When you request a large scale gathering permit, you must be prepared to provide information on what, when, where and who will be gathering. Large Scale Limits: If you wish to gather more than the amounts listed below, you need a large-scale permit. For smaller amounts you need a small-scale permit.

Large Scale Limits:
1. Balsam boughs—5 tons
2. Firewood—10 cords
3. Lodge poles—75 poles
4. Birch bark—2 trees
Sugar Bush Permits—If you wish to create a sugar bush on national forests or state properties, you must have a sugar bush permit. The sugar bush permit is for a specific location and will have terms and conditions on the permit specific to this site. The sugar bush permits usually take a few weeks to a month to create; so if you are interested, the sooner you contact GLIFWC or your conservation department the better.

Ginseng—If you wish to gather ginseng, you must have a ginseng gathering permit. This permit is valid for all properties (national forests or Wisconsin state properties). If you sell any ginseng, you are required to keep a record of commercial transactions.

Hunting Permits
There are several types of hunting permits available to tribal members. The type of permit and other regulations such as tagging and registration depend on what and where you are hunting.

Migratory Bird Hunting Permit—This permit is required to hunt any migratory bird including ducks, geese and woodcock. This permit is valid for all three states. You are required to indicate whether you hunted migratory birds in the previous year and to answer any survey questions that may get asked.

Small game permits

Turkey Hunting—There are four different types of turkey hunting permits (found under the small game permit). There are two permits for spring turkey hunting and two permits for fall hunting. In spring and fall you may get a permit for turkey hunting in Wisconsin or Michigan (for which a carcass tag is NOT required), or for Minnesota (for which a carcass tag IS required). For all harvested turkeys, you are required to register your harvested turkey and obtain a registration tag.

Bobcat Hunting Permit—If you wish to hunt bobcats, you should obtain a bobcat hunting permit (found under the small game permit). You will be given a carcass tag for your bobcat, and you are required to register your bobcat after it has been harvested. If you intend on trapping a bobcat, please obtain a bobcat trapping permit. (See Permit info, page 10)
Restoring native plants in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, a community effort

LVD, KBIC join partnerships

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer

Watermeet, Mich.—Scott Herron sees a bright future for native plants—one illumined by the reddish, orange glow of firelight.

“Most invasive plants can’t handle fire,” said Herron, a Ferris State University ethnobotanist. “Native plants, however, have adapted to fire. We can restore some of these plant communities on a larger scale than what I see out there now.”

An organizer and featured speaker at the fourth Kinomaage Workshop, Herron said most Michigan restoration projects appear in the form of modest rain gardens, featuring just a few plants. Additional restoration is occurring on reclaimed brownfields—abandoned industrial sites—in places like Detroit. Land managers, he said, might go further, drawing from the well of traditional ecological knowledge to realize broader landscape restoration.

“If we use a holistic Anishinaabe model, we can move beyond single species restoration,” he said. That means the strategic application of fire on larger chunks of land, generating new growth across entire plant communities. “We’ve got firekeepers all across Anishinaabe Country. We can work together to revive some of those seed banks.”

Herron said it’s not enough to rely on government programs like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to pay for restoration projects; organization and funding on the local level is essential to pool all available resources to help ecosystems. Like reconstructing elements of native plant communities, interconnecting people is vital to restoration success.

To that end the Kinomaage (teachings from the earth) program is a working model. Launched by the non-profit Cedar Tree Institute, Kinomaage partners include the Lac Vieux Desert (LVD) Band, US Forest Service and individuals from tribal communities across Upper Michigan.

“We exist in between organizations,” said Jon Magnuson, Cedar Tree Institute (CTI) Director. “We’re a catalyst, a trigger for an emerging vision: to return the caretaker legacy of Native American communities across North America.”

That legacy is on display at Rice Bay on Lake Lac Vieux Desert where many of the three-dozen Kinomaage participants witnessed the full richness of manoomin harvesting, processing and reseeding—all done by hand. The LVD Band, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and other partners are 30 years into efforts to rejuvenate ancient manoomin (wild rice) beds on the lake’s north shore.

With assistance from Herron, on Kinomaage’s second day LVD’s Roger LaBine detailed the life cycle of manoomin and its journey from a seed in the lake bottom to a table-ready food.

Herron poignantly ran down a list of native species required to both harvest and process manoomin: Giizhik and pollinators

“The Sault Tribe is slated to host the next Kinomaage workshop in April 2013. For more information see wingsandseeds.org.

Gizhik and pollinators

Through the Cedar Tree effort, The Manitous Project volunteers planted 10,000 northern white cedar seedlings throughout the Upper Peninsula in early summer 2012. LVD Band members placed 1,000 of those trees into western UP soil and also assisted in other areas including the site of the Duck Lake fire, which torched more than 21,000 acres.

The CTI also developed Zaagkii, the Wings & Seeds Project, with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and other Upper Michigan collaborators. Supporting the priceless work of insects—which are responsible for pollinating a great many wild plants—is the core of Zaagkii. Insects make contact with pollen as they visit plants to feed on nectar. As they move along, insects distribute pollen to plant reproductive systems across the landscape.

In Upper Michigan, the program has keyedin on two conspicuous pollinators: monarch butterflies and bees. Volunteers, tribal youth, and additional kids from the Marquette County Juvenile Courts program constructed and installed 36 bee shelters and 18 butterfly houses. The structures provide protection from severe weather. “Monarch butterflies are very fragile,” CTI’s Magnuson said. “They ride the thermal winds on incredible migrations across the continent, but access to adequate shelter is critical for them.”

Jan Schultz, the principal US Forest Service Zaagkii partner, frames the work ahead in pragmatic terms. “Every third bite of food (Americans consume) comes from pollination,” said Schultz, Region 9’s top botanist. “It’s jaw dropping.”

She said restoring native communities is a game of keeping as many “parts” as possible. That includes inventorying and preserving the original plants found on the landscape. Some plants represent the sole food source for native pollinators. For monarch butterflies, milkweed is a crucial host plant. Without nutrition from the leaves of milkweed, monarch larvae cannot develop into a butterfly.

“Keeping the pieces is huge,” Schultz said.

The Sault Tribe is slated to host the next Kinomaage workshop in April 2013.

For more information see wingsandseeds.org.
Wisconsin manoomin season ends stronger than anticipated

By Lisa David, GLIFWC Manoomin Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—The 2012 Wisconsin manoomin season ended on a higher note than earlier anticipated—likely due to a combination of factors.

The first of which involved the ricers themselves who appear to have put forth extra effort to locate rice beds. With 2012 being the third year in a row with below average manoomin stands across northern Wisconsin, extra effort was needed to replenish personal manoomin reserves.

Second, it also appears as though more harvesters are turning to the Commission’s website to help guide their harvesting efforts. The site provided updated information on lake openings as well as cropundance information at sites across the ceded territory. Pickers were able to avoid trips to unpromising locations and concentrate their efforts where success was most likely.

Finally, mild, cooperative weather this past fall also contributed to the increased harvest. The lack of rain and strong winds during the weeks of harvest meant less loss of ripe rice seed to weather events. Great weather during the long Labor Day weekend was especially welcome.

Preliminary analysis of respondents to the Wisconsin wild rice harvest survey indicates that 14 counties in Wisconsin had successful harvest, with a total of 57 different sites with reported harvest.

The top harvesting sites were both in Taylor County—Mondeaux Flowage and Chequamegon Waters Flowage (aka Miller Dam), while The Thoroughfare in Oneida County saw the most harvesting trips.

The 190 survey respondents averaged about 21 pounds per harvest trip, in comparison to only 9 pounds per trip in 2010. The majority of respondents harvested a total of 50 pounds or less this ricing season.

Sites of note were Radigan Flowage in Douglas County where low water levels left the seed-rich plants standing in mudflats that did not allow canoe passage. Upper Clam Lake, in Burnett County, showed the first significant response to restoration efforts that are underway there (see article below). And Mud Lake (Oakland Township, Burnett County) was in the top 10 harvest sites indicating that the culvert repair project a few years ago may be rectifying water level issues.

Clam Lake rice beds heading towards recovery?

By Peter David, GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—Upper Clam Lake in Burnett County, Wisconsin is a special place. The extensive manoomin (wild rice) beds found on the southern bays of the lake made this the number one off-reservation manoomin harvest lake in the state. Fishermen and waterfowl hunters also knew they could often find the quarry they sought on this productive lake as well, thanks in no small part to the food and habitat the rice beds provided. Then something happened.

After centuries of supporting rice—including good beds in 2006—the rice all but disappeared in 2007. Of course, manoomin is an annual plant, and occasional crop failures are an inherent trait of the species, so while the initial loss was noted by many, it didn’t set off alarms. But time would show this was not just an annual failure. This was something different.

Unlike previous crop failures, this time the rice stayed absent: 2008; 2009; 2010. The lake was fundamentally different in a multitude of ways—from the aquatic plant community, to fish populations, to waterfowl utilization. The big question was why?

Initially several theories floated around—including possible contamination from a defective cranberry operation upstream, a mechanical weed harvester run amok, and carp. While the latter factor seemed most likely, there were doubts about the carp theory as well; after all, carp, while non-native, were no newcomer to Clam Lake, having been present in the system for decades. Why would they suddenly have harvested, when they hadn’t in the past?

It’s taken some time to put the pieces together, but it looks like the answer may have been found. And while it’s always risky to oversimplify the complexity of ecological events, it looks like carp are indeed in the middle of it.

It is clear from looking at the carp themselves (thanks to sampling done by the DNR) that something created a “perfect storm” of carp production several years ago, because there are tens of thousands of carp in the lake, and nearly half of them are from a single year-class of recruitment. The best guess at what caused this surge may not be intuitive, but the puzzle pieces suggest something like this: A winter-kill or possible disease event had a long delay for the massive carp population. Without bluegills—who are effective consumers of carp eggs—carp production bloomed, and when those carp grew to sufficient size, they hammered the rice and other aquatic plants by uprooting them, impeding their growth by increasing water turbidity, consuming their seeds, or some combination of the three.

One piece of evidence of the role of carp can be seen in the remarkable event that was observed this year in Clam Lake’s southern-most bay. In an effort lead by the St. Croix Tribe, the openings to this bay have been netted off for the last two seasons of open water—with the nets going up in the spring before appreciable numbers of carp enter the bay. An initial response in 2011 was followed by a dramatic sight this year: an extensive bed of manoomin—and other aquatic plants—that hadn’t been seen in a decade (see photos below).

While the recovery witnessed so far in 2012 is encouraging, the lake still has a long ways to go. Large beds of rice historically occurred in areas that cannot be easily fenced off from the carp. While the tribe, state, lake association and other cooperators are also working to reduce the carp population through water netting, it has been a challenge to put a sizable dent in such a massive population. But 2012 has provided a great shot of encouragement to all those who have committed themselves to bringing back the special qualities of Upper Clam Lake.
Updated Water Quality Agreement includes significant changes

Focus on collaboration & prevention in the Great Lakes

By Jen Vanator
GLIFWC Great Lakes Program Coordinator

Odanah, Wis.—On September 7, the federal governments of the United States (represented by Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency) and Canada (represented by Peter Kent, Environment Minister) signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Protocol "Protocol," renewing and updating their commitment to a 40-year old agreement outlining how the two countries will protect and restore the health of the waters of the Great Lakes.

First signed in 1972, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) was last updated in 1987. The updates included in the Protocol are significant—they redirect focus on prevention, rather than cleanup; focus on collaboration with other governments, including Tribal and First Nations; respond to new emerging threats to the quality of water in the Great Lakes that did not exist at the time of the last update; and update and shift management approaches.

While previous versions of the Protocol have focused on cleaning up damage caused by past activities, the Protocol focuses, instead, on prevention. Noting that it continues to be necessary to resolve existing environmental problems, the Protocol goes on to say that it is equally necessary to anticipate and prevent future environmental problems. This new preventative approach finds its way into the Protocol’s focus on emerging threats and new precautionary management approaches. This can be seen in the shift in the implementation of the Protocol’s Wide Management Plans, known as ‘LaMPs.’ The Protocol continues to use LaMPs as tools to assess the status of each lake and address environmental stressors on the quality of water. However, the Protocol now requires each LaMP to establish Lake Ecosystem Objectives as assessment benchmarks and requires each LaMP to identify research, monitoring, and other science priorities for the assessment of future potential threats to water quality, rather than requiring plans only to monitor the progress of current remedial activities.

In developing and implementing programs under this new Protocol, the federal governments of the United States and Canada are required to cooperate and coordinate with state, provincial, tribal, and municipal governments, as well as First Nations, Métis, and public agencies and stakeholders. This includes when developing best management practices: general and specific objectives; programs for pollution abatement, control and prevention; and all “pertinent matters.” This new coordination requirement is especially important in dealing with regional stressors and First Nations, which were not specifically mentioned in previous iterations of the GLWQA.

In addition to recognizing the importance of full cooperation and participation in programs to restore and protect the health of the Great Lakes, the Protocol recognizes that threats facing the Great Lakes have changed. Since 1987, new threats to the quality of water in the Great Lakes have emerged, and this new Protocol addresses the most serious of those threats. For example, aquatic invasive species (AIS) were not addressed at all in the last update in 1987. AIS have become one of the preeminent threats to the health of the Great Lakes ecosystems, seriously impacting Great Lakes ecosystems from direct competition with native species for food and habitat, predation, and disease, and also by altering the food chain and web.

Recognizing that these impacts can dramatically affect water quality, the Protocol requires the United States and Canada to focus on the prevention, reduction, control of AIS in the Great Lakes. The Protocol requires the countries to develop prevention-based programs to eliminate new introductions of AIS, even in the absence of scientific certainty of any threat, the implementation of protective ballast water discharge programs, the implementation of proactive and coordinated risk assessments on various pathways, the development of regulation or management strategies based on risk assessments, the development and coordination of implementation of management strategies, education and outreach efforts, and the establishment of effective barriers to prevent the spread of AIS.

Another emerging threat to the quality of water in the Great Lakes is climate change. Increasing nearshore and surface water temperature is widely believed to be a culprit in the spread of algal blooms in several of the Great Lakes, including this summer’s blue-green (Cyanobacteria) algal bloom on the banks of Lake Superior between Cornucopia and Two Harbors. (See Water quality agreement, page 16)

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Ecosystem Objectives as assessment benchmarks and requires each LaMP to identify research, monitoring, and other science priorities for the assessment of future potential threats to water quality, rather than requiring plans only to monitor the progress of current remedial activities.

In developing and implementing programs under this new Protocol, the federal governments of the United States and Canada are required to cooperate and coordinate with state, provincial, tribal, and municipal governments, as well as First Nations, Métis, and public agencies and stakeholders. This includes when developing best management practices: general and specific objectives; programs for pollution abatement, control and prevention; and all “pertinent matters.” This new coordination requirement is especially important in dealing with regional stressors and First Nations, which were not specifically mentioned in previous iterations of the GLWQA.

In addition to recognizing the importance of full cooperation and participation in programs to restore and protect the health of the Great Lakes, the Protocol recognizes that threats facing the Great Lakes have changed. Since 1987, new threats to the quality of water in the Great Lakes have emerged, and this new Protocol addresses the most serious of those threats. For example, aquatic invasive species (AIS) were not addressed at all in the last update in 1987. AIS have become one of the preeminent threats to the health of the Great Lakes ecosystems, seriously impacting Great Lakes ecosystems from direct competition with native species for food and habitat, predation, and disease, and also by altering the food chain and web.

Recognizing that these impacts can dramatically affect water quality, the Protocol requires the United States and Canada to focus on the prevention, reduction, control of AIS in the Great Lakes. The Protocol requires the countries to develop prevention-based programs to eliminate new introductions of AIS, even in the absence of scientific certainty of any threat, the implementation of protective ballast water discharge programs, the implementation of proactive and coordinated risk assessments on various pathways, the development of regulation or management strategies based on risk assessments, the development and coordination of implementation of management strategies, education and outreach efforts, and the establishment of effective barriers to prevent the spread of AIS.

Another emerging threat to the quality of water in the Great Lakes is climate change. Increasing nearshore and surface water temperature is widely believed to be a culprit in the spread of algal blooms in several of the Great Lakes, including this summer’s blue-green (Cyanobacteria) algal bloom on the banks of Lake Superior between Cornucopia and (See Water quality agreement, page 16)
Exotic forest pests targeted by ANA-funded project

By Jim Thannum, Natural Resource Development Specialist and Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—In order to address issues related to exotic forest pests, especially the emerald ash borer (EAB), GLIFWC applied for and recently received a three-year grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), ACF, USHHS. The impact of these pests in the ceded territories relates to tribal members’ continuing ability under their treaty rights to gather miscellaneous forest products.

Oroborus. (photo courtesy: David Cappaert, Michigan State University.)

Looking at the problem


Emerald ash borer. (photo courtesy of David Cappaert, Michigan State University)

The larvae are the destructive stage of the pest. (photo courtesy: Jeffrey Hahn, University of Minnesota) Inset photo: Larva of an emerald ash borer.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree’s ability to transport water and nutrients. (photo courtesy: Jeffrey Hahn, University of Minnesota) Inset photo: Larva of an emerald ash borer. The larvae are the destructive stage of the pest. (photo courtesy: David Cappaert, Michigan State University.)

Emerald ash borer destroys the water and nutrient conducting tissues under the bark of ash trees. One-third to one-half of the branches may die in one year. Most of the canopy will be dead within two years of when symptoms are first observed.

Since its discovery, EAB has: 1) killed tens of millions of ash trees in southeastern Michigan, 2) caused regulatory agencies (USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—APHIS) to enforce quarantines in Michigan, Wisconsin and other states and establish fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or hardwood firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs.

GLIFWC applied for and recently received a three-year grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) to enforce quarantines in Michigan, Wisconsin and other states. Alert workers have uncovered and reported ALBs in warehouses in Michigan, Wisconsin and other states.

ALB infestations have resulted in: 1) quarantines, 2) cutting down all healthy trees of the potential host species within a one-eighth to one-quarter mile radius of infested trees, 3) having all infested trees chipped and burned, 4) grading stumps of infested trees to below the soil level, 5) increasing insecticide treatments.

What can be done?

A proactive approach and response plan will be developed with tribes to prepare for the spread of EAB and other exotic forest pests in the ceded territories. Furthermore, cooperation with state and federal partners is necessary given intergovernmental requirements established under stipulations, federal court orders, and interagency Memorandums of Agreement.

GLIFWC will first complete a report providing the scientific foundation to assess risks from EAB and four other forest pests upon five commonly harvested treaty forestry sources (i.e. ash, balsam, birch, maple, oak) throughout the ceded territories. This will provide a comprehensive scientific foundation on which risk assessments will be based in year two and harvesting regulations revised in year three.

In the second year, GLIFWC will complete a risk assessment of threats to treaty resources from EAB and four other forest pests, integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) on ash use, ash quality needed for baskets and wood fuel harvest patterns as well as TEK information related to tribal use of balsam, birch, maple and oak. The activities of this objective will integrate scientific risk assessments and TEK provided by tribal elders and harvesters to enable tribes to more fully understand the pathways for introduction and spread of exotic forest pests and how these infestations may impact treaty forestry resources and the exercise of treaty rights.

In the third year, GLIFWC will work with member tribes to develop and recommend for tribal approval a system of regulations and plans that address preventing, introducing or spreading EAB and forest pests within the ceded territories. In addition, community outreach and education of forest resource threats and updated/revised “miscellaneous forest products” gathering regulations will be provided in tribal communities.

Why there may be an increased need for gathering firewood......

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects average household expenditures for heating oil and natural gas will increase by 19 percent and 13 percent, respectively, this winter (October 1 through March 31) compared with last winter. Projected household expenditures are 5 percent higher for electricity and 13 percent higher for propane this winter. Average expenditures for households that heat with heating oil are forecast to be higher than any previous winter on record.

Source: http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/steo/
Searching for aquatic invasive species

By Dara Olson, GLIFWC Aquatic Invasive Species Coord.

Odanah, Wis.—Aquatic invasive species (AIS) degrade aquatic ecosystems and treaty resources by outcompeting and displacing native species. Because of this, GLIFWC staff have worked cooperatively with other agencies to identify the presence of AIS in ceded territory waters since 2006.

In 2012, GLIFWC staff surveyed 31 lakes in northern Wisconsin and the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan for AIS in coordination with management partners including tribal natural resource departments, national forests, Wisconsin DNR, county AIS coordinators and various other local partners. Two hundred five invasive species sites comprising 23 species were mapped in 2012. In addition, manoomin was documented on five lakes and two native species of special concern were also documented.

AIS surveys targeted lakes with significant tribal orog (walleye) and manoomin (wild rice) harvest, as well as large lakes with lots of boat traffic or lakes close to infested waters. Because the majority of AIS are spread by watercraft, boat landings are one of the most likely areas for introduction of AIS. Consequently, boat landings are a focus of GLIFWC’s AIS surveys.

Sixty-three landings were surveyed for aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. A total of 162 plankton samples were collected and will be analyzed this winter for the presence of AIS. The majority of manoomin sites were mapped in 2012. In addition, manoomin was documented on five lakes and two native species of special concern were also documented.

For more information on invasive species distribution, see GLIFWC’s GIS maps on GLIFWC’s website at http://maps.glifwc.org/.

Cooperative fisheries surveys in Mille Lacs Lake

By GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Staff

Odanah, Wis.—For many years, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has used a fall gill net assessment survey to help monitor the walleye population in Mille Lacs Lake. The bottom-set gill net used in this survey is 6-feet deep and includes 50 foot panels of 0.75", 1.0", 1.25", 1.5", and 2.0" bar mesh. A variety of different habitat types are included in the survey, which is standardized to ensure that the same locations are sampled at the same approximate time and water temperatures each year. The resulting data are used in a variety of different ways and are an important component of the stock assessment models that are updated each year by state and tribal biologists.

In the early 1980’s the fall gill net assessment survey included 32 different nearshore locations and the perimeter of Mille Lacs Lake. In 1998, eight offshore sampling locations were added to the survey, and 12 additional offshore locations were subsequently added in 2002.

Earlier this year, state and tribal biologists began exploring the idea of deploying suspended standard dimension nets near some of the deeper netting locations to look at how well walleye are being sampled by the suspended nets that have historically been used by MnDNR.

In late summer, state and tribal biologists agreed on how this additional sampling would occur and made plans for this work to be completed in conjunction with the fall gill net assessment survey. A total of 21 locations in Mille Lacs Lake were sampled with suspended nets during the fall of 2012.

Participants in this cooperative project included personnel from the Mille Lacs Band, Fond du Lac Band, MnDNR, and GLIFWC. State and tribal personnel worked together on all aspects of the project, which included setting and lifting standard and suspended nets, processing catches and collecting biological data from captured fish, and data recording.

Although the catch rate for walleye from the suspended nets was much lower than that observed in the standard bottom-set nets, this type of sampling will need to be repeated before any conclusions can be drawn with respect to the results.

Looking ahead, state and tribal biologists are also planning to work together on a mark-recapture population estimate for adult walleye in Mille Lacs Lake during the spring of 2013. As with the mark-recapture studies from 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2008, results from the 2013 survey will provide an up-to-date estimate of adult walleye abundance that is independent from the model-generated estimates that are compiled upon to determine annual harvestable surplus levels.

State anglers and tribal harvesters should expect to see some walleye 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 “MNDNR” plus a number printed on them. Tribal and GLIFWC creel clerks will document tag numbers as they are encountered in tribal catches. Likewise, MnDNR will be collecting similar information from state anglers through its annual creel survey on Mille Lacs Lake.

Aquatic plant management workshop planned

On December 5, 2012 research scientists will be addressing tribal concerns on how aquatic invasive (or nuisance non-native) plants are being dealt with in ceded territory waters. The half-day workshop convening at the Lac Courte Oreilles Convention Center is open to all tribal representatives, natural resource staff, and interested tribal members.

Informal presentations will allow plenty of opportunity for tribes to get questions answered on the process of aquatic plant management. Highlighted will be the interaction of manoomin and invasives such as Eurasian watermilfoil and curly leaf pondweed.

Speakers will discuss treatment and management options for these invasive plants from mechanical removal to chemical herbicide applications, concentrations and dosages, and the effects of chemicals on aquatic systems.

If you are interested in learning more about this free workshop or plan to attend, please contact Sue Lemieux, GLIFWC at 715.682.6619 to be added to the participant list. An accurate head count will ensure that we have an adequate amount of meeting materials for all participants.

GLIFWC assessment crews survey ceded territory waters for juvenile walleye

By Mark Luehring, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—GLIFWC assessment crews and partners from Bad River, Fond du Lac, Mole Lake, St. Croix, and US Fish and Wildlife Service conducted fall electrofishing surveys on ceded territory waters in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. During the fall, juvenile walleye (age 0 and age 1) are found feeding in nearshore lake habitat at night. Electrofishing crews sample these fish to determine year-class strength from natural reproduction or to evaluate stocking efforts.

In 2012, GLIFWC crews surveyed 119 lakes, including ten joint surveys with Wisconsin DNR and two with Michigan DNR. Surveys in Wisconsin included some of the large flowages such as the 13,545-acre Turtle Flambeau Flowage and the 15,300-acre Chippewa Flowage. In Minnesota, GLIFWC, USFWS, and Fond du Lac crews collaborated to survey about 75% of the shoreline on Mille Lacs Lake. In Michigan, the Portage and Torch Lake system in Houghton County were surveyed in conjunction with Michigan DNR.

Biologists use the data collected in the fall surveys to index year-class strength and classify walleye populations as sustained through natural reproduction or stocking. These surveys also provide an early indication of potential decline in walleye populations. If fall surveys show failed natural reproduction several years in a row, biologists know some management action may need to be taken to protect the walleye population and restore natural reproduction.

The data from the 2012 surveys won’t be fully entered, proofed, and finalized until mid-December, but early reports indicate that, as in most years, some waters had good year-classes while others had weaker year-classes.

GLIFWC’s inland fisheries section would like to say miigwech to the electroshock-crew members!
Permit information for treaty hunters

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2011-2012 furbearer season successful

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Figures for the 2011-2012 off-reservation fur trapping season for ochig (fisher), nigti (otter) and gidagaga-bizhwi (bobcat) in Wisconsin topped the past three years, according to all species, according to a report from Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC Wildlife Section leader. (See table)

In Wisconsin 64 otters were harvested off-reservation in the 2011-2012 trapping season, an increase of 36 otters from the previous year. Trapping permits for otters were obtained by 100 tribal members, eleven of those trappers were successful, with six of those being from Lac Courte Oreilles. The most otters were harvested from Sawyer County (18), followed by Sawyer County (11).

The trapping season for otters and bobcats began October 1, 2011 and November 1 for fishers, while the bobcat hunting season started on September 7. All seasons closed on March 31, 2012. All harvested animals must be tagged and registered at a tribal registration station by 5:00 pm of the third working day following the harvest.

Tribal trappers in Wisconsin harvested a total of 175 fishers, primarily from management zones A and B. The most fishers were taken from Burnett County (29), although harvest was spread over 12 counties.

The number of bobcats harvested by trapping and hunting totaled 65, an increase of 26 bobcats from the previous season. Bobcat harvesting was spread over 11 counties, with the most harvested from Sawyer County (12), followed by Douglas County (10).

In 2010 GLIFWC received authority to operate a furbearer export program related to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). The CITES program requires that all otters and bobcats to be exported be registered and tagged with a CITES tag. A CITES tag is not required for other species such as muskrats, beaver, fox, coyote etc. are included in this permit. In order to trap any fisher, otter, bobcat species for which there is no tag or any registration requirement. Species such as muskrats, beaver, fox, coyote etc. are included in this permit.

For information from a local buyer, Groenewold Fur and Wool Company, see gfwco.com

—Compiled by Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Fall waterfowl season brings new opportunities to 1837 & 1842 ceded territory hunters

By Peter David
GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—The fall off-reservation waterfowl season offered some new or expanded hunting opportunities to tribal hunters in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories, including an increased bag limit with no duck species restrictions, an earlier start to the duck season, and the first ever Sandhill crane season.

Although the duck bag limit increased from 30 to 50 ducks, and restrictions on black ducks, pintails and canvassbacks (no more than nine each) in 2011 were removed, biologists don’t anticipate this change will significantly affect total tribal harvest. Like state-licensed hunters, tribal waterfowl hunters are currently hunted in several states and are currently hunted in several states.

Observers interested in learning to trap GLIFWC offers Trapping Education classes periodically (check GLIFWC website under “Outreach programs and classes”), with a class slated at St. Croix, December 8-9.

For information from a local buyer, Groenewold Fur and Wool Company, see gfwco.com


The number of fishers registered so far—just two—is very small, the expanding populations of Sandhills could provide another reason for interest in waterfowl hunters to take to the field. Despite these changes and others that have been made over the years, it has remained challenging to create a tribal waterfowl season that provides a true subsistence harvesting opportunity. As noted above, waterfowl hunting success tends to be quite limited under existing hunting provisions, and subsistence harvesting requires a certain level of fortune of acquisition of permits from individuals trying to provide for themselves, their families and others in the community. Providing more opportunities in hunting using methods of limited efficiency doesn’t really enhance the subsistence harvest. For this reason, GLIFWC continues to work with tribal representatives and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to try and improve tribal regulations each year.

One more opportunity that will be explored for next fall is a trumpeter swan season. Tundra swans are relatively abundant birds and are frequently hunted in several states outside the ceded territory. One challenge that tribal managers will face is protecting the much less common, but nearly identical looking trumpeter swans. However, through careful timing of the season and limiting the hunting geographically to areas heavily used by tundra swans but with relatively little trumpeter presence, it may be possible to add this species to the list of waterfowl available to tribal hunters.
Good news for lake trout recovery

GLIFWC assessment nets haul in a record number

By Bill Mattes, GLIFWC Great Lakes Biologist

Silver City, Mich.—As Gichigami (Lake Superior) begins to cool down, namekos (lake trout) seek out rocky reefs to spawn. Reefs pepper the shoreline of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, and from Union Bay reef just outside of Silver City to Big Bay Reef near Marquette, the GLIFWC crew of Mızhakwad ply the waters to set nets which provide an annual assessment for lake trout spawning stocks.

The assessment identifies discrete stocks and determines lake trout distribution, relative abundance and biological characteristics in the 1842 Treaty ceded area within Michigan waters of Lake Superior. These waters are important to the inter-tribal commercial fishery which provides about 40 part and full time jobs to tribal members. Add’kameg (lake whitefish) are the primary fish sought in the fishery; however, lake trout are likewise important to the fishery. Lake trout provide a high-end meal at local restaurants and are sold as a smoked fish product.

Ecologically, lake trout are important—they are a key predator on the invasive species rainbow smelt and are the key prey of the invasive sea lamprey. Without lake trout, smelt numbers would increase, and sea lamprey would find other fish to prey upon. Both would be bad for whitefish as smelt are known to prey on young whitefish, and sea lamprey will switch to whitefish as prey in the absence of lake trout.

At Union Bay reef, near Silver City, Michigan on the western end of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, the crew of Mızhakwad handled a record 586 lake trout, of which 495 were tagged and released during the October 15 to 18, 2012 assessment. This is good news. Waters adjacent to Union Bay reef were stocked with 1.9 million lake trout between 2007 and 2012, and prior to 2007 the lake trout population at Union Bay reef had declined to almost vanishing levels. This decline is being attributed to a shift to whitefish as prey in the absence of lake trout.

Since 1985, GLIFWC and its member tribes have worked cooperatively with the State of Michigan to assess the lake trout stock and limit mortality by setting lake trout harvest quotas for the inter-tribal fishery. The work is done in cooperation with the Wisconsin DNR, and focuses on studying the biology and the Ashland Fishery Resources Office, and focuses on studying the biology and distribution of namekos in the 1842 Treaty ceded area within Michigan waters of Lake Superior.

Recommended management strategies to improve lake trout distribution and abundance include increasing lake trout harvest quotas for the inter-tribal fishery which provides about 40 part and full time jobs to tribal members. During this time, Great Lakes Technician Mike Plucinski has led the efforts to assess namekos (lake sturgeon) near the mouth of the Bad River. Relative abundance, which is the namekos (lake sturgeon) near the mouth of the Bad River. Relative abundance, which is determined by the number of namekos captured divided by the amount of net set, has trended in a positive direction since 1995 (see graph).

During this time, Great Lakes Technician and the Ashland Fishery Resources Office, and focuses on studying the biology and distribution of namekos in and around the Bad River Reservation’s boundary with Lake Superior. Each fish gets an individually numbered tag received one courtesy of the GLIFWC staff members. In addition to the PIT tag each fish gets an individually numbered Floy tag. The tags individually identify a fish so that its movement and growth can be tracked over time.

Fish tagged by GLIFWC staff have been recaptured during assessment netting near the mouth of the Bad River, by Wisconsin DNR nets set for lake sturgeon in Chequamegon Bay near the Ashland breakwall and for lake trout off the mouth of the Bad River. Tagged namekos have also been caught by fishers fishing from Marble Point (five miles east of the Bad River mouth) to LaPointe, Wisconsin on Madeline Island to Houghton Point in Chequamegon Bay. In 2010 a fish tagged as a juvenile was recaptured during the spring spawning run for the first time since the surveys began. Namekos do not spawn for the first time until they are between 7 and 14 years old for males and females, respectively. Fish captured during the summer surveys are generally less than seven years old.

GLIFWC assessment nets haul in a record number

By Bill Mattes, GLIFWC Great Lakes Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—The trend is positive for namekos (lake sturgeon) near the mouth of the Bad River. Relative abundance, which is the number of namekos captured divided by the amount of net set, has trended in a positive direction since 1995 (see graph).

During this time, Great Lakes Technician Mike Plucinski has led the efforts to assess namekos (lake sturgeon) near the mouth of the Bad River. The study was initiated in 1994 in anticipation of the Lake Superior Technical Committee’s lake sturgeon rehabilitation plan, which directs agencies “to collect information on the biological characteristics of lake sturgeon so that its movement and growth can be tracked over time.”

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Relative Abundance

Population going up near Bad River

The crew of Mızhakwad (clockwise from bottom left), Dave Parisien boxes the net; Sam Quagon prepares to record data; Mike Plucinski captains the boat, and Ed Leoso awaits the first fish. (photo by S. Ben Michaels)

Ed Leoso removes namekos to be tagged and released at Buffalo Reef near Gay, Michigan. (photo by S. Ben Michaels)

Jessica Ratkes, Northland College intern, removes a juvenile nameko from a gill net set off the mouth of the Bad River. (photo by Mike Plucinski)
What Tsagaglalal sees—day

GLIFWC’s Northwest counterparts recover Columbia River fisheries

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Portland, Ore.—This year Tsagaglalal (She who Watches) watched as a record number of sockeye salmon returned to the Columbia River. By the end of the season, a total of 25,089,953 sockeye returned, which is a 108% increase over last year and over the 31-year average of 11,465,646 sockeye returning. The return of the sockeye salmon is a water’s edge watched by tribes, people, and scientists alike as they are a vital component of the Columbia River ecosystem.

Tsagaglalal watched the fishery falter and her people’s traditional fishing grounds, such as the popular Celilo Falls, were flooded over and lost. But this year, she must have smiled in her heart to watch greater numbers of salmon return up the great gushing Columbia River.

She could also smile to see in-lieu fishing sites finally completed for the treaty fishers—long promised by the federal government for the fishing grounds that were flooded. In-lieu sites are designated areas for tribal fishers only and include boat access roads, parking, boat ramps, docks, fish cleaning tables, net racks, drying sheds, restrooms, shelters and mechanical buildings. The last of 31 in-lieu sites was completed and dedicated in 2012. “The sites are a good sign of progress and show that we can accomplish these things when we work together,” says Sam Thompson, public information officer for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC).

In 1997 and more recently to the recovery of Pacific lamprey, a traditional food used at feasts and ceremonies. The tribes’ reliance on salmon and Pacific lamprey is an inseparable part of tribal culture.

Committed to the recovery of the fishery on which the tribal culture depends, CRITFC and its member tribes have worked for 30 years toward the goal of fish recovery. Between the tribes and CRITFC, 450 staff work toward the goal of fish recovery today. Numerous hatcheries run as a result, putting fish back into the system, while also watching the genetics of the strains they raise and release.

A handout from CRITFC explains, “As the Columbia River runs straight, so do the lamprey. They swim straight up the river, they do not turn back. lamprey miraculously climb up—a phenomenon difficult to imagine. According to CRITFC Captain Jerry Ekker. “Our goal is to keep our fishers safe on water and on land.” Safety is a focus of CRITFC’s member tribes, and they continually pursue rules requiring safety gear on boats as well.

While monitoring the fishery is a primary task, CRITFC enforcement also is responsible for protection of the resources, monitoring and maintaining the in-lieu fishing sites, and, uniquely, protecting archeological sites. “With 10,000 years of proven occupation on the Columbia, there are many areas of archeological and historic interest. (See CRITFC, page 18)

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

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**Family business built from the ground up**

**Peterson Fish Market celebrates 20 years**

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Hancock, Mich.—Although Gilmore and Pat Peterson celebrated the 20th year of their successful fish market in 2012, Gilmore actually has spent a lifetime aboard commercial fishing tugs on Lake Superior and has weathered Gichigami’s many moods while making a living for his family.

A Red Cliff tribal member and a fourth generation commercial fisherman, Gilmore learned the trade from his father Wilfred, the same as Wilfred learned from his father. Today, Gilmore’s three sons, Chris, Joel and Matt, ply the waters aboard the tugs Three Sons and more recently, the Charleen. Through the seasons they bring in the all-important catch of whitefish and lake trout that support their families—all of whom work at the Peterson’s Fish Market in Hancock, Michigan and the adjacent “fish and chips” café, Four Suns. “We all work here,” says Pat, Gilmore’s bride of 43 years, “sons, daughter-in-laws, grandkids, we all work here processing fish or in the café.” Petersons employ nineteen people about two-thirds of those are family.

It’s hard work for all, says Pat, pleased the business has grown as a result of that hard work. “We started here twenty years ago, with twenty dollars in the till. We made twenty dollars the first day, and I thought—well, at least we have twenty more dollars than we had in the morning.”

The Petersons are committed to regularly supplying fish to restaurants, grocery stores, their own Four Suns café, and keeping a stock in their store where locals and tourists stop in to buy fresh or smoked fish. Petersons Fish Market processes about a ton of fish every other day. If Petersons cannot supply that themselves, they buy from other fishermen or fish buyers, and they always maintain full freezers to tide them over when the seasons are closed or weather becomes prohibitive.

The tugs are heavy and well-built, capable of breaking through ice when winter sets in and the cold threatens to ice the boats in. It can be a rugged life on the lake, but the life of fishermen and ties to the lake seem to run in Peterson blood. Years ago Gilmore had schooled to be a machinist, but returned to the lake. Their oldest son Chris studied to by a physical therapist, but returned to the lake and the life of a fisherman.

Bringing in enough fish is the biggest challenge, says Pat, but there are many challenges behind that goal—like maintaining the boats, maintaining nets, learning the fishery and finding the fish.

Peterson’s Fish Market is one of several fish businesses run by tribal families. They are inter-generational family businesses, proud of their products, ways of dealing with waste and using the entire fish, possibly for pellets, fertilizer or even fish oils. The café will expand and provide more indoor seating and a larger kitchen, and Pat foresees a gift shop.

The Petersons are part of a long tradition of commercial fishing among Wisconsin’s Lake Superior tribes. Avid subsistence fishermen prior to European settlement, the Lake Superior Ojibwe quickly found Gichigami’s fish to be a valued trade item once explorers penetrated to this inland sea. Tribal fishermen traded fish harvested from birch bark canoes, using gill nets made from twisted and knotted strips of Willow bark.

As more and more settlers pushed into the Lake Superior region, non-Indian commercial fishing began to take hold with the use of large boats and massive nets. In fact, the 1930s fishing boom, coupled with the introduction of the lake trout-killing sea lamprey via shipping, nearly devastated the lake trout population by 1960 and severely diminished other lake Superior species, such as whitefish.

Since that time state regulations have been in place to aid in the recovery of the fishery with stricter limits on commercial fishing. State regulations were applied to tribal fishers as well, despite their treaty-rights retained right to hunt, fish and gather in ceded territories and Lake Superior. In order to assert the treaty right, Red Cliff’s former tribal chairman and commercial fisherman Richard Gurnoe went to court. In 1972, the Wisconsin Supreme Court affirmed the treaty right for signatory tribes to commercially fish Lake Superior and to self-regulate that fishery in the Gurnoe decision.

Ultimately, the treaty tribes formed the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) to jointly manage the Lake Superior tribal commercial fishery as well as off-reservation inland hunting, fishing and gathering activities in the ceded territories. Tribal commercial fisherman in Lake Superior primarily target adikameg (whitefish), but also fish for lake trout, sturgeon, herring, and salmon. Tribal commercial fishing is regulated through tribal codes as well as through negotiated agreements with the state of Wisconsin for the Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior. Quotas are set and adhered to. GLIFWC and tribal fisheries biologists monitor the fishery through annual assessments and work with state, federal and tribal agencies on restoration and enhancement efforts as well as participate in the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, an international convention. GLIFWC wardens as well as tribal wardens enforce tribal codes on tribal commercial fishing activity and cite violations into tribal court. Many of the tribes maintain hatcheries stocking species such as ogaa (walleye), asaawe (perch), namekos (lake trout), and coaster brook trout.

GLIFWC staff also assist with marketing efforts, providing training in fishing handling techniques to assure high quality products that meet federal safety standards. The tribes and GLIFWC are watchful of Gichigami, thankful for the sustenance it has provided through generations. Maintenance of a strong fishery with healthy fish, free from pollutants, is important to the fishing tribes. Consequently, both tribal and GLIFWC staff work to preserve and enhance this tremendous resource, watchful for potential negative impacts from developments and invasive species.

The family-owned and managed Peterson’s Fishery is one of several fish businesses run by tribal families. They are inter-generational family businesses, proud of their products, built battling Gichigami’s variable moods, and stem from an ancient lifestyle that has long supported the native people on Gichigami’s shores.
**Enforcement news briefs**

**By: Sue Erickson, Staff Writer & Heather Naigus, Eastern District Warden**

**GLIFWC officers assist in marijuana bust**

Ten GLIFWC officers were among about 200 federal, state, county, and tribal law enforcement personnel involved in the investigation and August 29 bust of a marijuana growing operation in Wisconsin. Found in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF), the large-scale operation about 60 miles northwest of Green Bay near the town of Lakewood was eradicated. Seven people were arrested in conjunction with the bust.

Multiple cultivation sites containing thousands of marijuana plants made eradication a major effort. The bulk of the plants were destroyed and others retrieved for evidence, according to Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission’s (GLIFWC) Chief of Enforcement Fred Maulson.

GLIFWC officers assisted with perimeter control during the operation. GLIFWC has assisted with similar busts over the past three years, including the 2013 eradication of another CNNF marijuana grow site in Ashland County, Wisconsin.

Because of the increased incidence of marijuana cultivation within the ceded territories, Maulson says GLIFWC officers receive additional training focused on increased awareness and the potential of confrontation with growers.

**GLIFWC officers participate in training**

Ten GLIFWC officers traveled to South Carolina this fall to participate in a five-day course on “man tracking” offered by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

GLIFWC officers also assisted with “observation-and-tactical” training during the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society’s Midwest Region annual conference at the Bay Mills reservation in Michigan last September.

**Moccasin making class**

GLIFWC Officers Mike Popovich and Lauren Tuori were pleased to partner with Rosalie Gokee, LCO Legal Department secretary, for a Moccasin Making class in Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) this fall. Youth gathered for the workshop over the weekend and were treated to an educational experience focused on increased awareness and the potential of confrontation with growers.

GLIFWC sends a big MIIGWECH (thank you) to Gokee and all who participated. This free workshop was sponsored by a grant through the partnership with Rosalie Gokee, LCO Legal Department secretary, for a Moccasin Making class in Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) this fall. Youth gathered for the workshop over the weekend and were treated to an educational experience focused on increased awareness and the potential of confrontation with growers.

**GLIFWC Warden Heather Naigus, appointed Chair of Great Lakes Law Enforcement Committee**

GLIFWC would like to congratulate Eastern District Warden, Heather Naigus, who became the Chair of the Great Lakes Law Enforcement Committee (LAW) this fall.

LAW is a committee of the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission that serves to protect, enhance and promote the safe and wise use of the natural resources in the Great Lakes for present and future generations. LAW is made up of law enforcement representatives from resource agencies around the Great Lakes, including Canada.

**Editor’s note:** See News Briefs, page 7 for upcoming events.

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**2012/2013 GLIFWC enforcement youth activities/education**

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<td>Robin Arunagiri 715.889.0734</td>
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<td>February 3-9, 2013</td>
<td>Bad River</td>
<td>Vern Stone 715.292.8662</td>
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<td>ATV/ Snowmobile</td>
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<td>Mole Lake</td>
<td>Roger McGeshick 715.889.3200 Adam McGeshick 715.209.7217</td>
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<td>Trapping 101</td>
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<td>Boater Safety</td>
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<td>Take a kid fishing</td>
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For updated information on these events and others please be sure to check our website at www.glifwc.org or visit us on Facebook.
Grand Rapids, Minn.—When manoomin (wild rice) dishes appear at GLIFWC feasts or on the tables of staff at holidays, there’s a good chance it came from Jim Merham, a White Earth tribal member and a manoomin processor. GLIFWC purchases manoomin from Jim as well as maple syrup, both used for gifts or feasts as well as for a small stash for staff who want to purchase a pound or two of the “good berry.”

GLIFWC’s first contact with our “Mr. Manoomin,” supplier of wild rice, came at one of the early, frosty ceremonies at Sandy Lake, Minnesota in December 2000. Hearing about the sunrise ceremony to take place on the radio, Jim arrived around 5:30 a.m. on a morning that sparkled with frost-laden branches, and then he waited and waited until everyone else, apparently with a different concept of sunrise, arrived around 8:00 a.m. or after. Since that morning, he has been a regular at the annual ceremonies commemorating the tragic events at Sandy Lake, at one time the home of his ancestors before they were removed to White Earth.

Currently, a resident of Grand Rapids, Jim learned many of his native skills from his grandparents at White Earth, participating as a youth in full-blown family ricing camps each fall with grandma and grandpa, aunts, uncles, cousins, sisters and brothers. Similarly, he learned to tap the maples in the spring. He still participates in both activities, but has brought them to a new level—with automation and technology.

He is able to tap from 1,700 to 2,500 maple trees, using a mechanized hose and vacuum system within a large maple stand. However, after two or three springs, he has now brought his equipment home and plans to tap locally. Changing weather patterns have made for poor maple sap runs which rely on a “freeze-at-night—thaw-in-the-day” pattern. After a harsh winter, he returns to White Earth to rice, then heads back home to start up his processing. “Once that starts, I’m at it all day until its done, non-stop.” Currently, he has five Barker and Basswood strips which he says are “the real good ones.”

Jim also harvests birch bark, strips basswood like his Grandma told him and in the 1960s built 22 wigwams jaamaanin (bark birch canoes). Years ago he used a 14-foot birch bark canoe when trapping, but traded it for a new Remington. He also brain tans hides, another skill taught him by Grandma on the rez. By trade, Jim is a carpenter and cabinet maker. In fact, he traded a custom bathroom cabinet for a birch bark hullaer when he was starting up rice processing.

But with all that said, Jim is really a man of music, in love with his several guitars and those country tunes—and that’s where he spends his spare hours. Actually, Jim, his brother Gerry and sister Elizabeth performed as the Merhar Trio, traveling to play performances in the U.S., Canada, France and Germany. Jim’s father, who worked in the mines as a master electrician, took his kids about 80 miles to Bemidji every Saturday for guitar lessons and then followed through by making them practice an hour a day and a half every day. Jim started playing in 1952.

His dad’s effort panned out as the trio became professional, eventually landing in Nashville, playing back-up for some of the big names in country music. But the music business is a hard one to make it and that trio broke up. “They bring it to me to process and I tell them no, this is too big for the processing. ‘I know, but just try one.’” So they did and he sold about 800 pounds which was a big break for him. However, he has no patience for the “early birds”—people who begin ricing before its ready. “They bring it to me to process two weeks before the rice is even ready. I won’t do it. They have to wait. You have to wait until the rice is dark brown, almost black and falls easily,” he says. He also gets impatient with folks who pound the rice, breaking the stalks and harming the plants, conscious that such harvesting techniques destroy chances for regeneration.

Jim also visits his hometown, Little Sand Bay in Wisconsin. Shifting water temperatures can also encourage the growth of some AIS and alter the turnover rate of the water columns, causing water depleted of oxygen to remain in the depths longer than previously. There have also been links between climate change and severe weather events, such as the flooding in Duluth earlier this year, which can dramatically increase the amount of sediment and chemicals released into the Lakes. The Protocol attempts to address these concerns by requiring the United States and Canada to coordinate efforts to identify, quantify, understand, and predict the impacts climate change may have on the integrity of the water in the Great Lakes.

The Protocol alters the management of the agreement, creating a Great Lakes Executive Committee (GLEC) to head implementation. In addition to the two federal governments, membership in the GLEC could include representatives from tribal, state, provincial, and municipal governments, first nations, Métis, and public stakeholders. There will also be a Great Lakes Water Quality Board and a Great Lakes Science Advisory Board to provide policy and research advice to the International Joint Commission on the health of the water of the Great Lakes. Outside of the Protocol, the Great Lakes Advisory Board is a stakeholder board recently established by the Environment Protection Agency to advise the EPA Administrator, on Great Lakes protection and restoration policy, long-term goals and objectives for Great Lakes protection and restoration, and annual priorities to protect and restore the Great Lakes that may be used to help inform budget decisions.

Every three years, a Great Lakes Public Forum will be held to seek input and advice from the public on the state of the Lakes, on binational priorities, and the progress of the Protocol on achieving its objectives. While the International Joint Commission will provide a progress report to the two countries every three years, the effectiveness of the Protocol will be assessed by the two countries every nine years.
Gearing up for year 2 in the “Mino Wiisinidaa!” Project

By LaTisha (McRoy) Coffin, ANA SEDS Coordinator

The “Mino Wiisinidaa! (Let’s Eat Good!)—Traditional Foods for Healthy Living” project staff have been hard at work collecting, testing, and finalizing traditional food recipes and getting ready to host a cooking demonstration near you!

Starting in January 2013, the project staff will be hosting cooking demonstrations with the following tribal communities: Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, Red Cliff, Bad River, St. Croix, and Lac Courte Oreilles. Each tribal community will be hosting around three cooking demonstrations, except Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, and St. Croix, who will host four because of their community size. In September 2013, the project staff will then host three cooking demonstrations with: Mole Lake, Lac Vieux Desert, Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay, and Lac du Flambeau.

During the cooking demonstrations, the project staff will be preparing traditional foods and recipes as well as answering nutritional questions. The focus groups for these demonstrations include tribal youth, elders, and families. By working with various tribal health and youth departments, the project staff hopes to introduce better eating habits with families, especially with traditional Anishinaabe foods. The project staff will be distributing a survey during the demonstrations in order to better understand tribal perspectives on traditional foods, and survey participants will be entered into a drawing for a kitchen-related prize.

Over the summer, the project staff met with a number of tribal elders new to the “Mino Wiisinidaa!” project and are finalizing new recipes for the cooking demonstrations. Franny Van Zile and Fred Ackley, Sr. of Mole Lake discussed the health benefits of wild rice and shared their recipe for Mole Lake “lobster,” using fish fillets and paprika. Bill and Patty Chosa from Keweenaw Bay spent two days cooking with the project staff and prepared healthy recipes with ingredients not used every day, such as chia seeds, bulgur wheat, and wild tofu. (See “Makin’ the change,” page 22)

Finally, the project hired a new community dietician: Owen Holly Maroney. Originally from South Carolina, Maroney graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University before working with Purdue University as a Nutrition Research Assistant. (See “Nutrition education is her game” below)

Elder participation needed!

The Mino Wiisinidaa! Project seeks to include participation from Bay Mills, Lac Vieux Desert and St. Croix tribal elders as we develop our inventory of traditional foods recipes. We are especially interested in fish recipes and welcome donated recipes. In addition to traditional recipes, the program is looking for tribal community members who have experience in preparing healthy recipes with ingredients not used every day, such as chia seeds, bulgur wheat, and wild tofu.

The project will continuously gather recipes throughout the next two years of the project, and the project will culminate with a recipe book at the end of the third year. If you are interested in working with the project staff or would like more information about the “Mino Wiisinidaa!” project, please contact Owen Holly Maroney at (715) 682.6619 ext. 2147, or by email: omaroney@glifwc.org. Also, LaTisha Coffin at (715) 682.6619 ext. 2128, or by email: lmccroy@glifwc.org.

The “Mino Wiisinidaa! (Let’s Eat Good!)—Traditional Foods for Healthy Living” grant is funded by the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), ACF and U.S. Department of HHS.

Contact us with recipes!

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The “Mino Wiisinidaa! (Let’s Eat Good!)—Traditional Foods for Healthy Living” grant is funded by the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), ACF and U.S. Department of HHS.

Granola with Puffed Wild Rice and Dried Blueberries

(Makes about 7 cups)

3 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
2 cups raw puffed wild rice, hulled
1 1/4 cups raw walnut halves, left whole or coarsely chopped
1/2 cup pure maple syrup
1/2 cup sunflower seed oil
1/2 cup packed light brown sugar or maple syrup
1 tbsp. coarse salt, plus extra to taste
1/2 cup dried blueberries
1/2 cup dried cranberries
1/2 cup puffed wild rice

Heat oven to 300°F. Place oats, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, walnuts, syrup, sunflower seed oil, sugar, and 1 teaspoon salt in a large bowl and mix until well combined.

Spread granola mixture in an even layer on a rimmed baking sheet. Transfer to oven and bake, stirring every 10-15 minutes, until granola is toasted, about 45 minutes. Remove granola from oven and season with more salt to taste. Let cool completely then add dried berries and puffed wild rice. Store granola in an airtight container for up to 1 month.

Tips:

- Use small amounts of nuts and seeds in your recipe to keep its flavor intact.
- Use puffed wild rice, use ⅓ – ½ cup oil in sauce pan and heat for about 10 minutes over medium-high heat. Add ⅛ cup of wild rice to oil, in small manageable batches. The wild rice will immediately pop. Use a slotted spoon to scoop out wild rice before it burns. Drain on paper towel and cool. Makes about 1 cup of puffed wild rice.

Nutrition education is her game

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Owen Maroney. (photo by SE)

The “Mino Wiisinidaa! (Let’s Eat Good!)—Traditional Foods for Healthy Living” project distributed a preliminary pre-demonstration survey to a number of tribal offices, including food distribution offices and nutrition departments. Approximately 70 surveys were returned, with completed surveys being entered to a drawing for one of three Cuisinart Mini Prep Food Processors. Here are the winners:

- Joe Matrouin, Sr.—Danbury, Wisconsin
- Carol Suari—Ashland, Wisconsin
- William Campbell—Mora, Minnesota

Thank you for your participation in our preliminary survey! Want a chance to be entered into a drawing? Attend an upcoming cooking demonstration near you and fill out a survey! Be on the lookout for details in your community.

Owen Maroney. (photo by SE)

Congratulations Preliminary survey winners

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—LaTisha Coffin

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Nutrition education is her game

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Owen Maroney. (photo by SE)

The “Mino Wiisinidaa! (Let’s Eat Good!)—Traditional Foods for Healthy Living” program is Community Dietitian Owen Maroney. Starting with GLIFWC on September 7, Owen plunged right into the second year of a three-year healthy eating grant program already in full swing.

Owen grew up in Charleston, South Carolina and attended Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia where she obtained a degree in Nutrition Science Program. Her work there was more on the technical side, examining bio-markers in blood and urine in order to better understand the relationship between what a person has consumed and how it appears in the body.

She was attracted to the position with GLIFWC because of its community orientation that offers her more time interacting with people. She says she enjoys working with diverse communities, especially with nutrition education because it’s so important to long term health. Sharing recipes with and from tribal members and eventually doing demonstrations on the reservations will provide her with many opportunities for interaction.

Currently, Owen resides in Ashland. She likes to run, enjoys cooking at home, and hopes to explore the northland’s diverse opportunities for outdoor activities. She may even give cross-country skiing a try this winter.
MAZINA’IGAN PAGE 18   •   EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS   •   WINTER 2012/2013

New language resource targets Native pre-teens and teens

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Maadaadiziwin (The Journey) tells the story of an Ojibwe boy’s travels into manhood as he steps from childhood and returns to the traditional teachings of his grandfather. His many adventures and learning experiences are related entirely in Ojibwemowin. In comic format Hudson Gauthier’s narrative provides insights into the unique relationship of the Anishinaabe and the natural world.

Drastically illustrated by Valeta Kaquatish throughout, the story is a visual adventure as well. Designed as a tool for those learning Ojibwemowin, the 20-page comic requires the reader to translate from Ojibwemowin; no English translation is provided.

The project was funded by the Human Rights Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and produced in collaboration with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). The commission’s website. If you would like to sign-up to receive an email notice with a link to the digital flipbook, go to http://www.glifwc.org/publications/SpearingFlipbook/index.html.

Copies of Maadaadiziwin are available for $8.00. Contact Andy Gokee at UW-Stevens Point, email agokee@uwsp.edu.

Mazina’igan Digital Flipbook

Beginning with this edition, you will have the option of receiving Mazina’igan as a digital flipbook. Instead of receiving a copy in the mail, you will receive an email notice with a link to the digital flipbook.

This online edition will be a full-color flipbook that can be read online, downloaded to a PDF, or printed. There is an option to view pages of Mazina’igan as full pages, thumbnail images or use the zoom feature to zoom into your favorite section. Additional benefit is that flipbooks are environmentally friendly, and they save postage and printing costs.

To view an example of a recently completed flipbook, go to http://www.glifwc.org/publications/SpearingFlipbook/index.html.

If you choose the online edition, you will be notified via email—approximately a week before the Mazina’igan is mailed—that the Mazina’igan is available to view online. The email will contain a link that will allow you to view the Mazina’igan on GLIFWC’s website. If you would like to sign-up to receive Mazina’igan electronically, please email lynne@glifwc.org or phone 715.685.2108.

CRITFC

(Continued from page 13)

Treaty rights DVD from GLIFWC

Treaties: Connections to Land & Water

Ideal for classroom use, an 18-minute DVD with study guide discusses Ojibwe treaty rights in the context of the 21st Century, revealing the deep connection to natural resources that continues to characterize Ojibwe culture and lifeways today.

Along with an explanation of the nature of the rights and regulation, the discussion also includes personal commentaries from tribal members involved in the exercise of off-reservation treaty rights. DVD plus Treaties Study Guide are available through GLIFWC for $12.00.

Also available and compatible with the DVD are the 2011 posters featuring the Ojibwe Flood Story with artwork by Ojibwe artist Wes Bellanger (see page 20). One copy of the poster is free. Additional copies are available for $2.00 each, plus postage fees.

To order the DVD and/or the poster contact GLIFWC at PO Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861; email lynne@glifwc.org or order online at www.glifwc.org.

Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa

The book, “Plants Used By The Great Lakes Ojibwa,” is available in abridged and unabridged versions through GLIFWC’s Public Information Office.

The unabridged version includes a brief description of the plant and its use, a reproduced line drawing, and a map showing approximately where each plant is distributed within the ceded territories. This version also includes tables which are sorted by the Ojibwe, scientific, and common names so that looking up a particular plant is made easier.

The abridged version only includes the tables mentioned above, no maps or line drawings.

The unabridged versions are $20.00 each and the abridged versions are $6.25 plus postage (please call 715.685.2108 for postage fees). Plant books can be ordered online at http://www.glifwc.org/publications/index.html. Or you can mail your order to GLIFWC, Public Information Office, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

Additional shipping charges apply to orders shipped outside the US. Please call for pricing.

CRITFC’s Buck Jones holds up a beautiful steelhead salmon coming through the system at Bonneville Dam. 2012 had a record number of sockeye salmon—the highest return since the dam was built in the 1930s. (SE)
The following insights on the evolution of the Ojibwe language were given to us by Larry “Amik” Smallwood from the Lake Lena community of Mille Lacs, Minnesota. This teaching was collected as part of the Administration for Native Americans-funded language project, “Gidazidzokanaamininig—Our stories.”

The goal of this project is to document and preserve stories of traditional Anishinaabe cultural practices from speakers of the language. Each story and/or teaching is recorded, transcribed and translated with the speaker’s approval and guidance.

These teachings will then be compiled into an Ojibwe language resource book with accompanying audio CD of each speaker. 4,000 of these books will be printed and distributed to the GLIFWC member tribes at no cost to the communities. The distribution of this material is scheduled for the summer of 2013. This project is coordinated by Wesley Ballinger, ANA language specialist.

Amik (artwork by Wesley Ballinger)
Squanto:
The Patuxet Indian who helped make Thanksgiving happen

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Tisquantum, known as Squanto, was a Patuxet Indian who helped the people of the Mayflower survive the first winter in what they called the “New World.” He had a lot to do with making the “first Thanksgiving” happen.

Squanto spoke English so was able to talk with the pilgrims. He could speak English because English explorers kidnapped him from his home in what is now the state of Massachusetts. After years of travel, probably as a slave, Squanto got home to find few of his tribe remained. They had died from a terrible sickness, and the village was empty. Squanto and explorer Thomas Dermer were confronted by people from the neighboring Wampanoag tribe, and Squanto was taken captive by them.

When the pilgrims landed at the site of the old Patuxet village in 1620, the Wampanoag leader Massasoit sent Squanto to talk with the new people. Squanto became friends with the pilgrims who were having a very hard time living in this new land.

It was Squanto who showed them how to plant corn and fertilize it with fish. He showed them how to get sap from the trees and how to catch eels. He showed them what plants could be eaten or used for medicine and which could make you sick. He also helped get trade going between the settlers and the area’s tribes.

In the fall of 1621, the new settlers were happy to have a good harvest and decided to have a feast. Their crops had grown well, and they had enough food for the winter—thanks to all the helpful tips from Squanto. Some of the men went out to shoot birds for the meal, probably wild turkey and geese.

The shots from the hunters’ guns were heard in the Wampanoag village and they thought there might be some kind of attack taking place. So, Massasoit with ninety warriors came to the new settlement only to find a big feast was going on.

Although they had lots of food on the table, there wasn’t enough for ninety more people! So, Massasoit sent his men to hunt deer to add to the feast. They came back with five deer and stayed for three days. This is considered the first Thanksgiving.

A year later, in 1622 Squanto himself died of a fever. The governor of the colony at the time, William Bradford, wrote that Squanto’s death was “a great loss.”

The pilgrims and the Wampanoag had an agreement to protect each other, but it only lasted about 50 years. Many of the Wampanoag people were killed in a war with England called King Phillips War. The Wampanoag lost the war and many of the men were taken as slaves. Others fled the area. As more and more English settlers arrived in New England, land was swindled and diseases also took many Wampanoag lives. Few of the Wampanoag remained.

(Information for this account was taken from Squanto, Friend to the Pilgrims www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/squanto.htm)

Thanksgiving secret message decoder puzzle

Decode and solve the secret Thanksgiving phrase. Fill in the blanks with the letter that matches each picture in the box below.

Wampanoags/People of the First Light

The descendants of the Wampanoags still live in their homeland, now known as Martha’s Vineyard. There are two federally recognized Wampanoag tribes, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, also known as the Aquinnah Wampanoag, and the Mashpee Wampanoag.

1911 illustration of Tisquantum, or Squanto, teaching the Plymouth colonists to plant mandaamin (corn) using fish. (illustration from Wikipedia.com)
Biboo—When it is Winter


(When it is winter, I am skillful at cooking. I cut them those potatoes to pieces. I boil them those potatoes on the stove. I fry them those fish. I tear it apart that cabbage. I slice them those tomatoes. I bake this blueberry pie. I call to them children and husband.

I say. “Come here! Please all of you sit! All you eat. It tastes good.” They say, “Thank you!”)

Bezhig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN
(Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Wagbooz—as in father
Miigwech—as in jav
Aaniin—as in seen
Mooz—as in moon
—Short Vowels: A, I, O
Goojitoon! Try it!
—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in Aaw.
—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN
ODAMINOWIN
(word play)

Down:
1. It is cold weather.
2. after
3. one
5. every
7. you

Across:
3. It is windy.
4. S/he cooks.
6. It is sunny.
8. no

Translators:
Niizh—2

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

A. Gii-wendad.—It was easy.
C. Sa’oo-tamewissi wasaanibeewenidami. Miinibaashkimikinaasibitoos.
D. It is snowing.—Zoogipon.
E. It freezes.—Noodin.
F. It is winter.—Biboon.
G. It is sunny.—Waaseyaa.
H. There is no echo.—Baswewemagad.
I. It is beautiful.—Miikawaadad.

Niizho—as in only
Dash—as in about
—Short Vowels: A, I, O
Mooz—as in moon
Aaniin—as in seen
Miigwech—as in jay
Waabooz—as in father
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

VII’s It is verbs. Negation
1st: Gaawiin & add zinoo or sinoon.
Gaawiin — it is not.
—g
—sinoon
K
—zinoo

Goojitoon! Try it!
Translation below.

2. Biitian — gaawiin ninwewendamii.
3. Biboo, zaqanigoozinaag. Ozhitaag!
5. Gaawiin baswewemaga onna noongom.


**Makin’ the change**

**Dropping 300 points off the cholesterol count**

**By Sue Erickson**  
**Staff Writer**

Odanah, Wis.—When Bill Chosa, Keweenaw Bay tribal member, finally went to the doctor about ten years ago, he found out his cholesterol was a whopping 487. He had been chomping his way towards 200 pounds and a heart attack or stroke.

“Told Bill, ‘please you have to let me help change your eating habits,’” relates his wife, Patty. Bill’s family has been plagued with diseases such as diabetes, cancer, lupus and gluten intolerance.

The writing on the wall didn’t look good for Bill if change didn’t happen, and a lot had to do with what he was putting in his mouth.

That’s when the Chosa’s eating choices began to change, slowly at first. “No cookies, no cakes, no cheese, no chips...no dairy, little or no meat,” says Patty, but rather lots of fiber! By trial and error the couple began finding healthier, more natural alternatives for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks.

“The Creator did not design us to eat the way we do. Native people don’t have the gene to metabolize simple carbohydrates. Look at what the Creator gave the Native Americans to eat...fiber and protein, even the meat, like venison, is lean,” points out Patty. With a commitment to change, Patty and Bill created a new eating lifestyle—one that features vegetables and high protein beans and lentils. Patty makes a substitute for cheese, makes waffles and breads using no white flour, uses honey for a sweetener. She says pumpernickel rye is the healthiest bread because it has a low glycemic index, allowing the sugar to dissolve in the blood stream slowly, keeping you full and the glucose level down.

In six weeks, Bill’s cholesterol level dropped to 139. The doctor couldn’t believe it. Bill’s weight has also leveled off around 158.

Change was slow at first and required a fair amount of experimenting. With patience and persistence over the years, they have created a very pleasing menu without the use of boxed or canned goods.

“We have also made dishes that were quickly crossed off the menu,” Bill says. But through trial and error and some research, they have learned to cook tasty meals without sugar, cheese, preservatives, food coloring and a gamut of undecipherable chemical ingredients.

Happy to share what they have learned, the couple taught an eight-week healthy cooking class at Keweenaw Bay.

“We just showed people how to cook with healthy ingredients and cook it so it tastes good, too,” Patty explains.

While diet is important, Bill also notes he walks two to three miles a day and drinks lots of water — also significant elements in makin’ the change.

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer

**Walking the red (meat) road**

Odanah, Wis.—When it comes to healthier living choices, hunting and eating white-tailed deer is one of the easiest you’ll ever make. Walking ceded territory forests, combing its hills, and negotiating vast wetlands equals great exercise and lungfuls of fresh air. With a hunting and eating white-tailed deer

**Walking ceded territory forests,**

is one of the easiest you’ll ever make.

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Veteran boughers go deep into the woods for Christmas profits

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Red Cliff, Wis.—When Bayfield dons its festive garb of garlands and wreaths for the Christmas season, holiday shoppers can thank the efforts of a veteran bough-picking team from the nearby Red Cliff reservation. Pickers Larry “JR” Deragon Jr., Marty Duffy and Tammy Duffy have bough-picking down to a science after nineteen years in the woods for Christmas profits.

When Bayfield dons its festive garb of garlands and wreaths for the Christmas season, holiday shoppers can thank the efforts of a veteran bough-picking team from the nearby Red Cliff reservation. Pickers Larry “JR” Deragon Jr., Marty Duffy and Tammy Duffy have bough-picking down to a science after nineteen years in the woods for Christmas profits. (photo by Sue Erickson)

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen Staff Writer

Ginseng.

Loading up, Larry “JR” Deragon, a Red Cliff member and veteran bough-gatherer, plans to add more boughs to this stack of bundled boughs before cashing in. Red Cliff’s Marty and Tammy Duffy join Deragon to make up a team that has been gathering boughs for nineteen years. (photo by Sue Erickson)

Menominee tribe joins effort to prevent ginseng exploitation

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen Staff Writer

Keshena, Wis.—Following authorization by the US Fish & Service on October 1, the Menominee Nation became the first tribe in the United States with international export authority for the valuable native plant, ginseng.

This is a great example of a successful partnership and it helps streamline federal regulations, “Law enforcement authorities throughout the state are becoming very aware of this plant.”

The move—which affirms tribal sovereignty and helps streamline federal regulations to stem the tide of wild ginseng theft from forests across Wisconsin and other states in Middle America—will provide woodlots to larger forested areas, criminals with little more than a backpack and an eye for suitable habitat are looking to cash in on a worldwide market demand for ginseng. Consumers look to the plant’s root for health and physical performance benefits. Demand for ginseng in Asian countries is notably on the rise, and buyers are willing to pay top dollar.

“Ginseng is very much susceptible to overharvest and the unsustainable harvest that is occurring,” said Alexandra Wrbel, GLIFWC wild plant ecologist. Illegal harvesters typically do not have the plant’s best interest at heart, potentially causing irreversible damage to the species. “It’s important to follow sustainable harvest guidelines for the future benefit of ginseng as well as other plant species.”

Only mature plants with three or more leaf prongs may be dug during the harvest season, which runs September 1 to November 1 in Wisconsin. CITES regulations prohibit the harvest and sale of young ginseng roots for the first five years. Ginseng grows on the forest floor and is distinguished by greenish-white flowers and red berries. Where harvest seasons exist, a permit is required to dig wild ginseng.

In the Ojibwe language, ginseng is called jisens. A powerful medicine, jisens is of special importance to traditional Ojibwe healers. State and federal officials are currently exploring the possibility of granting CITES authority for GLIFWC enforcement officers. To date GLIFWC already exercises CITES power for the bobcat and river otter.

The DNR’s Welke encourages anyone witnessing suspicious activity—whether in private or public woodlands—to contact authorities by phone 800-TIP-WDNR or email le.hotline.wisconsin.gov.
MAZINA'IGAN (Talking Paper) is a 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 to United States and Canadian residents. Write: MAZINA'IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861, phone (715) 682-6619, e-mail: pio@glifwc.org.

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Although MAZINA'IGAN enjoys hearing from its readership, there is no "Letters to the Editor" section in the paper, and opinions to be published in the paper are not invited. All contributions should be related to conservation, natural resource management, or Ojibwe cultural information. Contributions cannot exceed 600 words, or be longer than one page in length. For more information see GLIFWC's website: www.glifwc.org.

MAZINA'IGAN STAFF:

Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen

Ojibwe Ceded Territories and Member Tribes of GLIFWC

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