2003 offers good fishing opportunities in Minnesota’s 1837 Treaty lakes

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—It’s about time to dust off the old fishing gear, check nets, sharpen spears and begin to get organized because spring fishing season is around the corner. Although the thick ice cover on many lakes that made for happy ice fishermen doesn’t promise early openers on ceded territory lakes, opportunities for good fishing do await.

The eight Ojibwe bands with treaty reserved rights to fish on Mille Lacs Lake in Minnesota declared a combined walleye harvest quota of 100,000 pounds for 2003, similar to the 2002 quota. For other Mille Lacs Lake species the combined tribal quotas for 2003 are: yellow perch—106,928 pounds; cisco—11,742 pounds; burbot—13,200 pounds and northern pike—11,498 pounds.

2003 band quotas for Mille Lacs Lake are allocated among eight Ojibwe tribes, including the Mille Lacs and Fond du Lac Bands in Minnesota. The six Wisconsin Ojibwe bands retaining 1837 Treaty rights in Minnesota are Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Courte Oreilles, Mole Lake, Red Cliff, and St. Croix.

The Minnesota 1837 Ceded Territory Fisheries Committee, a group composed of state and tribal biologists and representatives, did not reach consensus regarding the harvestable surplus level for walleye in Mille Lacs Lake for 2003.

While model results generated by the tribes and state showed similar estimates of walleye abundance and biomass, there was disagreement regarding how harvestable surplus values should be calculated from the model estimates.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) biologists believe that harvestable surplus of walleye should be based on 24% of all walleye aged 3 and older, which results in a value of 550,000 pounds.

Tribal biologists maintain that harvestable surplus should be based on 24% of mature, spawning walleye.

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Hunting for deer sign on Oak Island

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Staff Writer

Red Cliff, Wis.—Rising some 450 feet from Lake Superior, Oak Island Shoulder a deep forest of mixed hardwoods, hemlock and northern white cedar. The rugged 5,000-acre core of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore features prominent south-facing slopes, acorn producing oak trees and plenty of sheltered ravines that drain snowmelt and rain into Giche Gami. Sounds like good deer country—and it is.

An interagency group of 16 people trekked across the ice in late February to document physical evidence of deer and stir up the island’s white-tailed residents while a circling airplane counted animals from the sky. Although airborne staff from the Bad River Natural Resources Department (BRNRD) spotted only 18 deer under the forest canopy, the ground crew encountered a similar number of animals plus signs of many more.

“The amount of deer sign observed on the ground was substantial,” said Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) Wildlife Biologist Jonathan Gilbert. “A total of 755 tracks and 210 beds were recorded along with several small groups of deer well distributed across the island.”

The survey conducted by staff from GLIFWC, BRNRD, Red Cliff Conservation and the National Park Service (NPS) was launched to get a better handle on deer numbers aboard the secluded island that has historically received little attention from hunters or wildlife managers.

Last fall tribal representatives and NPS officials established the first white-tailed deer treaty hunt on the Apostle Islands through the Interim 2002 Deer Hunting Agreement.

Treaty hunters from Red Cliff killed one deer on Oak Island and another on Sand Island during the season that ran from October 1 to December 31. The recent survey is the first step in estimating the size of island deer herds and establishing more accurate harvestable surplus numbers, Gilbert said.

“Population monitoring is an important aspect of deer management on the Apostle Islands,” Gilbert said. “I expect this to be an ongoing effort.”

Island of deer

On the bright and clear morning of February 20 survey participants met on the Gichi Gami ice alongside frozen boat slips at the Red Cliff marina. Gilbert distributed maps and data forms, and we hopped on snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles for the two-mile trip across the ice. The wind-sheared surface of the lake retained just enough snow to accommodate both tracked and wheeled vehicles.

As we got set up along the south-west shore of the island, people began stripping away the insulated pants, thermal jump suits and heavy coats they wore for the cold ride over. Faced with a choice of marching in cotton long johns or heavy wool slacks, I kept my pants on. With temperatures headed into the forties and sun rising high, it was going to be a cooker.

Pilot and BRNRD Biologist Tom Doolittle buzzed overhead as we scattered every hundred yards or so along the shoreline. Our mission was two-fold: to get deer moving so Doolittle and his companion, Bad River Conservation Warden, Matt O’Clare, could count them from the air and record evidence of whittail activity on paper. The data sheets contained blanks for numbers of deer observed, tracks, trails, (See An island, page 8)

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Tribes declare quotas for WI treaty ceded waters

By Sue Erickson Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Meeting the March 15 deadline for the declaration of tribal harvest quotas for walleye and muskelunge in northern Wisconsin ceded territories’ waters, the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) filed a final report on behalf of six Wisconsin Ojibwe bands, declaring a total of 45,776 walleye and 1,522 muskellunge in 298 lakes and five lake chains. These fish are available for tribal harvest throughout the open-water season.

Declarations for Wisconsin are made in numbers of fish, unlike Minnesota, where tribal quotas are primarily in pounds of fish. Declarations are determined by each tribe following meetings with their tribal membership and determination of tribal need.

The total 2003 walleye safe harvest level, determined by the Technical Working Committee comprised of tribal and state staff, is 95,647 walleye. The 2003 muskellunge safe harvest figure was set at a total of 4,450 in the declared lakes.

In addition to the declared lakes and lake chains, twenty-seven river segments are also open to treaty spring spearing.

The declarations were filed on behalf of the Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake/ Sokaogon, Red Cliff and St. Croix Ojibwe bands.

In 2002 the tribes’ combined declaration for walleye in Wisconsin ceded territory lakes was 48,628, and the harvest total was 25,543, taking 53% of the declared walleye quota. For muskelunge in 2002, the tribes harvested 218 from a declared quota of 1,555 fish, or 14% of the declared quota.

From 1989 through 2002 in Wisconsin, tribes have harvested a total of 350,842 walleye from a combined total quota of 590,566, or 59% of their declared walleye quota. Over the same fourteen-year span, tribes harvested 3,474 muskellunge from a combined total quota of 19,161, or 18% of the declared total quota.

Further information about the treaty, spring harvest opportunities can be obtained at GLIFWC’s main office, (715) 682-6619 or at tribal registration stations.

Ojibwe Journeys now available

Foreword by Billy Mills

Ojibwe history and traditions come alive in the new release from GLIFWC Press, Ojibwe Journeys: Treaties, Sandy Lake and the Waabanong Run. The book explores key events in the Ojibwe treaty-making period of the early 1800s and traces the ensuing journey to protect reserved rights from formidable governments and anti-Indian groups.

Over a 150 year period the Ojibwe utilized a fusion of running traditions, cultural directives and legal skills to maintain their lifeway in the greater Lake Superior region. Extensively researched and documented, the book provides a rare and intimate look into Ojibwe culture and how the tribes approached the court hearings of the 1990s.

Olympic running champion and Oglala Sioux Billy Mills authored the book’s foreword. Mills, a Gold Medal winner in the 1964 Tokyo Olympic games, places the spiritual and legal journey of the Ojibwe people into relief with his own experiences.

Written by Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Ojibwe Journeys contains color maps and pictures, footnotes, a bibliography, plus the runners’ journal from the 1998 Waabanong Run that brought the Treaty Staff from Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin to Washington, DC entirely on foot.

Books are $16.00, which includes postage. Retail and educational discounts are available.

Order Form

Please send your $16.00 check or money order (U.S. Funds only) to: Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, Public Information Office, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, Wisconsin 54861; phone (715) 682-6619 ext. 108 or e-mail pio@glifwc.org.

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
City, State & Zip ________________
Phone number ( ) ________________

Miigwech for your order!

On the cover

A taste of spring! Several balmy March days were enough to loosen the sap in maple trees. Sharon Nelis, Bad River tribal member, and members of her family were ready with taps and buckets to catch the first drops. Everybody got to sample the sweet liquid, including helper Austin Nelis and Sharon’s granddaughter Rena LaGrew. (Photo by Sue Erickson)
Electrofishing crews ready for 2003 spring season

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—A sure sign of spring at the GLIFWC offices is when the electrofishing crews start preparing their boats and gear for the spring assessment season—an activity that starts with ice-out on northern lakes.

As usual the crews have a list of lakes in Wisconsin for the spring adult walleye population estimates. Among those lakes are several of GLIFWC’s long-term study lakes, which are identified in bold. The list of study lakes may or may not be surveyed depending on the conditions. The Wisconsin survey lakes are as follows: Lake Owen and Siskiwit Lake, Bayfield County; Butternut Lake, Forest County; Sawyer Lake, Langlade County; Wheeler Lake, Oconto County; Squinquel Lake, Oneida County; Round and Little Round Lakes, Sawyer County; Annabelle, Kentuck, Sherman and Trout Lakes, Vilas County; Bass, Parson and Long Lakes, Washburn County. Alternate lakes are: Metonga and Stevens Lake, Forest County; Boot Lake, Oconto County; Connors Lake, Sawyer County; Forest and Star Lakes, Vilas County.

Also to be surveyed this spring are: King Lake, Baraga County, Michigan; and Mille Lacs Lake, Minnesota.

This spring GLIFWC will have two crews working on the Wisconsin survey lakes with the research crew from the University of Wisconsin Superior. These crews also hope the study will provide valuable insight into the seasonal movements and spatial distribution of adult walleye throughout this immense 132,516 acre ceded territory, mixed-fishery lake.

In spring 2002, electrofishing survey crews from the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Fond du Lac Tribe (LCO) and Lac du Flambeau reservation, conducted the combined spring walleye assessment survey. In the spring of 2003, fisheries assessment crews from these federal, state and tribal fisheries agencies will once again return to the waters of Mille Lacs Lake in an effort to tag an additional 20,000–40,000 adult walleye. Some of the adult walleye captured this spring will be fish that were already tagged in 2002. Various data from these recaptured fish and those tagged in 2003 will be collected by all of the tagging crews.

GLIFWC and FDL creel clerks will collect data from tagged and untagged fish. They are observed during spring 2003 and 2004 harvest monitoring. MnDNR will also collect harvest data from state-licensed anglers through its annual Mille Lacs Lake creel survey and future fisheries assessment survey work. Tribal spearers and netters should once again expect to see some walleye in their catches that are marked with plastic, spaghetti-shaped tags which stick out from the left side of the fish between the dorsal fin and the tail. These tags will be yellow in color and will have "MN DNR" plus a number printed on them. A small percentage of the adult fish will be double-tagged to help determine tag loss rates.

Tribal creel clerks have been instructed to remove all tags encountered during spring 2003 harvest monitoring. Any tags from speared or netted fish that may have been missed during harvest monitoring should be removed and given to any tribal biologist, creel clerk or warden. Tags may be sent to Nick Milroy at GLIFWC, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861. Tags can also be reported by phone at (715) 682-6619 or email (nmilroy@glifwc.org).

Mille Lacs walleye tagging study to continue in 2003

By Joe Dan Rose, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Section Leader

In 2002, state and tribal biologists initiated a multi-year walleye tagging study at Mille Lacs Lake, Minnesota. This joint mark-and-recapture tagging study was undertaken to provide an independent estimate of walleye abundance to supplement ongoing state and tribal population monitoring efforts. Biologists also hope the study will provide valuable insight into the seasonal movements and spatial distribution of adult walleye throughout this immense 132,516 acre ceded territory, mixed-fishery lake.

In spring 2002, electrofishing survey crews from the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Fond du Lac Band (FDL), and St. Croix Band (STC) combined their efforts to capture, tag and release over 12,000 adult walleye in Mille Lacs Lake. During this same time period, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) fyke-netting crews tagged and released approximately 8,000 adult walleye. An additional 14,000 angler-caught walleye were tagged and released during the summer of 2002 by MnDNR personnel working in cooperation with state-licensed commercial fishing operations on Mille Lacs Lake.

GLIFWC conducts winter spearfishing surveys every few years, alternating between lakes in the Lac Courte Oreilles area. "Participating in these tagging efforts to supplement ongoing state and tribal population monitoring efforts. Biologists also hope the study will provide valuable insight into the seasonal movements and spatial distribution of adult walleye throughout this immense 132,516 acre ceded territory, mixed-fishery lake." Winter spearing survey winds down at Lac Courte Oreilles

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer

Hayward, Wis.—Winter spear- ing harvest surveys are wrapping up in the Lac Courte Oreilles area as ice diminishes on lakes across the ceded territory. Since December 2002 GLIFWC creel clerk Sam Quagon has monitored the reservation spearfishing off the Chippewa Flowage. Lac Courte Oreilles Lake and Grindstone Lake in Sawyer County.

Quagon said most of the fish speared thus far have been muskies and northern pike from the Chippewa Flowage and Lac Courte Oreilles Lake. "Walleye is most desired, but spearfishing success has been very limited," said Quagon. "Many spearfishers will also have tip-ups or setlines out while spearfishing, and they seem to have better success harvesting walleye..."

GLIFWC conducts winter spearfishing surveys every few years. Alternating between lakes in the Lac Courte Oreilles area is a way to help manage the fishery. "Participating in these tagging efforts to supplement ongoing state and tribal population monitoring efforts. Biologists also hope the study will provide valuable insight into the seasonal movements and spatial distribution of adult walleye throughout this immense 132,516 acre ceded territory, mixed-fishery lake." Winter spearing survey winds down at Lac Courte Oreilles

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Under the tribal off-reservation conservation codes approved in the Voigt litigation, treaty fishermen may harvest muskies during the winter by hook-and-line and spearfishing through the ice. The first fish may be of any size; thereafter, at least one-half of a catch must be at least 32 inches.
GLIFWC's environmental monitoring efforts in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

In one of the final papers at the conference, Ed Kolodziejski delivered findings from a study conducted in cooperation with the Lake Superior Research Institute that tracked mercury concentrations in walleye harvest from eight ceded territory reservoirs. (Photo by Kory Groetsch)

GLIFWC has been awarded a STAR grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to update its mercury-in-walleye maps.

"The real key to our work at GLIFWC is that we look at broad areas of the environment to access its condition," explained Coleman, section leader of GLIFWC's Environmental Division. "By incorporating multiple indicators into our analysis, we can better understand the dynamics of water quality and environmental health."

Coleman’s work centers on gathering baseline data on the quantity of various metals in plants, animals and water at the site of the proposed Grandin Mine near the Mole Lake Reserve.

Similarly, Chiriboga presented a poster at the meeting that illustrates how specific organisms known as environmental indicators respond to pollution in a laboratory setting in order to detect potential pollution in similar organisms that exist in nature," said Groetsch, who also presented data on contaminant levels in Lake Superior fish.

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"By incorporating multiple indicators into our analysis, we can better understand the dynamics of water quality and environmental health."
GLIFWC finds successful reproduction of White River lake sturgeon

By Bill Mattes, GLIFWC Great Lakes Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission’s (GLIFWC) 2002 lake sturgeon project addressed an issue identified as a high priority by both the Aquatic Community Committee of the Lake Superior Binational Program and the Lake Superior Technical Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

The project’s goal was to determine the current population status and abundance of lake sturgeon in Lake Superior tributaries where spawning occurred historically and to quantify sturgeon spawning habitat in those streams.

This project found evidence of adult lake sturgeon successfully using the upper reaches of the White River, a tributary stream to the Bad River, by the capture of drifting larval lake sturgeon near State Highway 13.

Habitat data for depth and substrate were collected in the areas where interviews with anglers indicated lake sturgeon were spawning.

This work was accomplished through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency’s Coastal Environmental Management Program.

Siscowet numbers problematic in Lake Superior?

Lake trout recovery in Lake Superior includes the recovery of the native siscowet, or fat, lake trout. Minnesota Sea Grant’s publication, Seiche, December 2002 edition, reports that fishery researchers and fishermen find siscowet numbers are copious in the big lake — “about 100 million according to one estimate—of these plump native fish.”

According to James Kitchell, professor of zoology, UW-Madison, the siscowet numbers certainly indicate a huge success in restoration of native species. “If the goal is to restore an ecosystem that supports important recreational and commercial fisheries similar to those of the past, then we have a plague,” he says.

Among problems with the hefty siscowet population is the impact on the food chain. “Siscowet among smelt are like sharks among tuna,” Kitchell notes. Also, there is little demand for siscowet as a commercial catch, although siscowet are rich in omega-3 oils.

Winter’s work at GLIFWC’s main office in Odanah, Wisconsin, includes recording data from samples collected during the spring, summer and fall fisheries assessment work. For the Great Lakes section staff, otoliths (ear bones) taken from Lake Superior fish provide ageing information. Above, Nate Bigboy, (left) fishery technician, and Casey Bigboy, fisheries aide, use the “crack and burn” technique to study otoliths. The tiny bone is cracked in half and then held over the flame of a small alcohol burner before being examined through a microscope. The burning darkens the otolith, making age lines easier to determine. (Photo by Sue Erickson)
Spears, decoys and tepees

LDF youth brave frigid temps to spear muskie on Deer Lake

**By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer**

Deer Lake, Wis.—Temperatures dipping into winter’s cellar did not stop Lac du Flambeau’s (LdF) Youth Council from fishing muskie on Deer Lake the weekend of March 8-9. Guided by Frank Mitchell Sr. and Ray LaBarge Sr., both from LdF, the fishing party did well spearing muskie with decoys at Deer Lake. The youth brought home a total of nine nice sized muskies and a good dose of traditional knowledge on how to spear through the ice with decoys.

In charge of the group for the weekend was Azael Meza, Activity Coordinator for the LdF Outdoor Education and Recreation Program. He drove the van, which provided transport for bodies and gear and, importantly, some temporary harbor from a whistling wind across the lake and subzero temperatures. The program, funded through the Administration for Native Americans, acquaints tribal youth, grades 6-12, with both natural resource management activities and a wide variety of outdoor recreation and harvest opportunities.

The 2003 Youth Council ice fishing expedition departed from LdF reservation about 4:30 a.m. Saturday morning. By the time they arrived at Deer Lake (near Turtle Lake, Wis.) and finished cutting ice holes through a substantial layer of ice, it was noon before fishing actually got underway.

Nevertheless, the group managed to bring up four nice looking muskies that afternoon.

On Sunday morning, they headed back to Deer Lake for another round, but fishing holes had to be re-opened with an ice chisel, and floating ice pieces scooped from the hole before fishing could begin.

The tepees also had to be re-constructed. LaBarge and Mitchell made sure the youth understood the hows and whys of ice-fishing tepee construction.

Four branches made the pyramid frame for the tepee over the fishing hole—supported with ice at the base and the tops tethered at the peak. Then a layer of balsam boughs was laid carefully around the hole. The boughs serve a dual purpose: they help keep the blankets dry, and they darken the area around the hole, so it cannot be easily detected from below.

Once the boughs are down, several layers of blankets are placed over them for the fishermen to lie on. Next, the fishermen place several more layer of blankets over the tepee’s frame, and finally, they cover it all with a large canvas tarp.

The youth gladly wiggled in under the layers of blankets, escaping the icy blast above, to begin fishing in the dark, protected environment. Only a few boot bottoms protruding from beneath the canvas revealed the presence of anyone.

The youth used hand-carved decoys to lure the muskies and, in fact, decoy carving began in December as part of the Youth Council’s program, according to Meza, so the youth had an opportunity to try out their own, handmade decoys.

Once four youth were set-up inside a tepee with decoys and spear, the guides went to the next hole and got another foursome involved in setting up their tepee, and then on to the next.

The day yielded another five muskies for the group before they took-down around 2:30 p.m. and headed home after a hard, but successful fishing weekend.

Besides facilitating the Youth Council activities and routines, the LdF Outdoor Education and Recreation Program also provides environmentally based activities and internships for both high school and middle school students.

The range of activities is broad, including hands-on work with water quality testing and environmental clean-up, dogsledding, and a variety of traditional, Ojibwe skills like making maple sugar. The intent is both to encourage students’ interest in natural resource management professions and to pass on traditional knowledge on how to best use and preserve the resources.

**Guides Frank Mitchell Sr. and Ray LaBarge Sr. demonstrate how to construct an ice-fishing tepee. They begin by laying balsam boughs around the open hole, both as protection from the wet and cold and to darken the hole. (Photo by Sue Erickson)**

**Vinney Wolf and Terry Doud, Lac du Flambeau, begin to wrap their tepee frame with layers of blankets for protection. (Photo by Sue Erickson)**

**Four fishermen shared this hole in the ice to fish for muskie with decoys and spears. The shelter afforded protection from the subzero windschills and also darkened the hole so it is not detected from below. (Photo by Sue Erickson)**

**Moose calf born in Wisconsin Nobody actually saw her, but...**

For the last couple of years, cow moose “5155” (who sports a radio collar) has been a seasonal transient to the land of cheese, making an annual warm weather trip to northern Forest County from winter digs about 45 miles north in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Aerial surveys showed the animal was in Wisconsin during the hunting season, but heavy vegetation prevented any visual observations from being made. However, during a survey back in the UP in mid-December, Michigan DNR biologists spotted 5155 with a calf at her side. According to Adrian Wydeven of the Wisconsin DNR, this is probably the strongest documentation in over a century of a moose calf being born in the state.

**Wandering Wisconsin wolf found in Michigan**

Back in May of 1995, Wisconsin DNR biologist Bruce Kohn trapped a healthy, roughly 85 pound wolf near the Wisconsin/Michigan border. Bruce dubbed him “Phil” and equipped him with a radio collar. Unfortunately, contact was lost with him in November of the same year. With his last radio-location being just across the St. Croix River from Minnesota, biologists assumed he had likely headed west. Now fast-forward to February 1, 2003, and move about 240 miles to just across the St. Croix River from Minnesota, biologists assumed he had likely headed west. Now fast-forward to February 1, 2003, and move about 240 miles to the east, where Doug Wagner of the Michigan DNR was helping a trapper in Dickinson County release a wolf inadvertently caught in a coyote set. Guess who? Phil, now at least 10 years old, was showing signs of his age, including well-worn teeth and patches of mange. He crossed to the spirit world a couple of weeks later, but not before providing biologists with this final gift of information about wolf ecology.

**Osprey populations subject of concern**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) used remote cameras to monitor Iron County osprey nests in 2002, according to the WDNR 2002 Shareholders Report. Several years of declining osprey reproduction in Iron, Oneida and Vilas Counties prompted the investigation. As it turned out, 2002 was a better reproductive year for osprey, and investigators observed reasonable success in the nests. The report indicates that the overall production in all Iron County nests was 1.2 young fledged per active osprey nest and 1.9 fledged per successful nest. Investigators did find that the birds had no difficulty supplying sufficient food for the chicks and also did not observe enough interactions with eagles to suspect them as a factor in a declining osprey population.
Pros & cons of wild turkey range expansion topic at Minnesota meeting

By Peter David, GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—Biologists from across the northern extent of North America’s turkey range recently met in Bloomington, Minnesota to share thoughts and perceptions on turkey management along the northern fringe of their distribution. The participants in this workshop, arranged by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the National Wild Turkey Federation, were largely pulled together by a shared question: What is the appropriate way to manage a species that is existing well north of its “ancestral” range?

Of course, even this apparently straightforward question has its complications, including the definition of “ancestral” range. Over great time periods, the northern range of turkeys has probably vacillated with environmental conditions. However, there is general agreement that turkeys have expanded northward since the arrival of Europeans on the North American continent (see figure). Wisconsin’s turkey distribution can be used as a case in point.

An often-referenced figure of Wisconsin’s historic turkey distribution was compiled by Wildlife Biologist and Historian A.W. Schorger. Schorger’s research indicated that prior to their extirpation from the state in the late 1800s, turkeys existed largely south of a line that extended from Prairie du Chien to Green Bay. As a result of this information and other factors, most of the initial effort in Wisconsin’s successful turkey restoration program was centered in the southwest part of the state. But all along their northern border, turkeys have continually surprised biologists with their ability to persist under conditions once thought beyond their limit.

Once the sites deemed most suitable for turkey releases were filled in, transplants continued in Wisconsin to sites where thought to be less suitable, but which the birds themselves began to show an ability to survive in. Today, turkeys now can be found in some abundance over about three-fourths of the state, but which the birds themselves began to show an ability to survive in. Today, turkeys now can be found in some abundance over about three-fourths of the state, and the expansion may not be over.

This raises some interesting ecological questions. For example, does this expansion reflect a simple adjustment by turkeys to changing land-use patterns (such as the conversion of land to agriculture) and/or environmental conditions. And although there are concerns about possible negative effects from turkeys (such as herbivory on native or domestic plants, or competition with native species for resources like acorns), there was little hard evidence indicating ecological problems currently exist. At the same time, there was broad agreement that state or provincial governments should not promote the development of food plots or encourage artificial feeding of turkeys to help them survive in areas that would not otherwise support them.

In addition, they are omnivores, or generalists, when it comes to food. Given access to a suitable food source, they can make it through some pretty nasty winters.

Along the northern edge of their range, turkeys tend to become dependent upon agriculture waste grain or outright food handouts (such as bird or deer feeders) in order to survive harsh winter conditions. Where expansion of populations is desired, it is critical to use true wild birds for translocation.

The states and provinces present generally viewed the range expansion positively and consider it largely a product of changes in land use (i.e. agriculture) and environmental conditions. And although there are concerns about possible negative effects from turkeys (such as herbivory on native or domestic plants, or competition with native species for resources like acorns), there was little hard evidence indicating ecological problems currently exist. At the same time, there was broad agreement that state or provincial governments should not promote the development of food plots or encourage artificial feeding of turkeys to help them survive in areas that would not otherwise support them.

One final take-home message from this workshop was also clear: turkeys still have much to teach us. Despite all of the work that has been done with this species, it can still be difficult to answer a question as fundamental as “how far north can turkeys survive?” But to those biologists who love studying this extraordinary species, that’s a very reassuring thought.
An island of waawaashkeshiwig

By Jonathan Gilbert, Ph.D.
GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—It has been more than a year since chronic wasting disease (CWD) was discovered in Wisconsin. The disease was first confirmed in a small white-tailed deer near Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin in December 2002. This marked the first time that CWD was found east of the Mississippi River and in a deer population as dense as 20–30 deer per square mile. Naturally, there was a great deal of concern over this disease outbreak. It spurred immediate reaction by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and other state and tribal entities. GLIFWC was concerned about CWD, and they wanted to participate in CWD surveillance efforts. Perhaps the single most important environmental impact of CWD for many years; they reviewed the scientific literature on CWD and developed short-term control strategies for the Mt. Horeb area.

One of the first questions asked was—“Is chronic wasting disease confined to the Mt. Horeb area or is it found elsewhere in the state?” To answer this question a very large testing program was developed and implemented during the fall deer hunting season. Researchers estimated that 500 deer would need to be sampled from each county in the state in order to have a 95% probability of detecting CWD should the disease be present. This would require 36,000 deer to be collected and tested. The member tribes of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) were concerned about CWD, and they wanted to participate in the testing process. As co-managers of natural resources in the ceded territories, it is important that the tribes participate in CWD surveillance efforts.

GLIFWC developed a sampling scheme and began collecting deer heads to be tested at the start of the 2002 off-reservation deer season. Tribal hunters submitted a total of 350 deer.

Tissue samples were extracted from the deer heads according to protocols and submitted to the National Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Ames, Iowa. Nearly half of the usable samples have been tested with negative results. Plans are to continue testing into the 2003 hunting season.

None of the deer tested by WDNR in the ceded territories has shown any positive results. This coupled with the negative tests from tribal deer is good news. The more deer which are tested with no positive results, the more confident we can be that CWD is not present in the ceded territories. We all hope this continues to be the case.

This is not to say that we should all sit back and relax. There is much to do to prevent the outbreak of disease in deer in the ceded territories. CWD is just one of many diseases that have been found in southern Wisconsin. Hemorrhagic disease and foot and mouth disease are also threats to ceded territory deer. Preventive efforts should both be short and long term.

One major action which should take place is a severe restriction on the importation and movement of captive deer and elk. CWD jumped to Wisconsin from Canada and is carried on waste products from elk farms. CWD will be working with WDNR and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to ensure protection of ceded territory deer herds from this threat.

The WDNR has developed an Environmental Impact Statement for most management action to keep the deer populations in the ceded territories healthy. It has been reviewed and endorsed by all tribes. Maintaining deer populations which are above the management goals established by the WDNR and the tribes is the single greatest threat to the ceded territory deer herds.

Wildlife biologists and managers must continue to advocate for large harvests of deer, especially does. It is the harvest of antlerless deer (does), which is the proposed control mechanism for ceded territory deer herds.

However, harvesting large numbers of deer from public lands, while maintaining excessive deer populations on private lands will not solve the problem. Harvests must be distributed on all land ownerships. All too often tribal deer hunters correctly observe that deer are scarce on public lands, while many deer are observed on the private fields and woodlots in the ceded territories.

The second most important management action which should take place is a State-Wide Ban on Baiting. Baiting and feeding does concentrate deer into unnaturally large and dense groups. This can facilitate the spread of transmissible diseases and the accumulation of herd immunity which contributes to the congregation of disease. A ban on tribal deer baiting would have little preventative impact on the spread of transmissible diseases because estimates are that less than 1% of the tribal deer hunters use bait while hunting off-reservation. Tribal ceded territory deer baiting does not significantly contribute to the congregation of deer and does not increase the likelihood of disease transmission. Rather, the same is true for state-hunters. Baiting and feeding does concentrate into unnatural large and dense groups. This can facilitate the spread of infectious diseases, like CWD. In addition to congregating herd feeding, reduced over-winter mortality, thus increasing the size of the deer population. This makes it harder to keep the herd herd within population goals. It is hard enough to control deer populations, but to vastly reduce one form of control while increasing another makes this job even more difficult. For this reason, deer feeding should be banned.

To protect the health of the wildlife in the ceded territories, it is important that the tribes participate in CWD surveillance efforts. As co-managers of natural resources the tribes will advocate for large harvests of deer and the State is enjoined from enforcing any ban on deer baiting. Tribes on private lands will not solve the problem. Harvests must be distributed on all land ownerships. All too often tribal deer hunters correctly observe that deer are scarce on public lands, while many deer are observed on the private fields and woodlots in the ceded territories.

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Tribes weigh in on Wisconsin’s “Land Legacy” Report
Seek shared vision for protecting northern Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has a 50-year vision for protecting over 225 places and associated natural resources that it sees as vital for Wisconsin’s conservation and recreation needs. But, according to Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission’s (GLIFWC’s) Voigt Intertribal Task Force (Task Force), the state’s vision will not be complete until it includes the tribes’ vision.

The WDNR’s Steven Miller presented the state’s draft Wisconsin Land Legacy Report at the Voigt Intertribal Task Force’s February 2003 meeting at Mille Lacs. Miller said the report attempts to identify and “protect” important natural areas that should be preserved well into the future from the pressures of ever increasing population growth and development.

The Task Force welcomed the state’s vision, but questioned whether it is broad enough to match a tribal vision. “Maybe the state’s footprint isn’t the same as the tribes’ footprint,” Task Force Chair Tom Maulson told Miller. Maulson noted that the state’s draft plan was developed without tribal input, either for the ceded territory or for on-reservation places.

He wondered how it could be considered complete. Miller agreed and welcomed further dialogue. A number of Task Force representatives echoed Maulson’s sentiments, noting that the state’s draft report did not take into account tribal subsistence or cultural needs.

Concerns also were raised about including sites within reservations without notifying the tribe. Bad River Representative Matt O’Clare noted that the state’s report would include the Kickapoo Sloughs but that the WDNR had not talked to the tribe. O’Clare said that the tribe is primarily responsible for protecting the Sloughs and already has an extensive program to do so.

Miller said that the WDNR is not attempting to assert state authority over tribal lands or to undercut tribal off-reservation treaty rights. This should not be a report about authority and jurisdiction, according to Miller, but about mutual state and tribal interests in protecting natural areas against the pressures of overuse and development.

He committed to working with GLIFWC staff to correct deficiencies in the draft report and also agreed to talk with Bad River about its concerns. The Task Force adopted a motion recognizing the need to work with the WDNR to protect important natural areas and directed GLIFWC staff to submit the Task Force’s comments on the draft legacy report.

According to GLIFWC Policy Analyst James Zorn, who summarized the Task Force’s comments in a February 21, 2003 letter to the WDNR, “Although the Voigt Task Force was critical of how the state failed to consult with tribes, it welcomed a shared tribal/state vision for preserving important locations and resources not only for 50 years from now, but for many future generations.”

The Voigt Task Force’s comments delineated several major oversights in the draft legacy report, most importantly that it was not “developed in partnership with Tribes” and it ignores “their current role in natural resource management as well as [their] subsistence, economic, cultural, medicinal, and spiritual needs.”

The Task Force commented on a number of places identified in the WDNR’s draft report to illustrate its concerns. For example, the state’s report identified the Chippewa Flowage as a legacy place, yet it failed to mention the Flowage’s importance to the Lac Courte Orellies Tribe or the comprehensive joint Chippewa Flowage Management Plan adopted by the state, the WDNR and the US Forest Service.

The Task Force placed a high premium on protecting a number of other places identified in the state’s report but not necessarily for the same reasons. As places in need of special protection, the Task Force highlighted a number of places in the Blue Hills area of Barron and Rusk Counties, Swamp Creek in the Upper Wolf River watershed near the Sokaogon reservation, and the Powell Marsh near the Lac du Flambeau reservation.

The Task Force’s list also included wild rice lakes throughout the ceded territory, especially waters located in national and state forests and a number of specific lakes including the Togatinic Flowage in Bayfield County, Clam Lake in Burnett County, and Spur Lake and the Thoroughfare in Oneida County.

So far, the WDNR has been responsive to the Task Force’s concerns. “Its final report will include a new section addressing tribal issues, and maps will be changed to include the ceded territory boundary and to show all Wisconsin’s Indian reservations.” Zorn said. “The WDNR also has consulted with the Bad River Tribe and worked out agreed upon language for the Kakagon Sloughs area.” Zorn notes that many places identified in the report, such as national forests, already receive extensive protection under existing laws and policies. But for other places, the Land Legacy Report is but a first step in a long land use management process that will involve the state, tribes, local governments, and private landowners.

“The report does not deal with how or when identified places will be protected or who will be responsible for protection initiatives,” Zorn said. “Those issues will be dealt with in the future as the realities of time, money and politics will allow.”

Ma’iingan reclassified as threatened species
Lethal controls authorized

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer

Washington, DC—Under a federal rule change, tribal, state and federal resource officials may lethally control gray wolves that attack or kill domestic animals on non-Indian reservations. Tribes in Wisconsin and Michigan may also salvage dead wolves within reservation boundaries without a federal permit.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has reclassified the gray wolf— or ma’iingan—from endangered to threatened in the western Great Lakes region and across much of the contiguous United States. The threatened status enables authorized government employees to kill or capture problem wolves to reduce conflicts with humans.

Since wolves received federal protection under the Endangered Species Act in 1974, their population has recovered throughout much of the ceded territory as places identified in the state’s report but not necessarily for the same reasons. As places in need of special protection, the Task Force highlighted a number of places in the Blue Hills area of Barron and Rusk Counties, Swamp Creek in the Upper Wolf River watershed near the Sokaogon reservation, and the Powell Marsh near the Lac du Flambeau reservation.

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Harvest opportunities ahead
Upcoming off-reservation, treaty seasons

For specific information and dates regarding any off-reservation treaty seasons, tribal members should contact their reservation conservation department or the on-reservation Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission satellite enforcement office or registration station.

Seasons may vary some from state to state, or from tribe to tribe. However, some of the opportunities for off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering in April through June 2003 are as follows:

**Wisconsin 1837, 1842 Treaty ceded territory**

- **Spearin**
- **Netting**
- **Hook and line fishing**
- **Small game hunting, seasons vary by species**
- **Spring turkey season**
- **Maple sap gathering**

- **Michigan 1836, 1842 Treaty ceded territory**

- **Spearin**
- **Netting**
- **Hook and line fishing**
- **Small game hunting, seasons vary by species**
- **Spring turkey season**
- **Maple sap gathering**

Treaty commercial fishing in Lake Superior, Michigan and Wisconsin waters (Consult with tribal codes for specific quotas, units and dates.)
Transport of eagle items within North America

Background

The U.S. Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act has long prohibited any- one from entering or leaving the United States with eagles, eagle parts, or eagle feathers. In 1999, the U.S. Fish and Wild- life Service (FWS) introduced eagle trans- port permits to accommodate enrolled members of U.S. federally recognized tribes who travel internationally with eagle items for religious use. Special proce- dures allowing U.S. tribal members to take such items into Canada and Mexico without transport permits were introduced in 2000.

Existing FWS regulations and en- forcement policies did not allow Indian people from Canada and Mexico to bring eagle items into or out of the United States. Many of these individuals, however, routinely travel to the United States to participate in religious and cultural ceremonies involving the use of eagle items. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has worked successfully with the Cana- dian Wildlife Service and other authorities from Canada to resolve this problem. The FWS continues to work with the government of Mexico to find a way to accommodate Indian people who visit the United States from that country.

Action

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is implementing a new policy that will allow Indian people from Canada to bring personally owned, legally possessed eagle items into the United States for religious and cultural use. Existing FWS policies that allow U.S. tribal members to take federally acquired eagle items to Canada or Mexico without permits remain in effect.

Transport of eagle items by Indian people from Canada

As of February 1, 2003, Indian people from Canada who are recognized by the Canadian Government under that country’s Indian Act may legally travel to and from the United States with their personally owned eagle parts and eagle feathers for religious and cultural use.

When visiting the United States with eagle items, these individuals must:

- Carry and present a “Certificate of Indian Status” card issued by the Federal Government of Canada.
- Declare all eagle items to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or U.S. Customs Service by filing an FWS Form 3-177 (Declaration for Importation or Exportation of Fish or Wildlife). A declaration must be filed when entering or leaving the United States at border crossings and airports.
- Transport only personally owned and lawfully possessed eagle items that will be used for religious and cultural practices.
- Enter and leave the United States with the same eagle items.

Transport of eagle items by U.S. Native Americans traveling to Canada and Mexico

Under a U.S. policy implemented in 2000, people living in the United States may travel to Canada and Mexico with personally owned, legally possessed eagle items. While these individuals do not need to obtain an eagle transport permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service, they must meet the following requirements:

- Be an enrolled member of an Indian tribe recognized by the U.S. government under 25 U.S.C. 479a-1.
- Declare all eagle items to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or U.S. Customs Service by filing an FWS Form 3-177 (Declaration for Importation or Exportation of Fish or Wildlife). A declaration must be filed when entering or leaving the United States at border crossings and U.S. airports.
- Transport only personally owned and lawfully possessed eagle items that will be used for religious and cultural practices.
- Leave and return to the United States with the same eagle items.

U.S. tribal members who travel to Mexico with eagle items should be aware that Mexican law officially requires permits for all wildlife items entering or leaving that country.

U.S. tribal members who want to travel to countries other than Canada and Mexico with eagle items for religious use must obtain an eagle transport permit from the FWS. See our public bulletin on Native American Travel Overseas with Eagle Items.

For more information contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement (703) 358-1949; (703) 358-2271 (fax); or visit their website at: www.fws.gov.

Two key feather cases are bounced back to lower court

By Jeff Hinkle

American Indian Report

A recent decision by the 10th Cir- cuit Court of Appeals may force federal authorities to rethink their policy re- garding Indians and eagle feathers.

Federal law mandates that only enrolled tribal members may possess bald and golden eagle feathers for cer- emonial reasons, but federal judges have announced three verdicts that could ul- timately ease those restrictions.

Two of the verdicts involve non- Indian Utah men who say they pos- sessed eagle feathers as part of their long-held religious beliefs.

In separate incidents, Raymond Hardman and Samuel Wilgus Jr.—both of whom say they practice traditional Indian forms of worship—were each convicted of illegally possessing feathers.

In 1998 a tribal police officer on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation seized a medicine bundle belonging to Hardman that included eagle feathers.

Two years later a Utah state trooper confiscated a box of feathers that be- longed to Wilgus. Both men claimed their feathers had religious significance, but because neither was Indian they were each found guilty of violating fed- eral law.

But in August the 10th Circuit rejected those earlier verdicts and sent the two cases back to the U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City. The appellate judges said the earlier convictions were unsatisfactory with the federal govern- ment’s argument. Now it is up to the government to prove that its feather policy is the best way to protect eagles and religious rights while stepping as lightly as possible on the U.S. Constitu- tion.

The policy even has some legal scholars scratching their heads.

“It’s very complicated,” says Hardman’s attorney, Cindy Barton- Coombs. “I told one of the 10th Circuit judges the more I learn about this law, the less I understand it. He said, ‘I know what you mean.’”

And the judge is not the only one puzzled by the regulation. Barton- Coombs says when she put the Ute police officer who arrested Hardman on the stand, she asked if he possessed eagle feathers. He admitted he did. When she asked whether he had a permit for the feathers, the cop told her that he did not need a permit because he is an Indian—a common misconception.

The law—which strives to per- mit Indians to travel internationally with eagle parts and eagle feathers for religious and cultural use—states that American Indians can possess feathers, but only after they prove their in- dentity. First, they must file a bureaucratic two-step. First, lengthy documentation and verification is required. Then applicants are put on a wait list for feathers, a requirement that can last three years. It is a process that leaves many Indians complain- ing.

The requirements are odd,” says Barton-Coombs. “You must provide proof that you are enrolled in a federally recognized tribe. You must also show a certificate from a religious leader say- ing that you intend to use the feathers for religious reasons. And you have to sign a form saying the feathers are non- transferable.

One of those requirements unrav- eled into a legal Catch 22 in August 2002 when it was scrutinized by the 10th Circuit judges. They considered a third eagle case that had come before them.

The case involved the 1996 arrest of Josueh Sanen, a New Mexico resi- dent and descendent of the Chichicahua Apaches—a tribe the federal govern- ment no longer recognizes. The lower court ruled that Sanen was an Indian and therefore entitled to feathers, but federal authorities challenged that ver- dict, saying his non-recognized status disqualifed him from possessing the eagle remains. But last summer the ap- pellate judges sided with Sanen and upheld the earlier finding.

“The Sanen decision showed there are problems with the law,” says Barton-Coombs. “He is an Indian, but he is not a member of a federally recog- nized tribe and the law states he has to be federally recognized. But judges said his Indian status entitled him to the feathers.”

Now it is up to federal prosecutors to fine-tune their legal arguments as they prepare for their upcoming cases for Hardman and Wilgus. They must prove that the federal policy regarding eagle feathers is in everyone’s best in- terest—the birds’, the Indians’, and the Constitution. There is no word yet on when the new hearings will occur.

Not all Indians are thrilled with the news. Although many complain that the current procedure is too slow, they also worry that loosening the restric- tions may make things worse. A three-year wait list may grow if non-Indians are allowed to apply.

“I want the eagle protected as much as anyone,” says Barton-Coombs. “But requiring someone to have a piece of paper so that they can practice their religion—that’s not what America is about.”

(Reprinted with permission from American Indian Report, October 2002.)
Cold-water rescue training

GLIFWC’s enforcement officers walk out on Lake Superior as part of their annual ice rescue or cold water rescue training. The training simulates an in-water rescue situation. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

A cold-water rescue nearly complete. Taking turns being the victim and the rescuer, each GLIFWC officer goes through the entire rescue procedure. Rescue gear, purchased with a 2001 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant, U.S. Department of Justice, keeps the crew warm despite the icy temperatures. The cold water rescue training is taught by John Mulroy and Mike Soulier, GLIFWC conservation officers both certified as cold-water rescue instructors. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

GLIFWC wardens complete re-certification training at Fort McCoy

Odanah, Wis.—Nine Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission wardens attended a twenty-four hour re-certification training at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy at Fort McCoy last February. All were wardens from GLIFWC’s Wisconsin satellite offices.

The training had dual purposes. For one, it satisfied the 24 hour in-service requirement of the Wisconsin Department of Justice’s Training and Standards Board, and it also met the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource’s requirement for cross-deputization.

Some GLIFWC wardens stationed in Wisconsin are cross-deputized with the state, and others are pursuing cross-deputization, Stone says. The training was geared towards deputy wardens. One session provided instruction in search warrants, subpoena and legal updates. Another discussed self-protection from blood born pathogens (BBPs). Officers can be exposed to BBPs at the scene of accidents, Stone says, and it is important to protect yourself from communicable disease carried in the blood or saliva. One suggested prevention is a Hepatitis B vaccine.

The session also included firearms training with both pistol and shotgun and review of Defense Arms & Arrest Tactics (DAAT). GLIFWC wardens attend this training annually.

Tribal registration stations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribe</th>
<th>Registration Clerk</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Cliff</td>
<td>Vicky Leask</td>
<td>P.O. Box 287, Forest, WI 54645</td>
<td>(715)368-8126</td>
<td>(715)368-7030</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. everyday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Croix</td>
<td>Arnie Stream</td>
<td>2020 Blooming Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406</td>
<td>(612)813-1610</td>
<td>No Fax</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lac Courte Oreilles</td>
<td>Pauline LaRonge</td>
<td>5408 Ondena Drive, Onamia, MN 55072</td>
<td>(715)588-9615</td>
<td>(715)588-3207</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Saturday &amp; Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad River</td>
<td>Maggie Koboldeski</td>
<td>Route 2 Box 355, Alondon, WI 54843</td>
<td>(715)502-7155</td>
<td>No Fax</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. weekends &amp; holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lac du Flambeau</td>
<td>Gary Mann</td>
<td>P.O. Box 75, Lac du Flambeau, WI 53538</td>
<td>(715)588-9413</td>
<td>(715)586-3301</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Saturday &amp; Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mille Lacs</td>
<td>Marina Sam</td>
<td>Mille Lacs Gov. Center, 43408 Ondena Drive, Onamia, MN 55072</td>
<td>(218)768-3111</td>
<td>(218)768-3903</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mille Lacs</td>
<td>Monica Dominick</td>
<td>Eau Claire Comm. Center RR 2, Box 58, McGregor, MN 55760</td>
<td>(218)584-6240</td>
<td>(218)584-7335</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mille Lacs</td>
<td>Gladys Bednarky</td>
<td>Lake Lena Comm. Center RR 2, Box 233 Sandstone, MN 55072</td>
<td>(612)872-1424</td>
<td>(612)872-1287</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mille Lacs</td>
<td>Pat Clark</td>
<td>Urban Office, 1417 E. Franklin Avenue, Room 7C, Minneapolis, MN 55404</td>
<td>(906)358-0244</td>
<td>(906)358-4715</td>
<td>Warden Fax 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday (out of residence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lac Vieux Desert</td>
<td>Joyce Hamon</td>
<td>Box 857, Waukesha, WI 53186</td>
<td>(906)358-0244</td>
<td>(906)358-4715</td>
<td>Warden Fax 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday (out of residence)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enforcement bolsters staff numbers to monitor spring spearing and netting

Odanah, Wis.—GLIFWC’s Enforcement Division’s busiest season is fast approaching. The off-reservation, treaty spring spearing and netting season opens with ice-out on lakes scattered throughout the ceded territories, and each opening requires the presence of GLIFWC enforcement staff.

In Wisconsin alone, thirty-five to forty landings may be open on one night. On Mille Lacs Lake in Minnesota, there are four landings often open nightly, depending on weather. Landings on other Minnesota inland lakes may also be open for spearing.

In order to properly staff all open landings during the season, the Enforcement Division hires forty to fifty temporary staff to assist full-time wardens in monitoring the spring fishing season.

Many temporary wardens have assisted GLIFWC in previous seasons, so are familiar with the job’s expectations and responsibilities.

Meetings will be held March 26 in Minneapolis and March 27 in Wisconsin to orient temporary enforcement staff to help during the hectic spring season.
Cooperative Mercury Sampling of Surface Waters of the Great Lakes Region

John Coleman, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. John DeVale, GIS mining assistant, whose poster illustrated the consumption advisory based on inter-

ABSTRACT

As part of a monitoring program in the vicinity of the proposed Grandon Mine in Marquette County, Wisconsin, we developed a cooperative sampling project to assess water quality of small local streams. Water quality is important to local indigenous tribes because of direct use of the water and the wild rice and other aquatic resources that occur in the watershed. Results from 1999 water-quality monitoring using bryophytes in Swamp Creek suggested that there may be variation among tributaries in the input of metals to Swamp Creek. To further investigate the observed metal levels, in 2001, and 2002 the USGS and Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission sampled water of tributaries in the Swamp Creek watersheds and adjacent Rolling Stone Lake watershed for total and methyl mercury. Tributaries flow from lakes, groundwater fed wetlands and upland wetlands in the watershed. Results of testing show large variation in levels of total and methyl mercury among tributaries and sampling sites. However, consistent spatial patterns of mercury concentration are discernable. Waters discharging from large wetlands had the highest levels of total mercury and waters primarily from groundwater discharges had the lowest total mercury. In some cases, sites that had relatively high total mercury had relatively low methyl mercury. Total mercury appeared to be associated with waters of lower pH. The above poster was presented by environmental section leader, at the 27th annual conference of the American Resources Association—Wisconsin Section. Also presenting a poster at the conference was GIS mining assistant, whose poster illustrated the consumption advisory based on inter-

INTRODUCTION

In order to predict the impacts of a large industrial project such as the proposed copper-once deep-mining project at Grandon in Marquette County, Wisconsin, extensive background information is needed. During the permitting process the mining permit applicant is required to conduct a wide variety of studies, but in some areas the data are inadequate to characterize this complex site. Of particular concern to the tribes in the local area has been the effects of a deep mine water that has no water quality and could not be used directly. As part of a broader environmental sampling program, beginning in the mid-1990s, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLFWC) and other tribal resource agencies collected and analyzing water and aquatic benthic samples from the waterbodies near the proposed mine. (Fig. 1). An analysis of the results of the samples collected in the early and mid-1990s by the permit applicant, the USGS and the tribes suggested that the water quality in the watershed is very poorly understood and that resident benthic may be sensitive to changes in water quality. Because of the variety of jurisdictions in the area, the only effective way to collect water quality data has been cooperation and data sharing between agencies and tribes. The above poster was presented by environmental section leader, at the 27th annual conference of the American Resources Association—Wisconsin Section. Also presenting a poster at the conference was GIS mining assistant, whose poster illustrated the consumption advisory based on inter-

METHODS

In 1999, in cooperation with GLFWC, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Ecological Science Center and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, we initiated a study to determine the sources of metals in Swamp Creek. GLFWC established a cooperative project with the USGS Water Resources Division to sample the water of the tributaries to Swamp Creek and Rolling Stone Lake. Sampling was scheduled to coincide with sampling by the USGS Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for other water parameters and to coincide with Lake Superior Fish and Wildlife Community sampling of water in the main channel for metals.
The study analysis has begun on the samples collected in 2001 and 2002. Each sampling analysis of the lead and copper data is presented here. In 2001, grab samples were collected from 12 sites in the Swamp Creek and Rolling Stone Lake watershed. In 2002, sampling was completed at all sites on the same schedule. Sampling during both years had higher levels of total mercury than did spring or fall samples. Spring sample concentrations of total mercury had a mean of 7.9 ng/L, and methyl mercury was 0.17 ng/L. Late winter and fall sample concentrations of total mercury had a mean of 2.2 ng/L, and methyl mercury had a mean of 0.35 ng/L (Table 1).

Figure 5. Concentrations of Copper and Mercury at sample sites in the Swamp Creek and Rolling Stone Lake watersheds. Values are means of the samples collected in two years. spl readings are from the spring of 2001.

CONCLUSION

Analysis of the data as it is in its preliminary stage. In the next six months, the mercury data will be compiled with other water quality data collected simultaneously by the VRPA and the MNDNR by the Hake Lake-Sabogon-Chippewa Community. The spatial and temporal distribution of metals will be investigated for correlations with water parameters and with source characteristics. These data sets will assist in a more thorough characterization of the aquatic system near the proposed mine and provide a baseline of the distribution of metals in the receiving streams. The extensive water quality and quantity data that are being developed during this mine project review and the extensive characterization of groundwater flow and chemistry that has been conducted provides a reasonable background for basic research on surface and ground water chemical interactions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The VRPA also provided advice and guidance in development of sampling procedures. The Bureau of Mines provided assistance and logistical support to the VRPA for sampling and processing of samples. The data collected by the VRPA and the MNDNR by the Hake Lake-Sabogon-Chippewa Community. Data sharing by the Hake Lake-Sabogon-Chippewa Community and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has allowed integration of water quality and quantity data from a variety of sources.
Michelle Willis, Red Cliff Ojibwe residing at the Bay Mills Indian Community, provides four-day foray into Anishinaabe experience

By Barbara Sanchez
Northland College Intern

Carlton, Minn.—Anishinaabe Wi Yung means “We are Anishinaabe/We are the first people.” The 5th Annual Anishinaabe Wi Yung Conference offered participants an opportunity to immerse themselves in being Anishinaabe by offering a broad array of Anishinaabe experiences. Held at Black Bear Casino and Hotel, Carlton, Minnesota, from March 5–8, participants left more knowledgeable and inspired.

Credit goes to Conference Coordinator Laurie Harper, who was assisted by Larry “Amik” Smallwood, Hazel Hindsley, Leslie Harper, and Lee Staples.

The event was comprised of hands-on activities, discussion, language, and informational/educational workshops. Some workshop topics included drum and birch bark basket making, history of legends and the importance of the Ojibwe language, and Ojibwe language curriculums for teachers. Other workshops revolved around the preservation and celebration of Ojibwe culture. Jim St. Arnold, Administration for Native Americans (ANA) program director, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) founder Amik’s (Larry Smallwood) presentation on Waynabozho particularly delighted as did GLIFWC’s Sharon Nelis.

“Amik’s Waynabozho stories were terrific and humorous. And I could pick up the enough words to follow the meaning when he was speaking Ojibwe,” Nelis commented. “The conference was great because you could hear people chattering in Ojibwe all around you.”

Exposure to continuous use of Ojibwemowin (Ojibwe language) was central to the event, designed to be an immersion experience.

During lunch breaks, speakers entertained as well as enriched the minds of the conference participants, including teachers, students, elders, parents, and youth.

Some of the attendees took advantage of this time to meet with friends and relatives who had been “hibernating” during winter and were out and about for this particular event. The tightening of community ties was definitely a plus for everyone, as well as one of the intentions of the language conference.

According to Laurie Harper, part of the conference’s mission was to make “everyone aware that they have resources in the way of first speakers and language teachers.” These are the people to whom they can address their questions. She also believes the conference helps assure language teachers that attending the conference that there are people interested in learning the Ojibwe language.

While parents or teachers attended workshops, students of the Ojibwe language were given the opportunity to prepare for the Anishinaabe Quiz Bowl Competition that was held on Saturday afternoon.

The first round was a competition for a small cash prize. Because the competition took less time than expected, it was opened up to the audience. Students learning Ojibwemowin at the University of Minnesota, Fond du Lac Community College and the UW-Stevens Point impressed the audience with how much they actually knew. Contestants were given thirty seconds to translate a given sentence or phrase, and the elders in the audience served as judges. Last year’s competition focused on terms, this year’s on sentence structure.

Although the conference has established itself as an annual event, Harper says that this is only a step in the right direction towards the finish line. At the end of the race, she hopes to have created a model immersion school where only Ojibwemowin is spoken, and teachers are educated in all subjects. In order to get there, a language curriculum needs to be written, teachers trained, students found, and funding for parents and the program made available. That’s a good list of challenges ahead!

In addition to the support of the organizers, speakers and presenters, there was much appreciated patronage from the Leech Lake Education Division, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, the Mille Lacs Corporate Commission, and the St. Croix Tribal Council.

If you are interested in contributing to the success of the Anishinaabe Wi Yung Conferences yet to come, or are simply interested in more information on the event itself, contact Laurie Harper at P.O. Box 1420; Cass Lake, Minnesota 56633.

Waynabozho is a Manido, the son of the “Creator.” This is why we always offer tobacco to him in our prayers.

He was sent here, physically, on earth to live with the Ojibwe Anishinabah, to live as an anishinahbay man. A man with spiritual powers. He lived on earth from infancy to adult hood. He was raised by his grandmother, as many of our older Ojibwe people are today.

Before the big flood, Waynabozho roamed the Old World showing the anishinahbay people how to live, showing the people by example of himself.

Waynabozho was honest, dishonest, foolish, sensible, good, bad, smart, stupid. He was all the things a normal human being could possibly be. After all he was and is a manido. This is why he was able to do these spiritual and physical changes.

After the great flood he created the New World and this is where he told anishinahbay people the prophecies and the teachings. He assigned plants and animals various duties as to how they could and should help anishinahbay people to survive.

The stories told about Waynabozho are for a purpose, to teach the young what would happen if they did something or acted and behaved in certain ways. Everything we do has consequences.

The stories are called “legends.” I don’t like this word. I think we should use the word “teachings,” after all this is the purpose of “Who is Waynabozho?”

(Editors note: This is what Amik (Larry Smallwood) told his young son when asked, “Who is Waynabozho?” It is reprinted with Amik’s permission.)

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Ojibwe phrases

Awennen dinowa gigwoonh waa.wa. — What kind of fish did you catch?
Maaskinoozhe wa’aw. — This is a muskie.

Awenen dinowa gigwoonh gaa-debibinad. — What kind of fish did you catch?
Maaskinoozhe wa’aw. — This is a muskie.

Ogaa (ingii-debibinaa). — (I caught) a walleye.
(Reprinted from An Introduction to Ojibwe, by John D. Nichols and Edward Barber.)
Do Indians still live in tepees?

Symposium addresses Native American cultural issues

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Lac Courte Oreilles, Wis.—“Do Indians still live in tepees?” This is but one of many questions or comments directed to the Public Information Office at the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) since its inception in 1984 that belies a certain public ignorance about contemporary Indian life in our country. Or consider—“The Ojibwe do not exist anymore because the Chippewa ate them”—a fact uttered by a middle school student.

Confounded by such lack of knowledge and understanding, the need for improved public education on the real facts of American Indian history and contemporary Indian life and issues remains apparent and pressing.

It was encouraging to see over 200 participants from all over Wisconsin attend the Native American Cultural Issues Symposium at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College (LCOOCC) on February 28th. Co-sponsored by the UW-Superior Continuing Education program and UW-Superior’s Center for First Nations Studies and hosted by LCOOCC, the symposium reached out to educators and social service agencies that routinely interact with tribes. The object was to educate, create a cultural sensitivity, break down stereotypes and promote dialogue by sharing Native American history and real life stories.

GLIFWC Executive Administrator James Schlender began the daylong session with a keynote presentation that highlighted the U.S. policies towards Indian nations throughout history. His account revealed many facts not found in popular US history textbooks and underscored the various federal policies over the centuries that sought by one means or another to destroy Indian populations and culture, whether by conquest, removal, assimilation, breaking treaties or termination. He pointed to a trail of policies adopted by state and federal governments that have been deleterious to Indian people and that lead right into contemporary life and current treaty struggles.

The symposium continued to break into topical workgroups on cultural, educational issues and family issues and concluded with life stories from Indian people, which included a dynamic presentation from successful Indian entrepreneur “Famous Dave” Anderson.

Act 31

The implementation of Wisconsin’s Act 31 (legislation passed in the early 1990s requiring public schools in Wisconsin to teach Native American history, culture and treaty rights) was a subject of concern for Gary Johnson, director, First Nations Studies, UW-Superior. While Act 31 is a positive impetus for improving public understanding of Indian history, sovereignty and culture, Johnson is concerned about how effectively it is being delivered throughout the education system.

To provide assistance to educators UW-Superior’s First Nations Studies Center has assembled a working group called the Act 31 Coalition to provide resources and training for educators. The Coalition’s web address is www2.uwsuper.edu/fns/act%2031.htm.

The Coalition has a survey on the website attempting to elicit information from educators on how they implement Act 31 in the classroom and what resources could be helpful. However, Johnson has had limited success getting responses to the survey.

Johnson believes Act 31’s effectiveness may be impaired because many teachers have grown up and been trained with limited information on Indian issues. Johnson feels a conference focusing just on Act 31 should probably be the next step and that assisting teachers obtain the resources and information necessary to adequately present Indian curriculum. UW-Superior currently offers a summer class in cultural awareness that provides resources for teachers to incorporate into their curriculum.

Issues in education came up for discussion during a break-out session of the Native American Cultural Issues Symposium at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College this winter. Participants (from the left) Denise Sweet, UW-Green Bay; Sharon Cloud, UW-Stevens Point; Odawa White, UW-Eau Claire, and facilitator Gary Johnson, UW-Superior, each shared some of their unique experiences and insights. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

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HONOR to reside in Twin Cities

The regional office of Honor Our Neighbors Origins and Rights (HONOR) recently moved from the Red Cliff reservation in Wisconsin to the Twin Cities area and hired a part-time staff person, Beth Brownfield, to carryout the program there.

According to Sharon Metz, HONOR treasurer and co-founder, HONOR has noticed that anti-sovereignty groups are particularly active in Minnesota. This is one motivation for the move. “HONOR plans to address that in Minnesota like we did in Wisconsin during the days of protest over spring spearfishing,” she says.

Brownfield brings to HONOR a long history of working with Indian communities, church communities and peace and justice organizations. “We hope to expand our coalition with non-Indian and Indian people and will be providing public education on Indian issues as we have in the past,” Metz says.

Historically based in Wisconsin, some HONOR activities continue at Red Cliff where Rose Soulier and Mardi Medawar will continue with the writing and production of the HONOR Digest. Coordination of the Intern Program and administrative and bookkeeping functions also remain at Red Cliff.

HONOR is in the process of securing an office site in the Twin Cities region and hopes to be established in an office by the end of 2003. Currently, Brownfield can be contacted at (612) 824-7213. HONOR can also be contacted at (715) 779-9595 in Red Cliff.
Memengwaag

By Barbara Sanchez
Northland College Intern

A long time ago (mewinzha), Spirit Woman gave birth to twins (niizhoodenyag). The animals (awesiinyag) took care of the babies (biibiiyag).

The dog (animosh) was their guard.
The bear (makwa) kept them warm.
The wolf (ma’iingan) hunted their food.
The doe (oniijaaniw) gave what milk she could.

Bathed by muskrat and beaver (wazhashk and amik), they listened to the birds’ (bineshiinyag) music.

But the twins didn’t walk or run and play so Nanabush came and saved the day.

Great Spirit (Gichi Manido) told Nanabush to collect sparkling stones along the slopes of a mountain (wajiw). Some stones were purple (miinande), some red (miskwaa), some blue (ozhaawashkwaa), and some yellow (ozaawaa).

Nanabush tossed the stones (asiniig) in the air, Some dropped down, most stayed up there.

He watched (gii ganawaabandan) the stones in awe:

they became butterflies (memengwaag) that’s what he saw!

Nanabush led the butterflies back to the twins. They smiled at the butterflies, but they were too high for them to reach.

The twins were impressed but out of luck they had to crawl until they walked.

Then finally (gegapii), the twins could play and run, Chasing the first butterflies and having fun!
WAADOOKODAADING: The place where we help each other

Ojibwe immersion school brings language to life

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Hayward, Wis.—Lake Alice stepping through a mirror into Wonderland, stepping through the door of Waadookodaading school brings you into another world—a bright, cheery, contemporary Ojibwe world, only Ojibwemowin (Ojibwe language) is spoken here. The walls are alive with illustrations and colorful posters all in Ojibwemowin. Ojibwemowin is scrawled on flip charts as teachers go through their lessons, and the dialogue between student and teacher is in Ojibwemowin. The language is heard and seen everywhere. This is an Ojibwe language immersion school.

Housed in a large room in the Hayward Elementary School, Waadookodaading currently teaches twelve students grades K-3 using Ojibwemowin as the primary language. English is the secondary language taught for about one hour in the day through reading.

The school is reaching back to the Ojibwe language to preserve not only the language, but also the culture, the teachings and the traditions that the language expresses for the future generations of Ojibwe people.

The dedication of the staff to Waadookodaading and the teaching of Ojibwemowin arises from simple, startling facts, according to Jennifer Bunker, Waadookodaading administrator. “On our rez, Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO), only a few people are fluent in the language. This is also true of other reservations, and as elders walk on, the numbers decline even further,” she says.

Reminiscent of the old, two-room schoolhouse, several classes operate simultaneously in the large cheery room. Brian McNees teaches the K-1st grade children in one-half of the room, while Keller Paap instructs the second and third graders on the other side. Waving hands pop up from students in both sections anxious to answer questions. Despite the potential for distraction, the teachers keep their children focused on them and their learning, using a lot of interaction and student participation in the process.

An elder, Rose Tainter, LCO, fluent in the language, and one teacher aid, Sidney Keller, assist the teachers.

The charter school is in its second full academic year. The school was started in 2001 as a pilot program through an Administration for Native Americans (ANA) language grant teaching only kindergarten, according to Bunker. The school was granted a charter by the Hayward Community School Board to operate a K-12, Ojibwe immersion school, and 2002 witnessed the first full academic year for the school serving K-3rd grade.

Waadookodaading teaches a mainstream curriculum, emphasizing the “three Rs”—reading, writing and arithmetic—but it’s all taught in Ojibwemowin. “When the kids are doing math, they’re also learning Ojibwemowin,” Bunker notes.

And therein lies the big challenge for two of the world’s most busy teachers—they must develop curriculum in Ojibwemowin and create their own materials as they teach. There are no ready-made curriculum materials available to buy. The challenge has the teachers at work early in the morning before school starts and into the evening after school closes. They are pioneering in the world of education, developing new avenues to keep Ojibwemowin alive and meaningful in the lives of Ojibwe people.

To date, over a 100 books have been translated into Ojibwe, listening centers have been created at the school, and PowerPoint books developed. The school is actually creating a literate tradition for an oral language.

The school’s goal is to graduate students who are fluent in Ojibwemowin, Bunker says. She points out that research indicates bilingual students actually create all new curriculum because none exists in Ojibwe language immersion program.

Using only Ojibwemowin (Ojibwe language), Keller Paap presents a lesson to second and third grade students at Waadookodaading. The teachers not only present lessons, but also create all new curriculum because none exists in Ojibwemowin (Ojibwe language). (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Because younger children are very open to learning language, Bunker says. The teachers use lots of movement, gestures and hands-on learning techniques. They also use a lot of repetition to encourage the language to come naturally.

Another important aspect of the school is parental involvement, an aspect Bunker would like to see develop even further. Currently, parents are asked to participate for four hours every month, and the school will be having regular monthly parent meetings. In 2002, the school was proud to have 100% participation in parent-teacher meetings.

The school also uses four immersion camps during the year, like ricing camp in the fall or a sugarbush camp in the spring. These combine hands-on cultural activities with the use of the language.

Dr. Mary Hermes, University of Minnesota professor, has worked with the school since its inception as a grant writer. Waadookodaading relies on grants from federal, private and state foundations, so the challenge of funding is ever present. There is no tuition because it is a public charter school.

Hermes holds a doctorate in education and curriculum instruction, so “wears many hats” as she supports the efforts of the school. The school hopes to include both pre-school and fourth grade next year, and gradually go up the grade levels through the twelfth grade.

Only a few such schools exist to Bunker’s knowledge. The Mohawk’s operate a language immersion school in the United States as do the Hawaiians, and in New Zealand, the Maori also provide the opportunity of a bilingual education.

A six-member Board of Directors, composed of one elder, one community member, two teachers and two parents, administers the school. During their monthly meetings they set policy and direction for the school and provide long-term planning.

The product of vision, energy, talent and stalwart dedication, Waadookodaading is a small but powerful start to helping children go back to their language and carry it with them into the future. Probably the greatest reward for school staff is the student’s motivation and hunger for the language. The children’s enthusiasm continues to fuel plans and commitment for a continuing Ojibwe language immersion program.
Summer harvest opportunities

Introduction
During 2000 and 2001, GLIFWC staff interviewed tribal elders regarding non-medicinal uses of plants. With approval from the elders, we have decided to share this information as a regular feature in Mazina’igan in the form of a seasonal harvest guide.

In this issue, the harvest guide is devoted to those plants that may be gathered for non-medicinal uses during the upcoming summer months of ode-imini-giizis, time for picking strawberry moon (June); aabita-niibino-giizis, half way through the summer moon (July); and manoominike-giizis, ricing moon (August).

Fruits and Nuts
raw, jams, jellies, pie fillings, breads, pancakes
miskominan—raspberries
oshkizhaanimuk—dewberries
odaatagaagominag—blackberries
miinan—blueberries
ode’iminan—strawberries
gizgaakominag—Juneberries
bibigweminan—elderberries
datagaagminan—thimbleberries
*black haw berries
oskwehminan—black cherries
asasaweminan—choke cherries
bawe’iminan—pin cherries
sewa’kominan—sand cherries
zhaabominan—currants
bagwaji bagesaagan—wild plums
bagaam—hazelnuts

Packaging Materials
for berry gathering
waagogan—ferns
aasaamikigoom—mosses

Grains
for casserole, soups, breads, pancakes
Grains
mankomin—wild rice

Roots
roasted, sauteed, steamed, boiled
bagwaji zhigaaganzhigli—wild leeks
bagwaji zhigaaganzhil—wild onions
apaakwaanikwayi ojibikan—cattail roots
anaakanashik ojibikan—bulrush roots
anaakanashik ojibikan—rush roots
doodooshaaboojik ojibikan—dandelion roots
namepin ojibikan—red pine leaves (new growth)
wiinisiibag ojibikan—wintergreen leaves
zhingob ojibikan—balsam fir leaves

Greens
raw, sauteed, steamed, boiled
*watercress leaves
*pigweed leaves
*aster leaves
*beach peas
anajijimnan—wild peas
*wild asparagus stems

Tea
namewashkoons aniibiishan—spearmint leaves
*peppermint leaves
ozawaaskined aniibiishan—horsemint leaves
sasap kwannaani aniibiishan—yellow birch leaves
miikan—anishinabiishan—raspberry leaves
ode’iminan—strawberry leaves
odaatagaagomin anishinabiishan—blackberry leaves
miinan anishinabiishan—blueberry leaves
apakwanageman—red pine leaves (new growth)
winisibag anishinabiishan—wintergreen leaves
mashkigoban anishinabiishan—swamp (Labrador) tea leaves
kaakaagiwanzh anishinabiishan—hemlock leaves
zhingob anishinabiishan—white cedar leaves
nessibag wakigwamin—clover flowers
sasap kwannabiishan—wild bergamont flowers
minkomin anishinabiishan—dandelion flowers
mankomin—wild rice (ground up)

Wine
doodooshaaboojik waabigwaniin—dandelion flowers
mashkiigimin—cranberries
bibigweminan—elderberries
asasaweminan—choke cherries
zhaabomin—currants

*We have been unable to find the Anishinaabe names for these plants.

Photos are reprinted with permission from the Wisconsin State Herbarium: University of Wisconsin-Madison.
**Wild berries star in summer harvest**

**Cold juices and drinks**
- miskominan—raspberries
- odaataagomimnag—blackberries
- minian—blueberries
- ode’iminan—strawberries
- asawaseweminan—choke cherries
- bawe’iminan—pin cherries
- mushkigominag—cranberries
- bagwaj bagesaan—wild plums
- bagwaj zhoominan—wild grapes
- zhaabominan—currants
- apaakwaanaatig minesan—sunnam fruits
- ozaawasikened miihi—honeysuckle flower nectar

**Tobacco**
- nessibag aniibishan—clover leaves
- noodoo shaa boojiibik aniibishan—dandelion leaves
- bagaaminizh aniibishan—hazelnut leaves
- datgaawanzh aniibishan—thimbleberry leaves
- *pigweed leaves
- winnisibag aniibishan—wintergreen leaves
- miskwaabimizh aniibishan—red willow (kinnickinnick) bark
- wiigob ojiibikan—basswood roots

**Perfumes**
- namewashkoons aniibishan—spearmint leaves
- wiingushk aniibishan—sweet grass leaves

**Lipstick**
- bibigweminan—elderberries (mixed with tallow)

**Hair Conditioners**
- sasap kwamins—wild bergamot
- waasakonek—goldenrod flowers
- mashkodewashk aniibishan—wild sage leaves
- giizhik aniibishan—white cedar leaves
- gibaime’nuna’gwus aniibishan—sweet fern leaves (keeps hair black)
- bagwaji zhoomin biimaakwadoon—wild grape vines

**Insect Repellants**
- namewashkoons aniibishan—spearmint leaves
- *peppermint leaves
- sasap kwamins—wild bergamot leaves
- gizhik aniibishan—white cedar leaves
- miskwaabimizh waaboo—red willow sap

**Dyes**
- odaataagomimnag—blackberries (dark blue)
- minian—blueberries (dark blue, purple)
- gozigaakominag—juneberries (dark red)
- bagwaj bagesaan—wild plums (purple)
- bawe’iminan—pin cherries (dark red)
- miskominan—raspberries (pink)
- ode’iminan—strawberries (red)
- asawaseweminan—choke cherries (dark red)
- bibigweminan—elderberries (purple, red)
- zhaabominan—currants (red)
- waasakonek—goldenrod flowers (yellow)
- *blue iris flowers (purple)
- miskondebih waabgwew—Indian paintbrush flowers (red)
- *lily flowers (orange)
- miskwiijibikan—bloodroots (red, orange, yellow)
- waagogan—ferns (green, brown)
- aasaakamigoon—mosses (green, brown)
- *lichens (orange, purple)

**Weaving Materials**
- mats, baskets, twine
- aapukwe’sh kwa’gami—cattail leaves
- anaakanishk inaskoon—rush stems
- anaakanishk inaskoon—bulrush stems
- wingishk aniibishan—sweet grass leaves
- aagaamka misan—black ash wood
- wiigob—basswood inner bark

**Elders participate in language planning grant**

By Barbara Sanchez, Northland College Intern

Odanah, Wis.—Under a one-year planning grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), GLIFWC is developing a language plan and strategy for collecting the Ojibwe names of individual fish, animals and bird species and the traditional names of locations within the ceded territories. This project has the potential to benefit not only the ecology of the area, but also Ojibwe culture and language.

A planning committee has already met several times to develop a strategy to implement the project. Participating at committee level are elders from Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Mille Lacs, and Red Cliff who share their knowledge of the land, language, and the interconnectedness of the two. With these elders as teachers, advisors and guides, GLIFWC is working toward preserving a culture starting with the accumulation of Ojibwe language resources and speakers.

Once the plan and strategy are developed, GLIFWC will submit a grant application to implement the plan.

**Disclaimer**

While the list identifies those plants that can be harvested during the summer months, we strongly recommend that before you pick them, you meet with elders in your community to talk about proper ways of harvesting, times of harvesting, and proper preparation of the plants before eating them.

This is important because some plants need to be harvested in certain ways to ensure that they will continue to grow, while other plants need to be properly washed and prepared prior to eating or using them. In addition, those elders can also help you in different uses of these plants.
Gathering summer fruits

By Karen Danielsen

GLIFWC Forest Ecologist

Lac Courte Oreilles, Wis.—Two summers’ ago, Lac Courte Oreilles elder Rose Tainter, along with her husband Ken and brother-in-law Art, spent a day with half-a-dozen children gathering asasaweminan (chokecherries). The activity resulted in buckets full of asasaweminan, fingers stained purplish-red, and tired, giggling kids.

Back at home, Rose taught the youngsters how to turn the asasaweminan into a tasty jelly. She used Sure-Jell™, adding extra sugar—given the slightly bitter flavor of asasaweminan. Afterwards, everyone received at least one jar of the homemade jelly.

Rose remembers, before the advent of Sure-Jell™ and easy-to-start gas stoves, when canning the fruits of summer required much more time and labor. Growing up in Obashiing (Ponemah, Minnesota), her family gathered asasaweminan, bawa’immaan (pincherries), and miinan (blueberries) and prepared them for winter storage.

After gathering, they would mash and cook the fruits, seeds and all, with sugar, over a wood stove. Often, boiling took all day and wood had to be constantly added to the stove. The finished product was stored in the cellar.

Throughout the winter, they would eat spoonfuls of fruit, spitting out the seeds that had not been removed during the canning process. With a family of three daughters and five sons, a lot of fruit had to be canned to keep everyone satisfied and healthy.

She remembers being poor and working hard. However, she enjoyed her childhood and never went hungry. Her mother gathered medicinal plants to keep her children healthy. The woods always seemed to provide enough for her family.

She met her husband in 1967 and moved to Minneapolis. Five years ago, they moved to Lac Courte Oreilles to be near Ken’s family. Rose continues to practice traditional ways, speaking Ojibwemowin fluently, gathering wild plants, and achieving the second degree order in the Midewewin Lodge.

She hopes tribal youth will learn traditional ways. She teaches them Ojibwemowin at Waadookodading, an immersion school at Hayward Elementary School. She also teaches them the little things, like how to gather and prepare asasaweminan.

After gathering the asasaweminan, Rose Tainter, Lac Courte Oreilles elder, turns the fruit into jelly. (Photo by Jim St. Arnold)

Anisho/Shoshone Chokecherry Gravy

2 cups chokecherries (fresh or dried into patties)
2 tbsp. flour
sugar or sugar substitute to taste
water

Soak dried chokecherry patties in warm water until crumbly. Drain and place in a saucepan with 1 1/2 cups boiling water. Turn down to medium heat. Mix flour with 1/2 cup cool water until pasty and add to chokecherries. Add sugar or sugar substitute to taste. Stir frequently so it doesn’t stick, cooking until it is thickened into a gravy. Add more water or flour if necessary. Serves four.

—submitted by Charles Myers

Lakota Wasna

1 cup chokecherries or raisins
2 strips dried buffalo meat (can substitute deer, elk, antelope, etc.)
1/4 cup canola oil
1/4 cup sugar (optional)

Cook dry meat in oven at 350° for 5-10 minutes to soften. Remove from oven and cool in cold water for five minutes. Dry on a towel, then pound with a hammer, mortar and pestle, or with stones. Pound fruit and mix with oil and meat. Texture should be grainy. Add sugar to taste. This was used on long trips and also as a sacred food in ceremonies. Serves four.

(Editor’s note: The above recipes are reprinted from Wisdom of Elders: Traditional American Indian Food and Recipes, published by the National Society for American Indian Elderly (NSAIE). For more information contact NSAIF at (602) 307-1865, 2214 North Central Avenue, Suite 250, Phoenix, Arizona 85004, via e-mail at info@nsaie.org or visit them on the web at www.nsaie.org.)

Cultural workshops

Drum making

This is not so much a workshop as a journey to another way of life. Rose Fredlund is both a very traditional and a very nontraditional native person. She has become both a drummer and a medicine woman—achievements that are open to the men of her culture, but not usually the women. Her life work is driven by a belief in her culture and her urge to pass it on to the generations to follow.

In this workshop, you will learn not only how to make a traditional drum, but that making a drum is a journey towards respect for your fellow classmates and the elements the drum will be made of. There will be healing, music, ceremony, and celebration.

Working with skins, wood, and native plants; and learning traditional medicines, foods, and celebrations are all part of the world of Rose Fredlund, keeper of traditions of the Dene Nation in Canada’s Northwest Territo- ries. Meals are included in this workshop, and each evening, Rose will prepare dinners made of traditional native food.

Fee with lodging: $570—Class # 1454 This is a bargain! Kemp Lodge is a magnificent 1920’s style log structure nestled into the shores of Lake Tomahawk.

Traditional sewing

Join Rose and learn traditional sewing methods working with moose, caribou and deer hide, furs, seed beads, and other natural materials. Traditional designs, colors, stitches, and beading methods and tools will be covered while participants make slippers, purses, mittens, earrings, and other traditional items. This course will take place in the evenings after a day of drum making.

Sunday & Saturday, June 22-28 7–9 p.m. Kemp Field Station, Lake Tomahawk

Fee for Drumming Participants: $30
Please register before June 9th—Class # 1455

For non-workshop participants: $125
Registration for non-workshop participants will begin June 9th.

Fee for Non-Workshop Participants: $125
Class # 1456

Please call 1-800-585-9304 or (715) 356-6753 for registration information. Workshops are being offered as part of the Nicolet College Outdoor Adventure Series.
Ziigwan—It is Spring


(It is warming. Wild animals they give birth. They will protect their young. Snow s/he will melt and it will be raining. That crow will come speaking. Bears will wake up. Ojibwe people will make maple sugar. They are hard workers. Elders they will conduct ceremonies. A year (winter) passes. Happy new year!)
Greg Fischer hired to manage Aquaculture Demonstration Facility

Superior, Wis.—Greg Fischer, a 15-year fisheries and wildlife veteran, is the new manager of the Aquaculture Demonstration Facility planned for a site near Red Cliff, Wis.

Fischer came to the University of Wisconsin System, University of Wisconsin-Superior, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association and other partners working together to build and operate the Aquaculture Demonstration Facility adjacent to the Red Cliff Band’s fish hatchery. The $3 million facility, funded entirely by gaming revenue, is dedicated to teaching people how to effectively raise, process and market freshwater fish for human consumption.

Before accepting his new post, Fischer was director of the Red Cliff Tribal Natural Resources Program and Fish Hatchery Program. In that role, he was named the 2001 Tribal Biologist of the Year by the Native American Wildlife and Fisheries Society. Fischer earned a bachelor’s degree in fisheries and wildlife management from Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

His certifications from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service include Fish Health Inspector; Cold and Cool Water Fish Culture, and Use of Chemicals and Drugs in Fish Culture.

Fischer said he’s looking forward to the challenges of the new facility. “The Aquaculture Demonstration Facility will provide northern Wisconsin, northern Minnesota and northern Michigan with a facility to train people and demonstrate the viability of responsible northern aquaculture practices,” he said. “It will be an important step in the economic development for our region and in establishing a sustainable use of our natural resources.”

Groups or individuals seeking more information about the planned Aquaculture Demonstration Facility or wishing to see a presentation about the facility can contact Fischer at (715) 373-1047 or gfischer@uwssuper.edu.

St. Croix zebra mussel task force submits 2003 Action Plan

Background

The introduction of nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species into Minnesota and Wisconsin waters was not only the ecology of the region’s and states’ water resources, but also may harm industrial, recreational and subsistence use of the inhabited waterways.

Minnesota and Wisconsin have been subject to the invasion of aquatic nuisance species since the settlement of the region by Europeans. While many human activities have the potential to spread exotic species, on the St. Croix River the main potential pathway has been determined to be recreational boats and vessels that carry adult or larval zebra mussels.

The zebra mussel is a small exotic bivalve introduced into the United States in the Great Lakes region in the late 1980’s. It has since rapidly spread to connected water bodies, primarily through the movement of the commercial traffic in more than 19 states. It has also expanded into inland waters mainly through the movement of recreational boat traffic.

This exotic has been documented to kill native unionid mussels, disrupt ecosystems, possibly impact fisheries, damage municipal water supply and industrial intakes, and damage or impact boats and water recreation. There are no environmentally safe control methods once it is established in a water body.

In response to the threat of this exotic, the St. Croix River Zebra Mussel Task Force was formed in 1992. A Zebra Mussel Response Plan prepared in 1993 was the initial plan to try and keep the zebra mussel from spreading into the St. Croix River.

The primary focus in the first years of the Task Force was to enlist public support through voluntary boating restrictions. However, the discovery in 1994 of boats moored in the river with attached zebra mussels resulted in the decision that voluntary actions were not sufficient to prevent movement of the mussel.

The National Park Service (NPS) enacted emergency travel restrictions for the 1995 season preventing north-bound traffic past the Arcola sandbar unless the owner met specific conditions.

Beginning in 1994, zebra mussels have been found singularly on substrate such as native mussels and rocks and on boats within the lower twenty-five miles of the river. However, during the summer of 2000, the settlement of juvenile zebra mussels from reproducing adults was discovered in the last 16 miles of the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

Minnesota regulations prohibit transport of zebra mussels either via the watersways or overland. The state has a regulatory and/or legislative status for aquatic nuisance species. The state of Wisconsin has enacted legislation making it illegal to transport zebra mussels into the lower St. Croix. NPS regulations also prohibit zebra mussel transportation into the lower St. Croix River.

Register to the reproduction of the zebra mussels downstream of Stillwater, the State of Minnesota legally declared this area of the river infested in 2001, which controls the transportation of water from the St. Croix River into the State. The State of Wisconsin does not currently have such regulations. NPS regulations, as published in the Federal Register on June 23, 1997, remain in effect for the federally administered zone of the St. Croix River, including waters designated by the state of Minnesota as “infested.”

In 1998, the Governors of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and Chairpersons from Chippewa tribes signatory to the 1837 Treaty, submitted a comprehensive interstate management plan for the prevention and control of nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species (ANS) to the Federal ANS Task Force to obtain federal funding. The plan was approved and the states and tribes have received federal funds to implement the ANS management plan.

Before leaving a boat launch

✓ Inspect your boat, trailer, and boating equipment and remove any visible plants and animals.
✓ Drain water from the motor, livewell, bilge, and transom wells while on shore and before leaving any waterbody.
✓ Dump unused bait in the trash. Never release live bait into a waterbody, or release aquatic animals from one waterbody into another.
✓ Spray your boat and boating equipment with high-pressure water or leave it in the sun to dry for 5 days.

Before leaving a boat launch

Risk identification & prioritization

Determine the aquatic nuisance species that have the potential to infest the St. Croix River. Identify existing and potential transport mechanisms that are likely to introduce these species.

Regulations & enforcement

Publicize and enforce regulations to prevent introductions into the St. Croix River.

Monitoring for zebra mussels

Develop and implement monitoring programs in the St. Croix River watershed to provide for the early detection of infestations for use in management decisions and actions.

Information & education

Continue an effective information/education program on the prevention of ANS introductions into or within the St. Croix River.

Control

Establish mechanism to ensure that the control strategies developed and implemented are: a) done so in coordination with state and federal agencies, tribal authorities, local governments, inter-jurisdictional organizations, and other appropriate entities; and b) are based on the best available scientific information and conducted in an environmentally sound manner (NANPCA, Section 1302). (MDNR, MN Sea Grant, NPS, USFWS, WDNR)

Research

Monitor/support/coordinate scientific research between state and federal agencies and academic institutions that investigate possible environmentally safe control methods to use against zebra mussel and other ANS populations. (MDNR, MN Sea Grant, NPS, USFWS, WDNR, others)
GLIFWC staff day combines fun & business

Laughter lightens the business of Staff Day

Odanah, Wis.—One of the few occasions the entire GLIFWC staff gathers together is for the annual Staff Day—a day that deals with the routinely dry, but important organizational business, like retirement plans and health insurance. But it’s also a day to find out what everybody has been up to in the various GLIFWC divisions and a time to recognize staff for their contributions and years of service.

The staff was honored to have Tobasonakwut Kinew, Ojibways of Onigaming, present for opening ceremonies and prayers. As usual, he started the day off in a good way.

In 2003, GLIFWC’s Staff Day Recognition Committee, composed of Jim Zorn, Peter David and Joe Dan Rose, decided to recognize stalwart staff members who are not often in the limelight, but who work hard behind the scenes. They also decided to have a little fun in the process, relying on “inside info” about those chosen for recognition. The result was the award presentations depicted in the photos above and some good laughs.

Staff Day also included five excellent Power Point presentations by staff, highlighting specific aspects of their programs. Bill Mattes, Great Lakes fisheries section, provided an overview of the depth-temperature tagging study in Lake Superior and the section’s fisheries modeling work. John Mulroy, Enforcement, presented on cold water rescue training and techniques and Miles Falck, wildlife section, provided an update on the status of the invasive plants program. From GLIFWC’s Madison satellite office, John Coleman, GLIFWC environmental section leader, talked about sampling in the ceded territory with a focus on the Crandon area, and Esteban Chiriboga, GIS mining assistant, explained the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) study.

GLIFWC members who reached, or will reach in 2003, 5-10-15-20 year employee status were, from the left (back row) Jim St. Arnold, 15 years; John Mulroy, 15 years; Bill Mattes, 10 years; Neil Knieck, 20 years; Gerald W. White, 15 years; and Esteban Chiriboga, 5 years. Front row: Vern Stone, 15 years; Leanne Thannum, 15 years; Lynn Plucinski, 20 years; and Ann McCammon Soltis, 10 years. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

New staff

By Barbara Sanchez, Northland College Intern

Odanah, Wis.—On November 18, 2002, Gina Nelis became a part of GLIFWC’s Intergovernmental Affairs division. Secretary for policy analysts Jim Zorn and Ann McCammon Soltis, she helps keep the office organized while being responsible for printing the agenda, preparing meeting packets and taking minutes for the Voigt Intertribal Task Force.

Before she joined the GLIFWC staff, Gina worked with tribal operations, gaining years of secretarial experience as a Contract Health Services Clerk and a Social Services general assistance caseworker at the Lac Vieux Desert reservation in Michigan.

A Bad River Band member, she values being employed by an organization that works for all Anishinaabe people. This, in turn, gives her the opportunity to work for her people and community as well.

When out of the office, she enjoys spending her free time with her sons—James, 14; Durren, 13, and Loren, 1. Gina also participates in outdoor activities, such as hunting, fishing, golf, and softball. She also attends pow-wows, feasts and other traditional Ojibwe ceremonies.

Gina enjoys the busy work schedule that her job provides. In fact, she adds that she is one of the few fortunate people who actually enjoys waking up each morning, ready to conquer a new day at work. Gina only hopes that one day, when she retires, it will be a retirement from her career at GLIFWC.
MAZINA’IGAN (Talking Paper) is a quarterly publication of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, which represents eleven Ojibwe tribes in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

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

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