Tribes assert sovereignty, affirm relationship with ma’iingan

By Sue Erickson & Jason Kekek Stark

Odanah, Wis.—The region’s first contemporary state wolf hunts are underway in both Minnesota and Wisconsin with media tallying the rising kill numbers daily, but many tribes have asserted their sovereignty in acknowledgment and affirmation of their well-established relationship with ma’iingan (wolf).

Tribal concern about the hunts in Minnesota and Wisconsin stem from biological management issues and from a deeply felt connection to ma’iingan, a brother to the Anishinaabe people.

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

In Wisconsin, the state set a total harvest figure to be 201 wolves. The current state harvest scheme will reduce the population to a level the tribes consider ecologically unsound, culturally inappropriate and potentially unsustainable. The tribes’ goal is for all suitable wolf habitat to be fully occupied and for the population to be at or above current levels, thus enabling wolves to perform their appropriate ecological and cultural functions. The difference in tribal and state management goals makes it virtually impossible to reach consensus on harvestable surplus, an essential first step in determining quotas and issuing declarations. As a result, the tribes claimed every wolf in the Wisconsin ceded territory consistent with their treaty reserved right to have wolves on the landscape as necessary to effectuate the tribes’ rights and goals for ma’iingan.

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

Despite the reduction in numbers to be harvested in Wisconsin, many believe the imposition of a hunt so soon after wolf mortality from poachers, road kills and delisting is unwise and hasty, advocating for more long-term cooperative planning on the management of ma’iingan. With wolf mortality from poachers, road kills and delisting is unwise and hasty, advocating for more long-term cooperative planning on the management of ma’iingan. (COR)

Report highlights reduced toxic emissions in Lake Superior basin

By Sara Moses, GLIFWC Environmental Biologist

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

The governments accepted the challenge and in 1991 created a Zero Discharge Demonstration Program (ZDDP) for nine toxic pollutants from sources within the Lake Superior basin. The ZDDP laid out a schedule to achieve zero emissions by 2020. These “The Nasty Nine” include mercury, dioxin, PCBs and certain pesticides. Every five years, the Lake Superior Work Group’s Chemical Committee releases the Critical Chemical Reduction Milestones report, which reviews the progress of the ZDDP. The latest report was released in October 2012.

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

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

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

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

(Continued from page 1) and those taken due to depredation added to the mix, the toll on the freshly delisted species could be harsh.

In Wisconsin wolf hunting cannot occur within the exterior boundaries of the Black River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff and Menominee reservations or in the designated Stockbridge-Munsee wolf zone. A tribal request to add a six-mile buffer around the reservations’ boundaries to better protect “tribal” packs was denied. However, in Minnesota, while wolf hunting is not allowed on tribal lands, the state allows wolf hunters on public or tribal lands within the exterior boundaries of the reservations.

In a letter to Minnesota’s Governor Dayton, Fond du Lac Chairwoman Karen Diver clearly states her concerns declaring that “the Fond du Lac Band after the tribe adopted a resolution stating that the Ma’iingan population on the Fond du Lac reservation.” Diver’s message states concerns similar to those of Wisconsin tribes: “The Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee has found it necessary to adopt this resolution in view of the Minnesota DNR Commissioner Landwehr’s refusal to accede to the Band’s request that the State’s wolf hunt not include lands within the Fond du Lac Reservation. We emphatically protest the paternalistic and unilateral manner in which the State of Minnesota implemented this hunt without prior consultation with the tribes or consideration of the unique cultural relevance of the wolf to us. It is puzzling to us that, despite the elaborate government-to-government protocols which we have established for the exercise of treaty rights in the ceded territories, somehow Minnesota DNR did not deem tribal interests on their reservations to warrant the same degree of respect.

Beyond biological concerns and issues relating to lack of consultation, the tribes maintain a unique and very dynamic relationship with ma’iingan, who is not only an important clan animal, but is considered a brother. An Ojibwe teaching holds that the destinies of Anishinaabe and ma’iingan parallel each other. The teaching as told in The Mishomis Book by Edward Benton-Banai appears below:

A message from the teaching’s author: “The following excerpt is reprinted with permission from The Mishomis Book, The Voice of the Ojibway by Edward Benton-Banai. In his travels, Original Man began to notice that all the animals came in pairs and they reproduced. And yet, he was alone. He spoke to his Grandfather the Creator and asked, “Why am I alone? Why are there no other ones like me?” Gitchie Manito answered, “I will send someone to walk, talk and play with you.” He sent Ma-en’-gun (the wolf). With Ma-en’-gun by his side, Original Man again spoke to Gitchie Manito: “I have finished what you asked me to do. I have visited and named all the plants, animals, and places of this Earth. What would you now have me to do?” Gitchie Manito answered Original Man and Ma-en’-gun, “Each of you are to be a brother to the other. Now, both of you are to walk the Earth and visit all its places.” So, Original Man and Ma-en’-gun walked the Earth and came to know all of her. In this journey they became very close to each other. They became like brothers. In their closeness they realized that they were brothers to all of the Creation.

When they had completed the task that Gitchie Manito asked them to do, they talked with the Creator once again. The Creator said, “From this day on, you are to separate your paths. You must go your different ways.”

“What shall happen to one of you will also happen to the other. Each of you will be feared, respected, and misunderstood by the people that will later join you on this Earth. And so Ma-en’-gun and Original Man set off on their different journeys.

This last teaching about the wolf is important for us today. What the Grandfather said to them has come to true. Both the Indian and the wolf have come to be alike and have experienced the same thing. Both of them mate for life. Both have a Clan System and a tribe. Both have had their land taken from them. Both have been hunted for their wee-nes si-see (hair). And both have been pushed very close to destruction.

We can tell about our future as Indian people by looking at the wolf. It seems as though the wolf is beginning to come back to land. Will this prove that Indian people will cease to be the “Vanishing Americans?” Will Indian people emerge to lead the way back to natural living and respect for our Earth Mother?”

A message from the teaching’s author: “Noonup (means now is a critical time for our relative Mawengun (ma’iingan). In many, many ways Mawengun (ma’iingan) has shown continuing loyalty to the Anishinaabe people, across Turtle Island, to every Tribal Nation and to every individual. NOONUP, NOW, WE MUST DEMAND THE CONTINUITY OF OUR TRADITION AND LOYALTY TO THE WOLF, BY FIGHTING, BY DEFEYING THE HUNTING, THE EXTERMINATION OF OUR BROTHER/SISTER.

This artwork by Rabbett Strickland, Red Cliff, expresses the Anishinaabe relationship with ma’iingan and is incorporated into a poster available on an educational website: maiingan.org.

GLIFWC’s Peter David receives Wetlands Restoration Award

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

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

“One of my biggest motivations for my work is the fact that the wolf is back in the state. I feel more like it’s the face of a successful program, than an individual award here,” David said. “But as with many leading advocates for a cause, Peter’s duties are oftentimes indistinguishable from his personal passion. Peter is the leading expert on wild rice in Wisconsin and has done more to protect, restore, manage, promote, research and educate about wild rice than any other person in Wisconsin. It bears repeating—than any other person,” wrote Ricky Lein, WDNR Wetland Habitat Team supervisor, in his nomination letter.

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

In addition to hours of field work, including rescoring and aerial surveys, Peter has pushed for the development of a tribal-state wild rice management plan, a comprehensive document that considers all aspects of manoomin—research, regulation, management, ecology, restoration, and potential threats.

The Wetland Restoration Award aims at recognizing “on-the-ground wetland restoration work and efforts that promote wetland restoration including: private and public restoration projects; invasive species control projects; general wetland stewardship; research, programs or materials that encourage wetland restoration,” according to the WWA.

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

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

This artwork by Rabbett Strickland, Red Cliff, expresses the Anishinaabe relationship with ma’iingan and is incorporated into a poster available on an educational website: maiingan.org.

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

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The “Findings” in the bill indicate that “the availability of minerals and mineral materials are essential for economic growth, national security, technological innovation, and the manufacturing and agricultural supply chain” and is crucial to the country’s economic well-being.

The “Findings” also point out that the United States has increasing dependence on foreign minerals and lags as a competitor on attorneys’ fees, stating that the federal government will not be responsible for attorneys’ fees in these civil actions.

“undermine and remove the environmental safeguards, for, at a minimum, almost all types of hardrock mines on Federal lands.”

According to the chairman, the bill will be substantially different from the Assembly bill that passed last year. Senator Cullen has stated that the drafting of the bill will include participation by all political parties. At least one public hearing on the legislation is proposed.

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

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

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

Water quality: the focus of mining impact meeting

By Jennifer Burnett, GLIFWC Outreach Specialist

Marquette, Mich.—The Lake Superior Binational Forum held its second of three meetings about mining in the Lake Superior basin September 28 in Marquette, Michigan. With an increased interest in mining in the area, the Forum hopes these meetings will educate the public about ways to protect and restore Lake Superior’s environment and natural resources.

This meeting focused on nonferrous mining, also known as sulfide mining, while the first meeting was mainly about ferrous (iron) mining. This meeting also highlighted the focus of mining in the Lake Superior basin are involved in the mining process. (JB)

Water quality and air quality are affected by mining. A tribe’s air quality designation from the Environmental Protection Agency means they have interests and certain legal rights regarding the environmental impacts of mining in the area. Therefore they have interests and certain legal rights regarding the environmental impacts of mining in the area.

The third Binational Forum meeting on mining will be held in March 2013 in Minnesota.

Update: Mining in the ceded territory

By John Coleman, GLIFWC Environmental Section Leader

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

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By Jennifer Burnett
GLIFWC Outreach Specialist
Permit info for treaty hunters and gatherers

By Jonathan Gilbert, PhD, GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Camping

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

What is required?

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

What do I do at the national forest campground?

When you locate a campsite at the campground, you will find a fee payment envelope at the site. Please complete all required spaces on the fee payment envelope. Then instead of putting a check or money into the envelope, you will place the Camping Payment Card (which you obtained when you received your permit) in the envelope. Place the envelope in the fee payment tube located near the entrance to the campground.

Can I get additional camping cards?

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

Day use fee areas

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

Gathering

Gathering activities fall into one of several categories so it is important to know what, how much and where you want to gather. Treaty gathering is permitted for the four national forests in the ceded territories and select Wisconsin state properties.

Wild Rice Permit—A wild rice permit is required to harvest wild rice. This is a separate permit from all other gathering permits.

General Gathering—A general gathering permit is required to gather most other plants. If you wish to gather balsam boughs, firewood, lodge poles, birch bark or ginseng, you must obtain a non-timber forest products permit (see next permit). If you wish to gather maple sap you must have a sugarbush permit. For everything else you only need a general gathering permit.

Hunting

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

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

Small game permits

General Small Game Permit—For most small game animals (e.g. ruffed grouse, snowshoe hares, etc.), all you need is a general small game hunting permit. This permit is valid in all three states and permits the harvest of any species for which a tag or registration is not required. It does not include waterfowl, turkeys or bobcats. These require separate permits.

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

Bobcat Hunting Permit—if you wish to hunt bobcats, you should obtain a bobcat hunting permit (found under the small game permit). You will be given a carcass tag for your bobcat, and you are required to register your bobcat after it has been harvested. If you intend on trapping a bobcat, please obtain a bobcat trapping permit.

(See Permit info, page 10)
Restoring native plants in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, a community effort

**LVD, KBIC join partnerships**

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That legacy is on display at Rice Bay on Lake Lac Vieux Desert where many of the three-dozen Kinomaage participants witnessed the full richness of manoomin harvesting, processing and reseeding—all done by hand. The LVD Band, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and other partners are 30 years into efforts to rejuvenate ancient manoomin (wild rice) beds on the lake’s north shore. With assistance from Herron, on Kinomaage’s second day LVD’s Roger LaBine detailed the life cycle of manoomin and its journey from a seed in the lake bottom to a table-ready food.

Herron poignantly ran down a list of native species required to both harvest and preserve manoomin, using traditional tools and moccasins made from gizhik (cedar), mashki-suwaatig (tamarack) and aagimaak (black ash) push poles, nooshkaachinaagan (winnowing trays) utilizing wigwaas (bark birch) and wiigob (basswood).

“We need all of these plants to do this one activity,” Herron said, adding that native plant stewardship is fundamentally “ethnobotanical driven—not just for the sake of having a restored ecosystem.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Gizhik and pollinators**

As part of the Zaagkii project, tribal youth have constructed 18 butterfly houses for monarchs to rest and shelter from severe weather. In this 2008 photo, KBIC’s Janelle Paquin applies a coat of primer to a butterfly house. (photo by Greg Peterson)

In a pair of buckskin moccasins, Roger LaBine demonstrates manoomin jigging. (photo by COR)
Wisconsin manoomin season ends stronger than anticipated

By Lisa David, GLIFWC Manoomin Biologist

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 190 survey respondents averaged about 21 pounds per harvest trip, in comparison to only 9 pounds per trip in 2010. The majority of respondents harvested a total of 50 pounds or less this 2012 season.

Sites of note were Radigan Flowage in Douglas County where low water levels left the seed-rich plants standing in mudflats. And Mud Lake (Oakland Township, Burnett County) was in the top 10 harvest sites indicating that the culvert repair project a few years ago may be rectifying water level issues.

Clam Lake rice beds heading towards recovery?

By Peter David, GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—Upper Clam Lake in Burnett County, Wisconsin is a special place. The extensive manoomin (wild rice) beds found on the southern bays of the lake made 2012 the number one off-reservation ricing harvesting lake in the state. Fishermen and waterfowl hunters also knew they could often find the quarry they sought on this productive lake as well, thanks in no small part to the food and habitat the rice beds provided. Then something happened.

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

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

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

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

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

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

While the recovery witnessed so far is encouraging, the lake still has a long ways to go. Large beds of rice historically occurred in areas that cannot be easily fenced off from the carp.
Updated Water Quality Agreement includes significant changes

Focus on collaboration & prevention in the Great Lakes

By Jen Vanator
GLIFWC Great Lakes Program Coordinator

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

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

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

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

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

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

Another emerging threat to the quality of water in the Great Lakes is climate change. Increasing nearshore and surface water temperature is widely believed to be a culprit in the spread of algal blooms in several of the Great Lakes, including this summer’s blue-green (Cyanobacteria) algal bloom on the banks of Lake Superior between Cornucopia and Superior between Cornucopia and an open season from October 15 through Memorial Day weekend.

About 700 dead waterbirds have been discovered in September in the western Upper Peninsula.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources sought input from the Voigt Intermountain Task Force and its Novosti. The first meeting on the enactment of Act 168, which opens state parks in Wisconsin to hunting, fishing and trapping. The legislation will be effective on October 1. Current proposals suggest closing hunting and trapping within 100 yards of areas used for camping, picnicking or swimming, and an open season from October 15 through Memorial Day weekend.

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With wolf hunts underway in Minnesota and Wisconsin, Michigan is considering the same. Two bills to make the gray wolf a game species have been introduced, one in the House and one in the Senate. Michigan estimates the wolf population be about 700 with most of the wolves residing in the western Upper Peninsula.
Exotic forest pests targeted by ANA-funded project

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

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

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

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects average household expenditures for heating oil and natural gas will increase by 19 percent and 15 percent, respectively, this winter (October 1 through March 31) compared with last winter. Projected household expenditures are 5 percent higher for electricity and 13 percent higher for propane this winter. Average expenditures for households that heat with propane this winter are forecast to be higher than any previous winter on record.

What can be done?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Odanah, Wis.—Alert workers have uncovered and reported ALBs in warehouses in Michigan, Wisconsin and other states.

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

As forest pests move into the ceded territory, they could be accidently spread by individuals collecting and moving firewood including tribal members. Tribal members currently exercise firewood gathering rights under either: • a formal Tribal/Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established in 1999, or • tribal codes governing firewood harvest on state-owned lands.

The challenge is how to maximize opportunities for tribal members to harvest firewood to heat their homes and boil syrup while minimizing the spread of forest pests on public lands or into reservation communities.

Looking at the problem


Asian longhorned beetle. (photo credit: Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ.)

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) is native to eastern China, Japan and Korea and now has been accidentally introduced to the United States where it was first discovered in 1996. Alert workers have uncovered and reported ALBs in warehouses in Michigan, Wisconsin and other states.

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

By Dara Olson, GLIFWC Aquatic Invasive Species Coord.

Odanah, Wis.—Aquatic invasive species (AIS) degrade aquatic ecosystems and treaty resources by outcompeting and displacing native species. Because of this, GLIFWC staff have worked cooperatively with other agencies to identify the presence of AIS in ceded territory waters since 2004.

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

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

Sixty-three landings were surveyed for aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. A total of 102 plankton samples were collected and will be analyzed this winter for the presence of zebra mussel veligers and spiny or fishhook waterfleas.

Chinese or banded mysterysnails were found in over half of the lakes surveyed and purple loosestrife was found on half of the lakes. A small, pioneer population of Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) was found on Wisconsin’s Anvil Lake in July. Partnering agencies were notified and a “rapid response” was organized to hand-pull the EWM.

Early detection of invasive species before they become large, environmentally-damaging populations makes eradication feasible and reduces the need for treating with herbicide.

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

Aquatic plant management workshop planned

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

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

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

If you are interested in learning more about this free workshop or plan to attend, please contact Sue Lemieux, GLIFWC at 715.682.6691 to be added to the participant list. An accurate head count will ensure that we have an adequate amount of meeting materials for all participants.

Cooperative fisheries surveys in Mille Lacs Lake

By GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Staff

Odanah, Wis.—For many years, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) has conducted a fall assessment survey to help monitor the walleye population in Mille Lacs Lake. The bottom-set gill nets used in this survey are approximately 6 feet deep, and include 50-foot panels of 0.75", 1.0", 1.25", 1.5", and 2.0" bar mesh.

A variety of different habitat types are included in the survey, which is standardized to ensure that the same locations are sampled at the same approximate time and water temperatures each year. The resulting data are used in a variety of different ways and are an important component of the stock assessment models that are updated each year by state and tribal biologists.

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

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

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

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

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

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

State anglers and tribal harvesters should expect to see some walleye that are marked with plastic tags which stick out from the side of the fish next to the dorsal fin. These tags will be yellow in color and will have “MNDNR” plus a number printed on them. Tribal and GLIFWC creel clerks will document tag numbers as they are encountered in tribal catches. Likewise, MnDNR will be collecting similar information from state anglers through its annual creel survey on Mille Lacs Lake.

GLIFWC assessment crews survey ceded territory waters for juvenile walleye

By Mark Luther, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Biologist

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

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

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

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

GLIFWC’s inland fisheries section would like to say miigwech to the electroshocking crew members!
Tribal trappers in Wisconsin harvested a total of 175 fishers, primarily from management Zone A and B. The most fishers were taken from Burnett County (29), although harvest was spread over 12 counties.

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

In 2010 GLIFWC received authority to operate a furbearer export program related to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). The CITES program requires that all otters and bobcats to be exported be registered and tagged with a CITES tag. A CITES tag is not required for bobcats used for personal purposes.

Permits are available at your tribal conservation departments or the local GLIFWC registration station by 5:00 pm of the third working day following the harvest.

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

By Peter David GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Last season, Fur Harvesters Auction’s (FHA) highly regarded beaver auction produced better results, especially on the better grades, and they anticipate prices will continue to do well.

Wild Mink—FHA predicts quality, seasonal mink will see good demand.

Fisher—Otter prices dropped unsuccessfully last spring. FHA believes the drop was not the fundamental demand of supply, perhaps a lack of liquidity with the otter buyers. They expect prices to bounce back.

Fisher—FHA predicts clear, (color 1 & 2) excellent quality females will do very well. Largemouthed males are suitable for taxidermy purposes. FHA encourages trappers to be very selective on what they put up. (Fur-Fish-Game Magazine predicts prices around $70-$75 with the potential of reaching $90 for a high quality pelt.)

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

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Good news for lake trout recovery

GLIFWC assessment nets haul in a record number

By Bill Mattes, GLIFWC Great Lakes Biologist

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

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

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

At Union Bay reef, near Silver City, Michigan on the western end of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, the crew of Mzikhwad handled a record 586 lake trout, of which 495 were tagged and released during the October 15 to 18, 2012 assessment. This is good news. Waters adjacent to Union Bay reef were stocked with 1.9 million lake trout between 1965 and 1995 in an effort to rehabilitate lake trout in Lake Superior. In 1988, the first assessment was initiated in 1994 in anticipation of the Lake Superior Technical Committee’s lake sturgeon rehabilitation plan, which directs agencies “to collect information on the biological characteristics of lake sturgeon in an effort to develop workable management strategies.”

Population going up near Bad River

By Bill Mattes, GLIFWC Great Lakes Biologist

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

During this time, Great Lakes Technician Mike Plucinski has led the efforts to assess name’ by setting asab (gill nets) in Gichigami (Lake Superior) near the mouth of the Bad River. The study was initiated in 1994 in anticipation of the Lake Superior Technical Committee’s lake sturgeon rehabilitation plan, which directs agencies “to collect information on the biological characteristics of lake sturgeon in an effort to develop workable management strategies.”

The work is done in cooperation with the Bad River Natural Resources Department and the Ashland Fishery Resources Office, and focuses on studying the biology and distribution of name’ and around the Bad River Reservation’s boundary with Lake Superior.

Plucinski’s crews captured, tagged, and released 476 name’ off the mouth of the Bad River during the summer assessment, which run from late-June to early-September. Captured name’ are scanned for passive internal transponder (PIT) tags, which are small glass cylinders inserted into fish prior to release. Those without a PIT tag received one courtesy of the GLIFWC staff members. In addition to the PIT tag each fish gets an individually numbered Floy tag. The tags individually identify a fish so that its movement and growth can be tracked over time.

Fish tagged by GLIFWC staff have been recaptured during assessment netting near the mouth of the Bad River, by Wisconsin DNR nets set for lake sturgeon in Chequamegon Bay near the Ashland breakwall and for lake trout off the mouth of the Bad River. Tagged name’ have also been caught by fishers fishing from Marble Point (five miles east of the Bad River mouth) to LaPointe, Wisconsin on Madeline Island to Houghton Point in Chequamegon Bay.

In 2010 a fish tagged as a juvenile was recaptured during the spring spawning run for the first time since the surveys began. Name’ do not spawn for the first time until they are between 7 and 14 years old for males and females, respectively. Fish captured during the summer surveys are generally less than seven years old.

**Figure:**

- **Relative Abundance**
  - **Graph:** Relative abundance (solid bars) and trend line for name’ sampled off the mouth of the Bad River, Wisconsin by GLIFWC crews during 1995-2012.
  - **Data Source:** GLIFWC Great Lakes Biologist

**Images:**

- A crew of Mzikhwad handling lake trout near Silver City, Michigan.
- Fishers fishing for lake trout near the Bad River.
- A fish tagged as a juvenile was recaptured during the spring spawning run for the first time since the surveys began.

**Notes:**

- The work is done in cooperation with the Bad River Natural Resources Department and the Ashland Fishery Resources Office, and focuses on studying the biology and distribution of name’ and around the Bad River Reservation’s boundary with Lake Superior.
- Fish tagged by GLIFWC staff have been recaptured during assessment netting near the mouth of the Bad River, by Wisconsin DNR nets set for lake sturgeon in Chequamegon Bay near the Ashland breakwall and for lake trout off the mouth of the Bad River.
- Fish tagged as a juvenile was recaptured during the spring spawning run for the first time since the surveys began.
- Name’ do not spawn for the first time until they are between 7 and 14 years old for males and females, respectively.

**Related Reading:**

- GLIFWC: Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)
- Great Lakes News: October 2012
- Great Lakes Fish, Wildlife and Aquatic Sciences: October 2012
**What Tsagaglalal sees today**

**GLIFWC’s Northwest counterparts**

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Portland, Ore.—This year Tsagaglalal (She who Watches) watched as a record number of sockeye salmon returned up the Columbia River since the Bonneville Dam first blocked their passage in 1933. She has been watching from her high perch on a rocky hillside as the indigenous people of the Columbia River basin have struggled to recover their once abundant fishery under threat from a series of dams erected over the years. These power-generating dams have blocked the fish from their spawning grounds, resulting in a dramatic decline in returning salmon and Pacific lamprey—food relied upon by Tsagaglalal’s people for centuries.

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

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

Tsagaglalal still watches over her people, eternally gazing on the source of things. She who Watches

By changing her into a rock. He then promised “Tsagaglalal: “You shall stay here eternally, I have no wish.”

Yes, climate change is another issue confronted by the recovering salmon. Things are changing, Thompson says, like the spring run-offs are later. Freshet timing is off, changing the timing of the salmon run. The spring chinook run, spurred by flows and temperatures has become later and later. This is a story in progress; the ability of the fish to adapt to changing climate has yet to unfold.

While hatchery production has aided in the resurgence of salmon, installation of fish ladders at dam sites as well as dam removal in some areas have also played a large role.

At the gigantic Bonneville Dam which stretches between the states of Washington and Oregon on the Columbia River, passage for adult fish is part of the design after the original lock was replaced in 1993. The structure features two powerhouses and 18 spillways allowing adult fish to pass through the dam and head up the river to spawn. According to Ben Hausmann, supervisory fisheries biologist at the Bonneville Dam site, fish issues now dictate how the dam is run, and it currently accommodates passage for nine months out of the year, allowing passage for summer, spring and fall runs. Special sluiceways with a rapid flow also form a juvenile by-pass system allowing the youngsters to move out quickly.

Bonneville also tries to accommodate passage of Pacific lamprey, a species estimated to be 450 million years old. Like the salmon, they have been cut-off from their spawning grounds by dams, and their numbers seriously diminished. Hausmann says the lamprey had difficulty transversing the passages designed for salmon, seemingly unable to negotiate a 90 degree angle. Consequently, special passageways have been created, including a fast-flowing, 30-foot stream of water that the snake-like lamprey miraculously climb up—a phenomenon difficult to imagine.

CRITFC maintains a genetics laboratory outside of Boise, Idaho, that completes genetic testing for the tribes. There is some thought that the contributions of hatchery fish may contribute to the genetic ability to adapt to warmer temperatures, which could be a significant attribute in the future.

CRITFC staff work inside the mammoth Bonneville Dam, designed to bring migrating salmon into the system for monitoring purposes. Amid a constant roar of water, Agnes Strong and Crystal Chulik, record salmon statistics as a handler calls them out. Scale samples are taken for age composition and a fin clip for genetics. (photo by Sue Erickson)

Committed to the recovery of the fishery on which the tribal culture depends, CRITFC and its member tribes have been involved in salmon recovery since its inception in 1977 and more recently to the recovery of Pacific lamprey, also a traditional food used at feasts and ceremonies.

**CRITFC**

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CRITFC, representing four Columbia River tribes, is testimony to their commitment to return of the salmon and the recovery of the Columbia River fisheries. Between the tribes and CRITFC, 450 staff work towards the goal of fish recovery in the Columbia basin. Numerous hatcheries run successful programs, putting fish back into the system, while also watching the genetics of the strains they raise and release. Thompson mentions the Snake River fall chinook as an example. Once on the brink of extinction, today there is potential the species may be delisted. Tribes have used state-of-the-art hatchery management practices to rebuild the run while maintaining the integrity of the population.

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GLIFWC’s Northwest counterparts recover Columbia River fisheries

What T sagaglalalal sees today

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

Columbia gorge to fish, using large, long-handled hoop nets to scoop the fish from their forefathers did, tribal fishermen still use scaffolding along the steep banks of the Columbia River to spawn. Today, the lamprey swim up a gushing stream of water within the dam in order to migrate through the dam site. It seems an impossible feat, but the lamprey swim straight up a downspout of water. (SE)

Inset: Dennis Quaempts, Pacific States Marine Fisheries, inserts pith tag in a Pacific lamprey as it moves through the Bonneville Dam structures on the Columbia River. Tribes are actively trying to restore Pacific lamprey, a traditional food source. (SE)

Although Bonneville Dam is designed to allow fish passage through a system of locks and ladders, Pacific lamprey—like the necessary task of establishing a comprehensive data base. A complex system of spillways guides a certain number of returning fish through the monitoring spillways where they are momentarily delayed for the necessary measurements, like length, girth and weight. Scale samples are taken for age composition and a fin clip for genetic research. In the case of the Pacific lamprey, a pith tag is also inserted.

But dams are not the only issue plaguing salmon recovery today. CRITFC now faces sea lions! It all began in the mid-2000s, Thompson says, and was triggered by high run of chinook that were followed by the hungry sea lions. They found an ideal spot at Bonneville’s second powerhouse to catch breakfast, lunch and dinner where salmon converged to head up-river. Comprised of male sea lions who feast on sturgeon come February and salmon later in the year, these voracious fish predators put a significant dent in salmon numbers.

Because they remain protected under the Marine Animal Protection Act, the tribes have no removal authority but are involved in the decision-making in regard to the sea lion issue, Thompson says. Some repeat offenders are removed, perhaps relocated to a zoo; otherwise, CRITFC participates in hazing the animals—a perfect job for college interns who create an unpleasant disturbance for the picnicking sea lions by using cracker shells or seal bombs, a type of underwater bomb, to keep them downstream of the dam and away from the vulnerable fish.

While so much effort goes towards protecting and recovering the fishery, CRITFC’s end goal is to provide a plentiful harvest for tribal fishermen. Known as the Salmon People of the Columbia River, tribal society there dates back thousands of years. The tribes’ reliance on salmon and Pacific lamprey is an inseparable part of their culture and existence—economic, subsistence, and spiritual. Much as their forefathers did, tribal fishermen still use scaffolding along the steep banks of the Columbia gorge to fish, using large, long-handled hoop nets to scoop the fish from the running water. Sadly, one of the most popular traditional fishing grounds at Celilo Falls no longer exists—a magnificent falls lost in flooding when the Dalles Dam was closed. Celilo Falls is now Celilo Lake. The roar of the mighty falls lost forever.

Part of CRITFC’s role involves assisting with marketing tribally caught fish. Currently, commercial fishing and fishing techniques is dependent on the size of fish runs. If it is plentiful, tribal members can sell fresh fish, usually at local, over-the-counter fish stands where purchasers eager for the taste of really fresh fish can find it. CRITFC sponsors a Tribal Fish Expo in the summer focused on marketing. “We highlight safety,” Thompson says, “demonstrating things like proper techniques for icing fish and ways to improve quality.”

CRITFC offers another necessary service to its tribes—that of enforcement. While CRITFC’s administrative office is downtown Portland, CRITFC enforcement is stationed along the Columbia River, convenient for boat launch and on-water patrols. CRITFC officers patrol about 150 miles on the Columbia in an area designated as Zone 6 extending from below the Bonneville dam up river to the McNary Dam. Enforcement also maintains and East Office and a Celilo Village Office. With a force of 13 officers and six support staff, CRITFC shares federal and state jurisdiction in Washington and Oregon with full criminal jurisdiction in the river corridor. According to CRITFC Captain Jerry Ekker. “Our goal is to keep our fishers safe on water and on land.” Safety is a focus of CRITFC’s member tribes, and they recently passed rules requiring safety gear on boats as well.

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

Tribal fishing scaffolds with hoop nets used by tribal fishermen in the Columbia River—a traditional form of fishing. (SE)

CRITFC member tribes

Established in 1977, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission employs 110 staff and focuses on the main stem of the Columbia River system, while its four member tribes manage the tributary systems. Under U.S v. Oregon, the tribes have co-management authority implemented through a ten-year fisheries management agreement between the tribes and the state with conflict resolution procedures in place.

CRITFC provides technical services for the management of the fisheries, including enforcement, and acts as a coordinating agency for its member tribes.
Family business built from the ground up

Peterson Fish Market celebrates 20 years

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

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

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

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

The Petersons are committed to regularly supplying fish to restaurants, grocery stores, their own Four Suns café, and keeping a stock in their store where locals and tourists stop in to buy fresh or smoked fish.

Petersons Fish Market processes about a ton of fish every other day. If Petersons cannot supply that themselves, they buy from other fishermen or fish buyers, and they always maintain full freezers to tide them over when the seasons are closed or weather becomes prohibitive.

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

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

The family-owned and managed Peterson’s Fisheries is one of several fish businesses built battling Gichigami’s variable moods, and stem from an ancient lifestyle that has long supported the native people on Gichigami’s shores.

Essential Ojibwemowin

adikameg—whitefish

Caught in the morning—on the filet table by noon. Peterson’s grandson Derek and son Matt filet the morning’s catch at Peterson’s Fish Market, a family operated business in Hancock, Michigan. (photo by Sue Erickson)
GLIFWC officers assist in marijuana bust

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

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

GLIFWC officers assisted with perimeter control during the operation. GLIFWC has assisted with similar busts over the past three years, including the 2011 eradication of another CNNF marijuana grow site in Ashland County, Wisconsin.

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

GLIFWC officers participate in training

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

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

Moccasin making class

GLIFWC Officers Mike Popovich and Lauren Tuori were pleased to partner with Rosalie Gokee, LCO Legal Department secretary, for a Moccasin Making class in Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) this fall. Youth gathered for the workshop over the weekend and were treated to an educational experience that centered on getting to college credit at the LCO Ojibwe Community College (LCOOCC).

GLIFWC provided food and support while Gokee instructed the kids in constructing moccasins from start to finish. Gokee also educated the LCO and Bad River participants on the cultural history and relevance of moccasins and Native Americans.

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

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

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

LAW is a committee of the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission that serves to promote, enhance, and protect the water and fish of the Great Lakes. It is made up of law enforcement representatives from resource agencies around the Great Lakes, including Canada.

Editor’s note: See News Briefs, page 7 for upcoming events.
GLIFWC’s Mr. Manoomin, a music man at heart

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Grand Rapids, Minn.—When manoomin (wild rice) dishes appear at GLIFWC feasts or on the tables of staff at holidays, there’s a good chance it came from Jim Merham, a White Earth tribal member known regionally as a manoomin processor. Annually, GLIFWC purchases manoomin from Jim as well as maple syrup, both used for gifts or feasts as well as for a small stash for staff who want to purchase a pound or two of the “good berry.”

GLIFWC’s first contact with our “Mr. Manoomin,” supplier of wild rice, came at one of the early, frosty ceremonies at Sandy Lake, Minnesota in December 2000. Hearing about the sunrise ceremony to take place on the radio, Jim arrived around 5:30 a.m. on a morning that sparkled with frost-laden branches, and then he waited and waited until everybody else, apparently with a different concept of sunrise, arrived around 9:00 a.m. or after. Since that morning, he has been a regular at the annual ceremonies commemorating the tragic events at Sandy Lake, at one time the home of his ancestors before they were removed to White Earth.

Currently, a resident of Grand Rapids, Jim learned many of his native skills from his grandparents at White Earth, participating as a youth in full-blown family ricing camps each fall with grandma and grandpa, aunts, uncles, cousins, sisters and brothers. Similarly, he learned to tap the maples in the spring. He still participates in both activities, but has brought them to a new level—with automation and technology. He is able to tap from 1,700 to 2,500 maple trees, using a mechanized hose and vacuums tied within a large maple stand. However, after two poor springs, he has now brought his equipment home and plans to tap locally. Changing weather patterns have made for poor maple sap runs which rely on a “freeze-at-night—thaw-in-the-day” pattern. When the weather cooperates, he taps 500 trees in a day, and then he heads home to start up his processing. “Once that starts, I’m at it all day until its done, non-stop.” Currently, he has five parchers. Jim processes manoomin for individuals and for the White Earth tribe—this year that turned out to be 9,000 pounds of finished rice—11,000 pounds short of what the tribe had hoped for. As with maple sap, the manoomin harvest was poor this season.

A conscientious harvester himself, Jim has no patience for the “early birds”—people who begin ricing before its ready. “They bring it to me to process two weeks before the rice is even ready. I won’t do it. They have to wait. You have to wait until the rice is dark brown, almost black and falls easily,” he says. He also gets impatient with folks that pound the rice, breaking the stalks and harming the plants, conscious that such harvesting techniques destroy chances for regeneration.

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

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

His dad’s effort panned out as the trio became professional, eventually landing in Nashville, playing back-up for some of the big names in country music. But the musical threesome had not been in Nashville long when Uncle Sam drew Jim’s name for the Nashville, playing back-up for some of the big names in country music. But the music business was a tough one for the trio, and in 1960 they returned home to northern Minnesota and to the Luovin brothers and was on the same t.v. show as Johnny Cash.

Even though he wasn’t part of the Nashville scene anymore, Jim continued to play. “I’ve played in every little honky-tonk around here over the years,” he comments and he still plays at local events or fund-raisers for the Food Shelf or Toys for Tots. Sometimes there’s a little get-together just to jam—a couple guitars, and his son on the drums. In the middle of Jim’s living room stands a shiny steel guitar—new and obviously his pride and joy. This instrument represents his current challenge as a musician. A “Jackson Commemorative,” this steel guitar features four foot-pedals, four knee-levers, plus a full set of strings—offering a fantastic range of sound options. Jim is working on mastering this complex instrument and having fun doing it. But he also has his old reliable Fender electronic guitars at hand, ready to strike a tune at anytime. And if you stop by, he’ll probably do just that.

Reduced toxic emissions in the Great Lakes basin

(Continued from page 1)

of these chemicals are not yet monitored in the environment, and their potential impacts on our natural resources and our health are unknown.

The ZDDP has resulted in significant reductions of atmospheric deposition of critical chemicals from within the Lake Superior basin. It may be tempting to some to point out that the sources of the chemicals are small compared to the amount of these chemicals entering the Lake Superior ecosystem through atmospheric deposition from out-of-basin sources. But, it has been shown that local and regional decreases in contaminant emissions directly result in lower contaminant levels in the environment, fish, and wildlife. Further, the success of this demonstration program can serve as a model for other regions and programs. The Manchester protocol of reducing contaminant emissions elsewhere could be successful.

Both the full report and a short summary version of the report can be found on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s website at www.epa.gov/glfpnolakeuperior.

Water quality agreement

(Continued from page 7)

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

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

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

Food demos on rez coming to a location near you

By LaTisha (McRoy) Coffin, ANA SEDS Coordinator

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

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

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

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

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

Elder participation needed!

The Mino Wiisinidaa! Project seeks to include participation from Bay Mills, Lac Vieux Desert and St. Croix tribal elders as we develop our inventory of traditional foods recipes. We are especially interested in fish recipes and welcome donated recipes. In addition to traditional recipes, the program is looking for tribal community members who harvest and prepare a variety of traditionally-used foods.

Contact us with recipes!

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

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

Granola with Puffed Wild Rice and Dried Blueberries

(Makes about 7 cups)

3 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
1 cup raw pumpkin seeds, hulled
1 cup raw sunflower seeds, hulled
1½ cups raw walnuts, halved, left whole or coarsely chopped
½ cup pure maple syrup
½ cup sunflower seed oil
¼ cup packed light brown sugar or maple sugar
1 tsp. coarse salt, plus extra to taste
½ cup dried blueberries
1 cup dried cranberries
1 cup puffed wild rice

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

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

Tips:

1. Experiment with different nuts and seeds and dried fruit to develop your own recipe. Try maple syrup glazed roasted pecans.
2. For puffed wild rice, use ⅓ – ½ cup oil in sauce pan and heat for about 10 minutes over medium-high heat. Add ½ cup wild rice to oil, in small manageable batches (two small batches). The wild rice will immediately pop. Use a slotted spoon to scoop out wild rice before it burns. Drain on paper towel and cool. Makes about 1 cup of puffed wild rice.

Nutrition education is her game

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—New on the scene with GLIFWC’s Mino Wiisinidaa! (Let’s eat good!) program is Community Dietitian Owen Maroney. Starting with GLIFWC on September 7, Owen plunged right into the second year of a three-year healthy eating grant program already in full swing.

Owen grew up in Charleston, South Carolina and attended Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia where she obtained a degree in nutrition. She moved somewhat northward to spend two years with Purdue University’s Nutrition Science Program. Her work there was more on the technical side, examining bio-markers in blood and urine in order to better understand the relationship between what a person has consumed and how it appears in the body.

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

Currently, Owen resides in Ashland. She likes to run, enjoys cooking at home, and hopes to explore the northland’s diverse opportunities for outdoor activities. She may even give cross-country skiing a try this winter.

Popped wild rice, see recipe to the right. (photo by LaTisha Coffin)
New language resource targets Native pre-teens and teens
By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Maadaadiziwin (The Journey) tells the story of an Ojibwe boy’s travels into manhood as he steps from childhood and returns to the traditional teachings of his grandfather. His many adventures and learning experiences are related entirely in Ojibwemowin.

In comic format Hudson Gauthier’s narrative provides insights into the unique relationship of the Anishinaabe and the natural world.

Dramatically illustrated by Valeta Kaquithish throughout, the story is a visual adventure as well.

Designed as tool for those learning Ojibwemowin, the 20-page comic requires the reader to translate from Ojibwemowin; no English translation is provided.

The project was funded by the Human Rights Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and produced in collaboration with UW-Stevens Point and the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chiippewa.

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

Treaty rights DVD from GLIFWC

Treaties: Connections to Land & Water

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

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

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

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

Mazina’igan Digital Flipbook

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

This online edition will be a full-color flipbook that can be read online, downloaded to a PDF, or printed. There is an option to view pages of Mazina’igan as full pages, thumbnail images or use the zoom feature to zoom into your favorite section.

An additional benefit is that flipbooks are environmentally friendly, and they save postage and printing costs.

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

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

CRITFC

(Continued from page 13)
torical significance to the tribes. We patrol known sites and places considered to be an archeological site to discourage theft and desecration,” Ekker says.

CRITFC member tribes maintain tribal courts and many violations are cited into tribal courts, but CRITFC enforcement also works with state courts and three federal district courts.

With no lack of issues—from sea lions and dams to climate change, CRITFC and its member tribes continue to be committed to the protection and preservation of a sacred fishery, central to a lifeway that stretches back centuries to times when the people were blessed with abundance.

There are signs of hope as salmon runs strengthen and tribes work with state and federal resource managers to tackle issues such as the Pacific lamprey as co-managers. Co-management has been strengthened through the Columbia River Fish Accords that provide for a tribal/state/federal partnership responsible for the management and protection of salmon and other natural resources in the Northwest.

According to CRITFC, the agreement allows for “on-the-ground management and creates reasonable certainty and stability for fish populations and communities. It allows managers to help the basin’s fish populations more in the next ten years than they’ve been able to in the past.”

Tsagaglalal still watches over her people.

(For more information on CRITFC and its member tribes, see www.critfc.org.)
The following insights on the evolution of the Ojibwe language were given to us by Larry “Amik” Smallwood from the Lake Lena community of Mille Lacs, Minnesota. This teaching was collected as part of the Administration for Native Americans funded language project, “Gidadiizookaaninanginaamig—Our stories.” The goal of this project is to document and preserve stories of traditional Anishinaabe cultural practices from speakers of the language. Each story and/or teaching is recorded, transcribed and translated with the speaker’s approval and guidance.

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


“Gidaadizookaaninig—Our stories.”

As part of the Administration for Native Americans-funded Gidaadizookaaninang (Our Stories) project. (photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Weshki-ojibwemojig—The new speakers

By Amik (Larry Smallwood)

Transcribed by: Michelle Goose

Edited by: Mike Sullivan & Larry Smallwood

Transcribed by: Michelle Goose

By Amik (Larry Smallwood)

“Gidaadizookaaninig—Our stories.”

As part of the Administration for Native Americans-funded Gidaadizookaaninang (Our Stories) project. (photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)
Squanto:
The Patuxet Indian who helped make Thanksgiving happen

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This is considered the first Thanksgiving.

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

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

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

The pilgrims may have perished if it weren’t for the kindness and assistance given them by the Native Americans. (reprinted from USA-Printables, history coloring pages)
Bezhig—1

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, EI, OO
Wagheoz—as in father
Miigweh—as in jay
Aanijin—as in seam
Mooz—as in moon

—Short Vowels: a, e, i, o, u
Dagah—as in about
Jiibaakwe—as in about
Gaawin—as in about

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in Aaw.
—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

Niizh—2

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

A. Giizhhebaa-wiisini nishwaawaa dibaa'iganek endeso-giizhik.
B. Nawaakwe-wiisini jishwaag ashi-bezhigo dibaa'iganek.
C. Onaagoshi-wiisini naano dibaa'iganek. Giin dash?
D. Wegenon waa-wiisiniyanaa baanimaah?
E. Wegenon waa-wiisiniwaad ingiw bineshiyag megwaayaak?
F. Giizhijigii-giishiiyag ingiw dibaa'iganek.
G. Miiziwag aangonidong ingiw gaagaaagiwag.
H. Bezhig-giishiiyag.

VII's It is verbs. Negation

1st: Gaawiin & add zinoon or sinoon.


NIIZH—4

VII's It is verbs. Translation below.

3. Biboon,_____ zanagasinoon. Ozhitaag!
5. Gaawiin baswewemagaa omma noongom.

Niizh—2

Translation below.

A. Giizhhebaa-wisini nishwaawaa dibaa'iganek endeso-giizhik.
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VII's

Verbs—Inanimate—Intransitive.

(Acton words-non-living-no transfer of action to an object.)

The "It is..." verbs.
It is cold.—Giisinaa.
It is windy.—Noodin.
It freezes.—Maskwadatin.
It is snowing.—Zoogipon.
It is winter.—Biboon.
For complex sentence-use b-form conjugation:
When it is winter-add an ending "g"—Biboon.
If a verb ends in a "d", change the d to a k.
It is a good day.—Mino-giizhiga
When/if/while it is a good day, I'm happy.
—Mino-giizhigaak, ninimwendam.

Niizh—3

The "It is..." verbs.

1. It is cold weather.
2. after
3. one
4. S/he cooks.
5. It is windy.
6. It is snowing.
7. you
8. no

Translators:

Niiwin—4

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7. you
8. no

Translators:
Makin’ the change

Dropping 300 points off the cholesterol count

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

“The Creator did not design us to eat the way we do. Native people don’t have the gene to metabolize simple carbohydrates. Look at what the Creator gave the Native Americans to eat…fiber and protein, even the meat, like venison, is lean,” points out Patty.

With a commitment to change, Patty and Bill created a new eating lifestyle—one that features vegetables and high protein beans and lentils. Patty makes a substitute for cheese, makes waffles and breads using no white flour, uses honey for a sweetener. She says pumpernickel rye is the healthiest bread because it has a low glycemic index, allowing the sugar to dissolve in the blood stream slowly, keeping you full and the glucose level down.

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

Change was slow at first and required a fair amount of experimenting.

“With patience and commitment over the years, they have created a very pleasing menu without the use of boxed or canned goods. “We have also made dishes that were quickly crossed off the menu,” Bill says. But through trial and error and some research, they have learned to cook tasty meals without sugar, cheese, preservatives, food coloring and a gamut of undecipherable chemical ingredients.

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

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

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

Walking the red (meat) road

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer

Odahnah, Wis.—When it comes to healthier living choices, hunting and eating white-tailed deer is one of the easiest you’ll ever make.

Walking ceded territory forests, combing its hills, and negotiating vast wetlands equals great exercise and lungfuls of fresh air. With a smidge of tobacco and some good luck, treaty hunters have the opportunity to take home food better suited for Native people than anything found on grocery store shelves.

“As a red meat, venison is a healthy alternative to beef. Venison is higher in protein than beef—even higher than chicken,” said Owen Maroney, GLIFWC ANA SEDS Community Dietician. Protein is required for muscle function and growth.

Wild venison handily beats commercial beef in leanness and purity. A standard three-ounce serving of venison—about the size of a deck of cards—delivers approximately 160 calories. With the same cut of beef, tuck on another 30-50 calories. The sure way to avoid

1 cup water
1 tsp. oil
1 tsp. salt
1 cup water

Venison is a healthy alternative to beef. Venison is higher in protein than beef—even higher than chicken.”

Maroney said lead exposure from bullets should be taken seriously, but hunters and their families can dramatically reduce the risk of ingesting lead by taking a few precautions. Think copper: while more expensive, copper-wrapped bullets fragment considerably less than traditional soft-point or rapid expanding bullets. When butchering a whitetail, trim liberally around the wound channel to help remove random lead particles.

“Lead is a toxin that builds up in our bodies over time,” Maroney said. “Significant exposure over years is a concern for women and children, but by taking a few precautions there is little worry about eating venison.”

And a lot of upside!

Fresh Venison

Contributed by: Ruth Holmes, St. Croix Ojibwa

2012-2013 off-reservation deer hunting closures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Territory</th>
<th>Closure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michigan 1836</td>
<td>January 6, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan 1842</td>
<td>December 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin 1837/42</td>
<td>January 6, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota 1837</td>
<td>December 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preheat oven to 350º. Dip venison in four, salt, and pepper. Brown in frying pan with a little bit of oil, just enough to prevent sticking. Brown on both sides.

Put into cast iron Dutch oven. Add a little bit of water (additional water may be added if meat becomes dry). Bake one hour, or until tender. Calories per serving: 241.

1 cup flour
½ cup flour
¾ tsp. pepper
3 pounds venison steak
1 tsp. oil
**VETERAN BOUGHERS GO DEEP INTO THE WOODS FOR CHRISTMAS PROFITS**

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Red Cliff, Wis.—When Bayfield dons its festive garb of garlands and wreaths for the Christmas season, holiday shoppers can thank the efforts of a veteran bough-picking team from the nearby Red Cliff Reservation. Peter Jaax, Sauger Chief, and William P. Powell, Tribal Renewable Resource Coordinator, joined by Phillip Hebert, a former boughgatherer, plan to add more boughs to this stack of bundled boughs before casing in. Red Cliff’s Marty and Tammy Duffy join Deragon to make up a team that has been gathering boughs for nineteen years. (photo by Sue Erickson)

"A number of factors go into the wholesale price of ginseng. How good is the quality, is it fresh and green or has it been dried?" Deragon said. "Three pounds of fresh ginseng root yields about one dry pound worth up to $600. The quality of ginseng in Wisconsin is among the highest in the world. Anytime there is high commercial value, people are going to take advantage of it." Joining those states that host wild ginseng populations, the Menominee tribe officially introduced ginseng to the woods of Wisconsin in 1977. "Ginseng is very much susceptible to overharvest and the unsustainable harvest that is occurring," said Alexandra Wrobel, GLIFWC wild plant ecologist. "Illegal harvesters are currently exploiting this wild resource, potentially causing irreversible damage to the species. It’s important to follow sustainable harvest guidelines for the future benefit of ginseng as well as other plant species."

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen

**Menominee tribe joins efforts to prevent ginseng exploitation**

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen

Keshena, Wisc.—Following authorization by the US Fish & Service on October 1, the Menominee Nation became the first tribe in the United States to receive international export authority for the valuable native plant, ginseng. "This is a great example of a successful partnership and it helps streamline federal regulations," said John Welke, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources commercial enforcement coordinator. "Law enforcement authorities throughout the state are becoming very aware of this plant."

"The move—which affirms tribal sovereign rights and helps streamline federal regulations—will help prevent ginseng theft from forests across Wisconsin and other states in Middle America. From private woodlots to larger national forests, criminals with little more than a backpack and an eye for suitable habitat are looking to cash in on a worldwide market demand for ginseng. Consumers look to the plant’s root for health and physical performance benefits. Demand for ginseng in Asian countries is notable on the rise, and buyers are willing to pay top dollar."

"Anumber of factors go into the wholesale price of ginseng. How good is the quality, is it fresh and green or has it been dried?" Deragon said. "Three pounds of fresh ginseng root yields about one dry pound worth up to $600. The quality of ginseng in Wisconsin is among the highest in the world. Anytime there is high commercial value, people are going to take advantage of it." Joining those states that host wild ginseng populations, the Menominee officials will use authority vested in Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna—commonly known as CITES—to regulate and verify legal ginseng harvest. CITES provides protections for natural resources worldwide that have a high potential for exploitation. In the case of wild ginseng, CITES regulators promote sustainability and must demonstrate that the harvest and export of the plant does not harm the resource."

"Ginseng is very much susceptible to overharvest and the unsustainable harvest that is occurring," said Alexandre Wrobel, GLIFWC wild plant ecologist. "Illegal harvesters are currently exploiting this wild resource, potentially causing irreversible damage to the species. It’s important to follow sustainable harvest guidelines for the future benefit of ginseng as well as other plant species."

Only mature plants with three or more leaf prongs may be dug during the harvest season, which runs September 1 to November 1 in Wisconsin. CITES regulations prohibit the harvest and sale of any ginseng roots for 24 months after digging. Woodlands from Lower Michigan’s 1836 ceded territory, west through Wisconsin and into the Minnesota 1857 territory host small, scattered ginseng populations. The plant grows low on the forest floor and is distinguished by greenish-white flowers and red berries. Where harvest seasons exist, a permit is required to dig wild ginseng.

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

The DNR’s Welke encourages anyone witnessing suspicious activity—whether in private or public woodlands—to contact authorities by phone 800-TIP-WDNR or email le.hotline.wisconsin.gov.
MAZINA’IGAN (Talking Paper) is a publication of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, which represents eleven Ojibwe tribes in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Subscriptions to the paper are free to United States and Canadian residents. Write: MAZINA’IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861, phone (715) 682-6619, e-mail: pio@glifwc.org.

If you have moved, or are planning to move, please keep us informed so we can keep our mailing list current. If you plan to be away for an extended period of time, please let us know so we can suspend your subscription until you return.

Although MAZINA’IGAN enjoys hearing from its readership, there is no “Letters to the Editor” section in the paper, and opinions to be published in the paper are not from the editorial staff. Any opinions expressed in the stories and/or resource management or Ojibwe cultural information can be directed to the editor at the address given above.

For more information see GLIFWC’s website: www.glifwc.org.