

Masinaigan

A Chronicle of the Lake Superior Ojibwe



Wildlife Commission

Spring 1998

Bands declare walleye harvest in Minnesota 1837 ceded territory

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Onamia, Minn.—After years of litigation, eight Ojibwe nations party to the 1837 Treaty with the United States have declared a walleye harvest in the Minnesota ceded territory.

The bands opted to limit the harvest on the most significant 1837 Minnesota fishery—Mille Lacs Lake—to 40,000 lbs., despite a court-approved mandate to take an additional 15,000 lbs of fish. Mille Lacs band members

plan on harvesting one-half of the declaration and the remaining 20,000 pounds will be shared equally by the Fond du Lac band and six Wisconsin Ojibwe tribes.

“Our goal is to keep the harvest safe and maintain good relations with the community,” said Leonard Sam, Mille Lacs band member and Voigt Intertribal Task Force representative.

In addition to Mille Lacs lake, the bands have made declarations on 27 smaller Minnesota ceded territory lakes where they plan on taking approximately 9,000 lbs. of walleye.

Monitoring teams composed of GLIFWC and tribal wardens, along with creel clerks, will be present at lakes utilized by Ojibwe fishermen. Fish obtained from both gill nets and by spearing are weighed and recorded at boat landings. Quotas for each lake are adjusted daily based on the previous day’s harvest.

In order for a band member to spear or net fish, the individual must possess a daily permit which is valid for a specific lake in the ceded territory. Fishermen must also coordinate their activities with enforcement personnel to arrange on-site monitoring.

GLIFWC conservation wardens as well as biological staff will monitor the off-reservation harvest. Violations will be cited into tribal court.

GLIFWC and Mille Lacs Department of Natural Resources (MLDNR) staff have also coordinated with local sheriffs in regard to the upcoming spring spearing/netting season.

While trouble is not being anticipated, the disruption of treaty harvests in Wisconsin ten years ago by protestors has lead tribal and local officials to prepare for the possibility of protest.

MLDNR Commissioner Don Wedll said he is pleased with the cooperation received from the county sheriffs.

“I have been impressed,” Wedll said. “The sheriffs are committed to doing their best to make sure band members have the opportunity to peacefully exercise their rights.”

Similar to the first deer hunt in the eastern Minnesota territory last fall—protected by a federal court order—the 1998 fishing season is a milestone for the Mille Lacs band.

“It means a great deal for Mille Lacs members and generations to come,” said Sam. “Our people will always have something to fall back on.”

Fish, especially walleye, is one of the most important traditional Ojibwe foods.

Although state imposed restrictions had made it difficult for Mille Lacs band members to keep fish in their diet, the ruling last October by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals assures that the community will retain access to the fishery—guaranteed in the 1837 Treaty with the United States.

MN treaty spearing/ netting tightly regulated

- Daily permits for each lake
- Strict quotas on spearing/netting
- Use designated landings only
- Landings/net lift monitored daily
- Harvested fish weighed
- Size limits for speared walleye
- Mesh-size limits for netting
- Lakes closed when quotas met



GLIFWC Wildlife Technician Ron Parisien found “Mary” in one of his live traps for bobcat east of Spider Lake, Wisconsin last fall. Parisien had a WDNR wolf collar with him, so installed the collar on Mary and recorded vital statistics for state wildlife managers. Mary received an WDNR ear tag in June 1997 at which time the pup was 19 pounds. When weighed by Parisien in November 1997, Mary was up to a healthy 60 pounds. See wolf story, page 8. (Photo by Ron Parisien)

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Feasting the spring fishing

By: *Tobasonakwut Kinew, Ojibways of Onigaming, Nestor Falls, Ontario*

We Anishinaabeg are the people of the Great Lakes, the inland lakes and rivers, waters and streams.

We are the adaptable people who developed technology appropriate to our region—canoes, snowshoes, nets, sleds, etc. We were able to gather in large communities year round because of our fishing and wild rice.

Soon we shall see the suckers gathering in pools, struggling to get to the top of the rapids to lay their spawn. The rapids then spread the spawn evenly around the waters. This will happen just before the leaves begin the bud, in an annual circle familiar to us. This is what we call Indian time.

There are several fish clans. .awazisi, nameh, and others. Have you ever wondered why there is no whitefish clan, atikameh? This is an old teaching of our people.

Menwizhau, long ago, the atik, the caribou, were running. One came to the river and began to run back and forth along the shore. He saw thousands of little beings in the water.

"Awenishkiin? Who are you?" asked atik.

"Milgo nasaab Keniin awind saago, we're just like you," came the answer from the water beings. "We travel in large numbers, and we feed the people when they put this tobacco down."

Atik replied, "Why, we're bigger and we live on land."

"Yes," said the water beings," but there are many of us too. People gather us and put us away to eat."

As they talked, they became close. Atik and the water creatures understood they were related. They agreed that atik would become the dotem (clan and animal spirit) to the people, and the water beings would be called their brother, atikome.

The whitefish would allow themselves to be taken as food by everyone. Atik would be able to be eaten by everyone, except its clan. Atik and atikome recognized that it would be too harsh to prevent everyone from eating the whitefish, so no clan would be named after atikome.

It is the Anishinaabe way that a clan member may not eat its dotem. It is said that if an Anishinaabe eats part of his dotem, then he will have an allergic reaction (kina wapo). By safeguarding the people who may eat certain food, the Anishinaabeg can ensure that all of the Creator's gifts are cared for.

Soon we will prepare for the spring fishing, and it is the responsibility of the fish clans to host a feast of thanksgiving. One related ceremony our people have carried out for generations involves preparing miskwaakoniganan, prayer sticks about 8-10 inches long, tied in bunches of 32 or 64, with tobacco.

We would then place these miskwaakoniganan on the shore to be allowed to float onto the lake as an offering to the Creator. Prayers would be given to ask that the fish, once again, be plentiful.

Mi i'ekosit.



Spearfishermen are required to obtain nightly permits and must use designated landings only. Before the spearer can leave the landing, the catch is counted and measured. Above, Bad River Creel Clerk, John Shubat measures a spearer's catch, while Vern Stone, GLIFWC warden stationed at Bad River looks on. (Photo by Amoose)

Chippewa bands provide walleye/musky declarations for the 14th WI treaty spring spearing season

By *Sue Erickson*
Staff writer

Odanah, Wis.—Six Wisconsin Chippewa bands provided their 1998 quotas for walleye and muskellunge harvest to the State of Wisconsin on March 13th 1998 in preparation for the upcoming off-reservation, spring spearing season in the Wisconsin ceded territories.

In 1998 a total of 94,432 walleye were available for treaty harvest in all Wisconsin ceded territory lakes. However, the bands selected only 200 lakes, declaring 37,821 walleye from a Safe Harvest Level (SHL) of 68,842 walleye and 1,389 muskellunge from a SHL of 2,746 within the declared lakes.

Historically, the tribes have not taken all of their declaration, although it has occurred on some lakes, according to GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Section Leader Joe Dan Rose. According to the court-ordered protocol, the bands

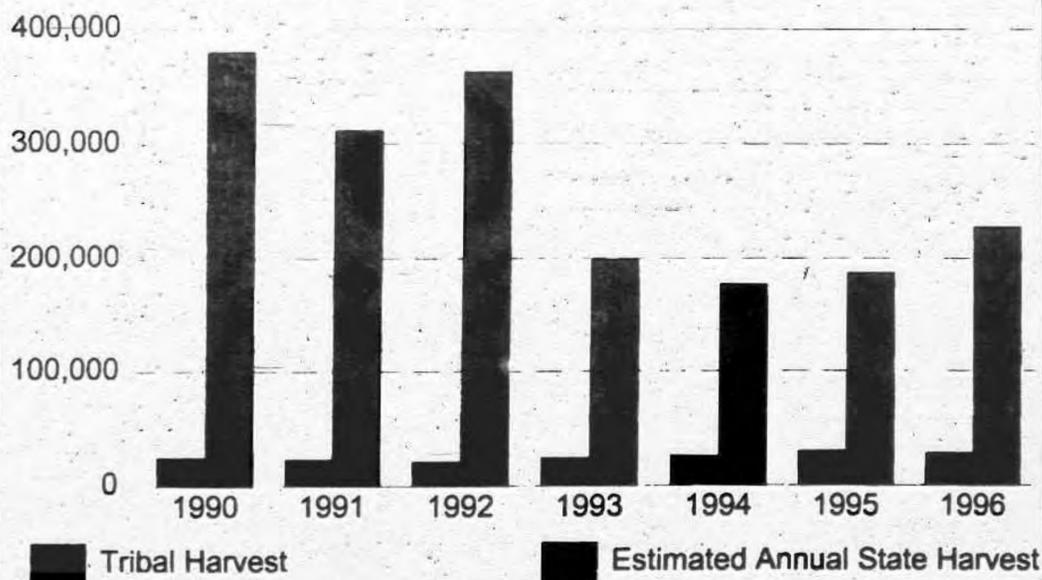
must provide the state with their declarations by March 15th each year. However, tribal declarations may be adjusted by individual tribal governments prior to or after spring spearing.

In 1997, six Wisconsin bands took a total of 24,002 walleye and 333 muskellunge from 150 lakes in the ceded territory during spring spearing season.

A SHL for walleye and muskellunge on individual lakes is determined annually by state and tribal biologists on the basis of gathered population data from joint lake assessments. Tribes make their declarations based on the SHL figure and may declare up to 100% of the SHL, Rose says.

The SHL figure is a percentage of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for a given lake. The TAC, in turn, represents about one-third of the total walleye population in a lake. Consequently, the SHL represents a very conservative harvest figure which keeps tribal harvests conservative as well. (See WI, page 14)

Comparison of tribal/state walleye harvest in Wisconsin, 1990-1996



Mille Lacs Chief Executive stresses responsibility as part of empowerment for Mille Lacs band

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Mille Lacs, Minn.—The 1997 court victory affirming the 1837 Treaty rights of the Mille Lacs and seven other Ojibwe bands was among several milestones celebrated by Mille Lacs Chief Executive Marge Anderson in her State of the Band Address, “The Path to Empowerment,” delivered January 13, 1998 at the Mille Lacs reservation.

The recent treaty rights victory in federal court was an important step towards the empowerment Mille Lacs has been pursuing on a road to recovering lost land, resources, rights and dignity, she said.

“Fifteen years ago, when the Mille Lacs Band first began down the Path of Empowerment, empowerment meant capacity building,” Anderson noted.

Fifteen years later, success is apparent. Tribal capacity has been established by creating a separation-of-powers form of government, writing and adopting band statutes, developing a tribal court system, and implementing the Self-Governance Program, she said.

Anderson believes new and greater opportunities are now open to Mille Lacs community members due to the



Mille Lacs Chief Executive Marge Anderson, delivers the 1998 State of the Band Address entitled, “The Path to Empowerment.” (Photo by Sue Erickson)

implementation of treaty rights, the development of a successful gaming enterprise, and the establishment of community infrastructure with new schools, clinics and homes.

But along with expanded opportunities comes greater responsibility both for the band’s government and its individual members.

The challenge is to responsibly use those tools now available both as a community and as individual community members.

“We must recognize that with any success, with any victory, comes new responsibility. We have the responsibility that comes from empowerment in the 20th Century. As empowered citizens we must each take responsibility for our own actions and lives,” Anderson stated.

In terms of the treaty rights court victory, Anderson told the assembled band that the challenge was not to gloat over victories won, but take a lead in resource management.

“We must avoid basking in our victory and take pride—not in defeating our adversaries—but in behaving

honorably as we move forward. We have the responsibility to manage the resources better than they would have otherwise been managed,” she said.

“...if we win in court but lose our principles, if we win in court but lose our decency, if we win court but lose our humanity, then we lose in the great conversation of history, and we loose in the justice forum of the Great Spirit. “Those are losses we cannot afford. And so, with empowerment comes responsibility,” she said.

The directive for 1998 issued to Mille Lacs Natural Resources Commissioner Don Wedll from Chief Anderson was to provide good, sound management plans for the support of the band’s resources.

“We have always said that we know best how to protect our own resources. Now we have the responsibility to prove it,” Anderson told Wedll.

(See State of the Band, page 20)

Twenty-four lakes scheduled for spring walleye population assessments

Odanah, Wis.—As spring nears, GLIFWC Biological Services crew prepare for their annual round of spring population assessments. Twenty-four lakes have been identified for population estimates this year, according to GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Biologist Glenn Miller.

Eight boats and crews, including four from GLIFWC, one from the St. Croix band and three from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), will be involved in the spring assessments.

Electroshocking boats follow the shoreline of a lake. Large “shockers” dipped into the lake slightly stun the fish, which are then scooped up with nets and placed in a tank aboard the boat. Shocking usually begins at nightfall and continues through dawn, depending on the size of the lake.

Stunned fish are measured and sexed before being returned into the lake. Tagging will only take place on the seven long-term study lakes this spring.

Lakes identified for population estimates this spring are listed to the right by state:

Wisconsin

County

- Bayfield
- Bayfield
- Bayfield
- Forest
- Oneida
- Oneida
- Oneida
- Sawyer
- Sawyer
- Vilas
- Washburn
- Washburn

Michigan

- Baraga
- Ontonagon

Minnesota

- Aitkin
- Pine
- Sherburne

Lake

- Siskiwit
- Namekagon
- Jackson
- Butternut
- Bearskin
- Pelican
- Squirrel
- Lac Courte Oreilles
- Nelson
- Big St. Germain
- North Twin
- South Twin
- Presque Isle
- Averill
- Van Vliet
- Sherman
- Squaw
- Bass/Patterson
- Long

- Parent
- L.Gogebic

- Pine
- Big Pine
- Little Elk

Rock-throwers fined for interfering in fishing

During the 1997 spring spearing season in Wisconsin, St. Croix tribal member Ken Pardun was harassed by rock-throwers while spearfishing on Bear lake, Barron County, Wisconsin. Pardun was able to identify the persons involved and reported the incident.

Martin Prozak, president of the Bear Lake Association, and Patrick Traxler, were each cited under Wisconsin State Law, section 29.223 for interfering with hunting and fishing activities. Prozak and Traxler appeared in state court on August 16, 1997, were found guilty of the charges and fined \$278.00 each for their illegal activity.

While harassment of tribal spearfishermen has greatly diminished since 1990, isolated incidents continue to occur each year.



Logging on private land impacts reservation resources

Issues of jurisdiction and regulation arise

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Logging and reservation natural resource interests collided on the Bad River reservation in northern Wisconsin this winter; however, the parties were able to work out a solution which provided protection to the Bad river and its fishery while logging continued.

Although this incident came to a satisfactory resolution, it pointed to some areas of concern for the Bad River band, according to Bad River Biologist Tom Doolittle.

Issues of jurisdiction surfaced as did problems relating to relatively unregulated logging on private lands. Doolittle points out that with over 50% of forested land in the US privately owned, the lack of regulation can have a significant impact if logging is not being practiced in a responsible manner.

While the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) did

implement a "best management practices" policy in 1995 to protect water quality impacted by logging, the policy is not enforceable law and is monitored on a voluntary basis.

At the Bad River reservation this winter, a problem presented itself when Ashland logger Carl Schutte was observed logging on privately owned land within the Bad River reservation boundaries. He was observed to be cutting very close to the shores of the Bad river, a tributary to Lake Superior.

Logging on a river can create a number of serious problems, Doolittle says. Erosion, increased sedimentation and turbidity in the river can be very harmful to the fishery.

Other practices observed included use of heavy equipment close to the stream, clearing over 60 percent of the canopy along the stream, and debris either dropped into the stream or left along a floodplain.

Since the logging was occurring in an area close to critical spawning beds and habitat for a number of endangered species on the reservation, tribal representatives approached the logger with their concerns and were able to reach a verbal agreement regarding the logging practices.

However, Doolittle says, a little over a week later, the logger was ob-



Logging site on the Bad River reservation. (Photo by Rae Ann Maday)

served taking logs off the slopes and bottom lands.

At this time, tribal members effected a vigil to prevent further logging until Schutte met with the Bad River Tribal Council and an agreement was negotiated between all concerned parties.

The agreement included a performance clause, Doolittle says, making the logger responsible for certain mea-

asures, like erosion control, which would mitigate some of the damage done.

Doolittle was pleased that negotiations between the tribe, concerned tribal members, the landowner, and the logger were able to resolve the issues outside of the courts.

However, issues regarding the tribe's ability to protect its reservation resources from activities on privately owned lands remain outstanding.

Archeological surveys sought by Ojibwe tribes before underwater logging permits approved near Madeline Island

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Red Cliff, Wis.—Notification that fifty-two permit applications for submerged logging along the north and west shores Madeline Island have been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has prompted the Bad River and Red Cliff bands and GLIFWC to request the Corps for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a traditional cultural properties (TCP) analysis prior to approving the permits.

In addition, all three tribal entities have also requested a sixty day extension of the initial 30 day comment period, which concluded on March 9, 1998, and a public hearing on the permit applications.

The extension is needed, according to Bad River Environmental Specialist Ann Barnes, because of the magnitude of the permit request in a historically and culturally sensitive area for all the Lake Superior Chippewa bands.

Since only two bands were notified of the permit applications near Madeline Island, other bands should be given time to prepare comment as well, Barnes says.

The fifty-two permits, each for a 40 square acre tract, were submitted as priority permits by the Superior Water-Logged Lumber Company to the Army Corps of Engineers this spring. The priority permit applications indicates the company intends to start log retrieval this year.

Upon review of the permit applications, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin identified one permit area which will require an archaeological investigation prior to issuing a permit. The area is near Grants Point where the remains of an eighteenth century fur trade post and Chippewa and Huron villages are believed to have been.

The Bad River and Red Cliff bands and GLIFWC all request an archaeological analysis or TCP of all fifty-two sites. Comments from the tribes point out that the (See Logging permits and Madeline Island article, page 15)



A headstone marks an Ojibwe gravesite on Madeline Island near the current Madeline Island Marina, an area once the site of an Ojibwe village.

Gov. says he won't tie treaty rights demands to gambling talks

Editor's note: In the winter edition, the Masinaigan ran a statement from the six Wisconsin Chippewa tribes rejecting any linkage between treaty rights and gaming. Since that time, negotiations have been successful in keeping treaty rights out of gaming compacts.

Madison, Wis. (AP)—The governor will no longer demand concessions on treaty rights such as spearfishing as part of negotiations with tribal leaders over the continuation of Indian casinos in Wisconsin, an aide said.

In February, Gov. Tommy Thompson signed a formal agreement with the La Courte Oreilles (LCO) Chippewa for that tribe to operate a casino for at least five more years.

The deal, which came after about 18 months of negotiation, calls for the tribe to pay the state at least \$420,000 a year.

In return, Thompson dropped his oft-stated demand to link a slew of non-gaming issues, such as spearfishing treaty rights, to the tribe's right to operate a casino.

The governor will continue to press other non-gaming issues, such as environmental powers and tax issues, in negotiating compacts with the state's

10 other tribes, said John Matthews, Thompson's chief of staff.

But, Matthews said, the governor will no longer seek treaty rights concessions as a condition of continued casino operations.

The LCO agreement puts Wisconsin other 10 tribes in good position, an attorney said.

"This just strengthens the whole tribal argument," said attorney Mark Jarboe, head of the Indian law practice at Dorsey & Whitney, a large Minneapolis firm that represents more than 30 tribes across the country.

"If tribe A is allowed to stay open, I don't see how a court would shut down the others," said Jarboe, whose firm has represented Wisconsin tribes in the past but is not involved in the current talks.

Jarboe noted that federal law permits a tribe to offer casino games if any person, organization or entity in its state is allowed to offer similar games.

Because the agreement signed by Thompson and LCO Chairman gaiashkibos keeps the Hayward area tribe's casino running until at least August 2003, it would be impossible to argue that Wisconsin's 10 other tribes do not enjoy the same right, Jarboe said.



"AFTER WE STEAL YOUR LAND AND BREAK OUR TREATIES, WE'LL TAX YOUR CASINO."

(Reprinted with permission from Marshall Ramsey and Copley News Service)

Thompson's chief negotiators disagreed. "We have attorneys who will render a different opinion," said Mark Bugher, Thompson's top deputy.

Besides, Matthews said, the focus should be on what is included in the LCO compact, not on which demands were dropped. "The reason we consider this a dramatic breakthrough is that

there will be payments to the state without any expansion of gambling," Matthews said.

Until early February, tribes vehemently fought the idea of revenue-sharing unless they were able to increase casino revenue. The Wisconsin gaming market netted tribes about \$280 million (See Gaming, page 21)

Shaangweshi, ogaa and kinozhe Mink, walleye and northern pike

By: Tobasonakwut Kinew,
Ojibways of Onigaming,
Nestor Falls, Ontario

This is an old Ojibway story. Our people told these stories in a humble way. Our people would say, "I don't really want to tell him what I think of him, but I will relay these things in a very soft way so that he will understand."

What would follow would be a story about animals or Nanaboozhoo. These teachings are very powerful.

This particular story relates what Anishinaabeg are sometimes like, the side we try not to present to the world. Sometimes we bad mouth each other. Sometimes we complain about the Reservation Business Council or tribal council. We get swayed by our vanity and insecurities and by what we want to believe. Shaangweshi is a very slick gossip-monger.

There is also a lighter side. In good snagging tradition, if a young

man were interested in a certain young woman, he might ask a friend to be a messenger and find out if that girl is interested in him. The messenger would be referred to as Shaangweshi wi'a. You'll hear people use that phrase today!

Shaangweshi, the mink, was travelling along the shoreline, searching for food. It had been a long time since he and his little family had eaten. He was very hungry when he suddenly spotted ogaa, the walleye, swimming off the rocky shoreline.

Ogaa was a very big fish, so beautiful gleaming in the sunlight. Shaangweshi called out to the fish, but ogaa knew to be wary of shaangweshi and swam away.

Disappointed, Shaangweshi travelled on. To his surprise, he saw kinozhe, northern pike, swimming on the other side of the point. Shaangweshi thought of a plan.

"Niichiimichaa," he called to Kinozhe, but the big fish suspected what shaangweshi was up to and just kept

swimming. That is until he heard shangweshi talk on and on about what ogaa had just told him on the other side of the point.

"You should have heard the names he called you, Kinozhe. 'Slowest fish around, not too bright, big head,' other words that I just can't repeat. I had to cover my ears," Shaangweshi related to Kinozhe.

Against his better judgment, Kinozhe listened to Shaangweshi, although he didn't let on. After a while of building up his story to Kinozhe, Shaangweshi left that side of the point of land and started to relate a similar story to Ogaa, who was swimming around, enjoying his glorious beauty. Ogaa also pretended not to be listening.

"You should have heard Kinozhe, just a little while ago. Telling me how vain you are, how everyone laughs at you. Well, I just had to close my ears."

And so it went all afternoon. Back and forth Shaangweshi would go, telling lies bigger and bigger to each of the fish. Finally, one bit.

"Is that so?" said Kinozhe. "Then you can tell Ogaa this for me. . ."

Shaangweshi was only too glad to add some real quotes to his stories as he told Ogaa the latest news from the other side of the point.

Ogaa took up the challenge. "Tell Kinozhe to meet me at the point, and we'll see about his fat mouth!" Shaangweshi hurried to issue this challenge. Kinozhe was ready.

Both fish met at the point in a frenzy of anger, totally fuelled by the lies that Shaangweshi had told. No time to talk, the fish went at each other with a vengeance. The water swirled. As they fought, you could see one, then the other, tilting slightly to the surface. At the end, both floated belly up, dead from exhaustion and wounds inflicted on each other.

Shaangweshi had only to scoop his prey out of the water and take dinner home to his shaangweshiinsug, mink children.

Mi i'ekosit.

Kentuck lake walleye population decline spurs GLIFWC to push for rehabilitation

Odanah, Wis.—A plan for rehabilitating the walleye population in Kentuck lake, Vilas county, will be implemented this spring by GLIFWC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in an effort to reverse the steady decline of walleye noticed in the lake.

“Walleye recruitment and abundance, particularly adult male abundance, has declined dramatically,” states GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Section Leader Joe Dan Rose.

The rehabilitation plan will be implemented through the Kentuck Lake Walleye Rehabilitation Subcommittee, a subcommittee of the Technical Working Group (TWG).

TWG is a committee composed of fisheries biologists from the tribes, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the USFWS who share fishery data and make fishery management recommendations.

GLIFWC inland fisheries biologists became concerned about the walleye population in Kentuck lake, Vilas county, when annual population assessments indicated a declining trend in

walleye abundance and recruitment, Rose says.

Kentuck lake is one of eight long-term study lakes for GLIFWC's inland fisheries section and has been classified as a naturally reproducing walleye lake since 1989. As a long-term lake, population assessments and juvenile recruitment surveys are performed on an annual basis.

GLIFWC biologists brought the problem to the attention of the Technical Working Group (TWG) in 1996. In January 1997 a proposed plan for walleye rehabilitation developed by GLIFWC and approved by the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITTF) was presented to the WDNR.

However, the plan was not supported by the WDNR at that time. According to Glenn Miller, GLIFWC inland fisheries biologist, the WDNR indicated in earlier discussions of the Kentuck lake fishery that it was shifting away from walleye and towards a bass/panfish dominated fish community.

Miller points to a March 4, 1996 WDNR memo that states WDNR sees



GLIFWC, USFWS, St. Croix and Bad River perform electrofishing surveys each spring and fall on selected lakes in the ceded territories. (Staff photo)

“no reason to aggressively resist the natural processes which have led to that condition.”

Following several meetings between GLIFWC and the WDNR during 1997, the WDNR did agree to work with the tribes on developing a plan for rehabilitating walleye in Kentuck lake, and in December 1997 the Kentuck lake subcommittee of the TWG was established.

While a number of issues and alternatives have been discussed as part of the rehabilitation plan, a few have been agreed upon. The WDNR agreed to approve stocking of fingerlings, extended growth and smaller, with all stocking performed by the tribes and the USFWS.

Rose says the Genoa National Fish Hatchery made a ten year commitment to provide 5,000-10,000 extended growth fingerlings and 50,000-75,000 1"-3" fingerlings each year for the Kentuck lake rehabilitation project.

The tribal proposal also included an adult male stocking component that would transfer adult males from nearby lakes into Kentuck lake. However, the WDNR has not approved this aspect of the proposal.

Studies will be jointly undertaken to examine egg hatching success and to identify factors that may be responsible for recruitment failure, Rose says. Fisheries staff will be looking at competitive interaction between fish species and predator-prey relationships.

At the March 1998 meeting the Voigt Intertribal Task Force voted to close Kentuck lake to all treaty harvest in 1998.

The WDNR has agreed to begin action towards a regulatory change which would establish a 28" minimum length and a one fish per day bag limit for sport fishing on Kentuck lake.

Under the normal WDNR rule-making process, this change probably would be complete in 2000, Rose says. However, the tribes are hopeful the regulatory change will be hastened through an emergency rule process, which would make it effective in 1998 and 1999.

Articles by Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Roberts heads Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest

Park Falls, Wis.—Arriving from the Pacific Northwest, Lynn Roberts replaced Jack Troyer as Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest Supervisor about six months ago and has been more than well-occupied becoming acquainted with her new post.

Roberts, who describes herself as a non-traditional career person, has already been in contact with concerned tribes and notably made the decision which stopped the proposed Timberg land exchange, a land swap which would have negatively impacted the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation.

“It is exciting to be involved in a profession where people care about what you do,” Roberts says. “We all need to take care of the resource, be good stewards.”

A glance over Roberts' career tells why she describes it as “non-traditional.”

Forest Supervisor Roberts began her formal education as literature major. After obtaining a bachelor of arts degree in literature, she chose to pursue a masters degree in theoretical linguistics.



Lynn Roberts

After graduating, she took a position in Colorado at a Job Corps Center working with underprivileged youth, preparing them to test for their General Education Diploma (GED). She continued work with the Job Corps Center eventually moving to the Black Hills as a Center director.

Her next step took her to Portland, Oregon, as the U.S. Forest Service's Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights Director under Title VI and Title VII programs.

With the assistance of the Forest Service, Roberts returned to school, enrolling at Oregon State University to study forestry administration and ecology, a significantly different course of study than her earlier pursuits of literature and theoretical linguistics.

Roberts then assumed the position of District Ranger at Mt. St. Helen in Washington from 1991 to August 1997, when the next chapter of her career brought her to the Nicolet-Chequamegon Forest.

Currently, Roberts is involved in revising the Forest Management Plan. A major challenge is to work collaboratively with the different publics, she says, and to get the revised plan supported by those different publics.

She views developing an ongoing government-to-government relationship with the tribes as another priority in dealing with forestry management issues.

Roberts and her husband John have two children, twelve year old Mason and five year old Ariel. Her husband John runs his own computer business out of the home.



LCO and property owners unite to improve fishery

Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Hayward, Wis.—Through a project spearheaded by Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) and local property owners, fish habitat on Round Lake in western Wisconsin is being enhanced with the placement of more than 350 fish cribs.

Seeking to improve the Round Lake fishery, LCO vice-chairman Mic Isham and Round Lake Property Owners Association representative Al Reinemann organized the cooperative effort to construct approximately 100 fish cribs annually.

"We have the same goals of protecting and improving the resource," Isham said.

Natural habitat structure is limited on the 2,800-acre lake, making the man-made cribs crucial in maintaining fish populations for tribal harvest and state licensed anglers.

"We work with the tribe for everybody's benefit," said Reinemann, who owns Timber Trail Lodge, "We don't just sit at a table and talk about it—we're getting tangible results."

When the project began in 1996, property owners offered to finance the purchase of tools and building materials, and an LCO youth group built the cribs. Additional monetary support came from a variety of conservation-minded sources including: Wis. Wildlife Federation, Famous Dave's Restaurant and Miller Friends of the Field.

Modeled after a design utilized by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, fish cribs are constructed with pallets, rebar and PVC pipe. Concrete blocks hold the box-shaped structures to the lake floor and the empty space within the crib framework is garnished with tree branches, providing habitat for small fish.

The most recent crop of fish cribs were built by residents of the LCO half-way house, a facility for American Indians recovering from alcoholism. Nine weeks spent on the project netted 100 new structures in autumn 1997.

"I'm glad I could have a part in improving the lake," said Merle Bennett, LCO tribal member and half-way house resident.

Bennett is also a student of natural resource management at Lac Courte Oreilles Community College. Hoping to gain both hands-on experience and fulfill community service hours, Bennett contacted Isham and arranged to have half-way house residents contribute to the effort.

"It seemed like a great way to give back to the community and to give back to the resource," Isham said.

Since building his first fish crib ten years ago, Isham has become familiar with a variety of designs. He considers the current model the best.

"These cribs are affordable and relatively easy to make," Isham explained. "Heavy, labor-intensive cribs made from logs last a little longer, but are unsuitable for the youth group to work on."

Reinemann added that fish seemed to prefer these structures over other types promoted by some state fish managers, like thin plastic cribs.

To insure proper placement on the lake bottom, fish cribs are lowered into the water from the deck of a pontoon boat during the summer. With the aid of a depthfinder, volunteers target areas with 15 to 18 feet of water to avoid collisions with watercraft.

Isham said that while the band and local community were at odds over treaty spearing in the past, joint efforts with groups like the Round Lake Property Owners Association promotes goodwill and benefits the fishery.

According to Reinemann, treaty spearing is virtually a non-issue in regards to the health of local fish populations. Pointing to LCO stocking efforts, he regards tribal involvement in managing Round Lake as a boon to the fishery.

"There really isn't a problem with what the tribe takes out because of what they put back in," Reinemann said.

While tribal harvesters spear around 500 walleye, ogaa, annually from the lake, they have stocked more than 200,000 fish in the last decade.

Additional stocking by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources—including a muskellunge, maashkinoozhe, program that provides 1,500 fingerlings every odd calendar year—help support natural reproduction.



Fish habitat on Round Lake is being enhanced due to a cooperative project. Cooperators in the project include, from the left, Al Reinemann, Round Lake Property Owners Association and Merle Bennett and Mic Isham, LCO. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen.)

LCO relieved proposed land swap denied

Lac Courte Oreilles, Wis.—A proposed land swap between Timberg Inc. and the U.S. Forest Service was denied this winter, a decision made by Chequamegon/Nicolet Forest Service Supervisor Lynn Roberts which pleased Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Vice Chairman Mic Isham.

Isham says that the proposal would have exchanged 1,500 acres of public land near the reservation for 1,635 acres of private land in scattered sites throughout the northern counties. The Forest Service land in question is used by LCO for off-reservation hunting and gathering. The land also contained an old growth area used by tribal members to gather medicinal plants, Isham says.

The lands proposed to come under Timberg Inc. would consolidate the company's land holdings between the Moose and Chippewa rivers, which drain into the Chippewa Flowage, Isham says. Private ownership of this significant section of land, would diminish LCO's participation in management decisions.

Isham was also concerned that the Forest Service had not approached the tribe on a government-to-government basis when the proposal was first initiated, considering it would impact the tribal community, but is pleased with the outcome.

"We work with the tribe for everybody's benefit. we don't just sit at a table and talk about it—we're getting tangible results."
 —Al Reineman, Round Lake Property Owners Assoc.



Lake Superior fish excellent source of omega 3 oil:

Omega 3 does the heart good

By Paul B. Addis, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota

Fish and seafoods have recently increased in popularity due to reports of the health benefits of fish oils (omega-3 or N-3 fatty acids).

People in the Midwest may feel dependent upon saltwater fish to get N-3 oils, based on misinformation and misconceptions concerning the N-3 content of freshwater fish.

The truth is, freshwater fish do contain N-3 fatty acids, although as with saltwater fish, some fish are better sources of N-3 oils than others.

Fish with high total lipid (fat) content from a cold water environment, saltwater or freshwater, are most desirable. In the Upper Midwest, we have a significant resource of these fish in Lake Superior, which is so cold it could almost be classified as an Arctic lake.

The primary benefit of fish oil is the reduction of blood platelet activity, not blood cholesterol. Platelets are clot-forming cells which prevent excessive bleeding.

Overly active blood platelets, however, may help to accelerate the buildup of plaque, which is a deposit of fatty-fibrous material in a blood vessel wall. The blood clots formed by blood platelets may become stuck in a plaque-narrowed artery and trigger a heart attack.

Thus, N-3 fish oils can prevent heart attacks by reducing both blood clotting activity of platelets and the formation of plaque. N-3 oils also have an effect on blood lipids. They lower triglycerides, but not cholesterol.

On the other hand, omega-6 (N 6) oils found in vegetable oils, eggs, and poultry are known to lower blood cholesterol but they increase the platelet activity of blood.

Since reduction of clotting is a key step in preventing heart disease it has

been recommended that individuals decrease the N-6 to N-3 ratio in their diets from about 17 to about 6.

This can best be done by eating more N-3 oils and less N-6 oils. Though both are polyunsaturated fats, N-3 oils are more polyunsaturated than N-6 oils due to different chemical structures. Both N-3 and N-6 oils are required in the diet.

Lake Superior Fish

Recent research at the University of Minnesota has determined that a number of Lake Superior species are excellent sources of N-3 fatty acids. There are several important features to consider about the fatty acid composition of Lake Superior fish.

Table 1 lists the proportions of each of the major groups of fatty acids (saturated, monounsaturated, etc.) for each Lake Superior fish and the ratio of N-3 to N-6 fatty acids (N-3/N-6).

For example, Table 1 shows that 16% of the fat in a chub and 31% of the fat in a burbot is saturated. However, the total fat content is so low in these fish that the saturated fat content per typical serving is negligible in burbot and small in chub.

The contents of N-3 fatty acids and total fat content in Lake Superior fish are roughly comparable to those of saltwater fish. However, the N-6 content is higher. Therefore, the ratio of N-3 oils to N-6 oils is better in saltwater fish than in Lake Superior fish.

In a comparison of N-3 fatty acid contents of salmon, a high fat fish, and halibut, a low fat fish, Lake Superior fish, with the exception of burbot, easily exceeded the N-3 content of halibut. Furthermore, the N-3 content of chub, herring, whitefish, lean lake trout or siscowet lake trout exceeds the N-3 content of chinook salmon, which is one of the best saltwater sources of N-3 fatty acids.



Lake trout in a commercial fishing net. (Staff photo)

Another striking feature of the Lake Superior fish is a high content of monounsaturated oil, the type of fatty acid found in olive and canola oils. Recent medical research indicates that monounsaturated oils are more effective than N-6 polyunsaturated oils in lowering blood cholesterol.

The results of the freshwater/saltwater fish comparisons clearly establish that some freshwater fish are good sources of eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), two types of N-3 fatty acids. Lake Superior fish are a valuable source of N-3 fatty acids despite a less desirable N-3/N-6 ratio than saltwater fish.

Adding 100 grams a day of Lake Superior fish, except burbot, to the current U.S. diet (5,6) would result in a

marked, favorable change in the N-3/N-6 ratio.

To get maximum health benefits from the N-3 oils in fish, it is recommended that you prepare them without additional oil by baking, broiling, or grilling.

Mark your kitchen calendar to remind yourself to eat fish regularly and use your frozen fish in an appropriate timeframe.

Summary

Certain saltwater fish are good sources of N-3 fatty acids. High oil content, freshwater fish found in cold water lakes, such as Lake Superior, are an equally good source of these fatty acids.

Significant health benefits related to coronary heart disease prevention have been attributed to the consumption of N-3 fatty acids.

Proper storage methods and short storage periods can alleviate the development of rancidity, a potential problem in fish with a high oil content.

(Paul B. Addis, Ph.D., is a professor of food science, nutrition, and dietetics and is a food scientist in the Minnesota Extension Service, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, University of Minnesota.)

Table 1. Fatty acid composition of muscle tissue from Lake Superior fish

Fatty Acid Class	Chub	Herring	Smelt	Whitefish	Burbot	Lean Lake Trout	Siscowet Lake Trout
Saturated	16.8	28.2	23.0	17.3	31.0	17.8	21.1
Monounsaturated	41.5	20.1	33.7	33.8	32.1	39.6	45.0
Polyunsaturated N-3	26.4	33.7	37.6	32.5	26.0	29.7	24.1
Polyunsaturated N-6	10.9	14.3	17.1	12.6	15.5	12.8	10.7
Polyunsaturated, total	37.3	48.0	54.7	45.1	41.5	42.5	34.8
N-3 to N-6 ratio	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.6	1.7	2.3	2.3

Note: Calculated as relative percentage of total fat content (100%).

Ruffe on the increase in Chequamegon Bay

By Steve Tomasko
The Daily Press

Ashland, Wis.—One small fish could cause big problems on the Great Lakes, including the Chequamegon Bay, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The fish is the Eurasian ruffe (rhymes with tough) and it could hurt the sports fishery for native fish like yellow perch.

The ruffe is a perch-like fish usually less than six inches long. It adapts to a wide variety of environments and reproduces quickly.

It first invaded the Duluth Harbor area in the mid-1980s brought in on oceangoing freighters. By the early 1990s ruffe were the most abundant fish caught in samples in Duluth Harbor.

Since then it has spread along the South Shore as far east as the Ontonagon River in Michigan, northward to Thunder Bay, Ontario and one isolated spot in Lake Huron.

The good news, researchers say, is that it doesn't appear the ruffe have enlarged their territory the past two years. The bad news is the existing populations keep growing—and they're already well-established in the bay area.

Fisheries experts are trying to limit the fish's spread to the other Great Lakes and to inland waters. Tom Busiahn of Ashland's U.S. Fish and Wildlife office and chair of the ruffe control committee takes the challenge seriously.

Because ruffe mature in just one year, Busiahn said there is the "potential we could have quite a spawning population next year," in Chequamegon Bay.

Ruffe in Chequamegon Bay and the Bad and Kakagon rivers have increased over the last two years. This worries Gary Czepinski, a biological technician with the Ashland Fisheries Resource Office who leads the ruffe surveillance team.

"One of our main concerns if they increase in Chequamegon Bay like they did in Duluth Harbor is they'll impact sports fish, especially perch and small mouth," Czepinski said.

Czepinski knows how thick ruffe can get. He said the population of ruffe in one 10,000 acre area of Duluth Harbor was estimated to be six million fish.

Ruffe are bottom feeders, eating mostly fly larvae. These larvae are also food for native fish. With ruffe increasing, they may out-compete native fish for food.

After the ruffe population boomed in Duluth Harbor the numbers of perch dropped. Busiahn said the perch have come back somewhat, but the numbers of catchable size fish have stayed down.



Ruffe in Chequamegon Bay and the Bad and Kakagon rivers have increased over the last two years. (Photo by M.J. Kewley)

Czepinski said there's also evidence that ruffe feed on the eggs of other fish like lake herring and whitefish.

Like the zebra mussel and many other exotic invaders, the ruffe probably gained its passport through riding in the ballast water of ships.

Since 1993, by law ships entering the Great Lakes have to exchange their ballast water for ocean water. This should help prevent future invasions of ruffe or other exotic species. But ballast water can also be a problem within the Great Lakes.

Busiahn said the one colony of ruffe in Lake Huron probably was established by stowaways riding in the ballast tanks of ships going between Duluth and Alpena, Michigan. Alpena, on the lower peninsula of Michigan, ships out concrete to Duluth. When the ships return, they take on ballast water to replace the weight of the concrete.

Can the ruffe be controlled? That depends on your definition of "control," Busiahn said. There are four levels of control: eradication, suppression, preventing range expansion and learning to live with it.

The middle two, Busiahn said, are what fisheries experts are concentrating on. He added that eradication probably isn't possible. There are chemicals that will kill the fish, but other fish are also affected. And it's not a very popular option. "Right now we have a very limited tool kit," Busiahn said.

A five-year program in Duluth Harbor tried to use predator fish to control the ruffe population. Both the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources stocked the waters with walleyes, northern pike, musky, and small mouth bass.

They also shortened the fishing season and decreased bag limits to try and increase the number and size of the

predators. Or as Busiahn said, they tried "to put as many mouths out there as they could."

The plan failed due to one major problem. The predators didn't like the taste of ruffe. Ruffe have sharp spines in their fins and gills making them less delectable than some soft-finned native food fish.

"We were hoping that walleye would be a major predator," Czepinski said, "but we found out they like them the least."

In fact, Busiahn said, the program may even have helped the ruffe by eliminating some of their competition.

Preventing the ruffe's expansion is the main focus of the control program—especially their spread to inland waters. "If they do," Czepinski said, "they definitely will affect sports fishing."

Busiahn said it was lucky the ruffe started where they did, in the westernmost part of Lake Superior. If they had first invaded Lake Erie they would already have expanded all over the Great Lakes, Busiahn said.

"Lake Superior itself provides a major block for expansion," he said. Because ruffe mostly like shallow water and river mouths, the cold, deep waters of Superior help keep the ruffe from expanding too fast.

Public education is another big factor in keeping the ruffe under control. Brochures, posters at boat landings and a "ruffe watch" identification card are all part of trying to teach the public about the ruffe.

Busiahn said anglers have often been the first to notify officials of new infestations and public involvement is very important.

If you catch what you think is a ruffe Czepinski said you should kill it, then take it to the nearest DNR office, or Fish and Wildlife office. It's illegal to possess ruffe unless you're taking it somewhere to report it.

Another concern is the possibility ruffe may spread to other waters through bait harvesting. If some ruffe get mixed up with the bait fish, they could get dumped into other lakes. Because of this, permits to harvest bait fish in Chequamegon Bay are no longer being issued.

Busiahn could not find anything good to say about the ruffe. "It's too small for sport or commercial fishing, it dominates ecosystems," he said, "and it degrades the quality of sports fishing."

This European invader, however, seems here to stay. "All we can do is delay their spread," Czepinski said.

(Reprinted from *The Daily Press*, Ashland, Wisconsin)

Tribal volunteer needed for Lake Superior Binational Forum

The Lake Superior Binational Forum is seeking a volunteer tribal citizen from the Wisconsin or Michigan Lake Superior basin.

The Lake Superior Binational forum, is composed of a 22-member citizen group. This group advises the governments of Canada, U.S., Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin on water quality matters.

Please send your resume and letter of interest by April 15, 1998 to: Jane Silberstein, Lake Superior Binational Forum, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806.

For more information call (715) 682-1489.



Ojibwe youth engage in traditional outdoor skills

**By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer**

Odanah, Wis.—As the tempting aroma of “rabbit stew” drifted through the Bad River community center, a dozen young fur trappers waited eagerly to feast. For many, it would be their first taste of snowshoe hare and an introduction into the lifeways of the traditional Ojibwe.

Under the direction of Bad River reservation volunteers, the youngsters captured the main course using leg-hold snares as part of a GLIFWC-sponsored outdoor skills program.

Financial support for the project was provided by GLIFWC and a federal grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA).

Throughout the past year, GLIFWC member tribes have utilized the funds to acquire materials and teach a wide range of traditional skills, including: hunting, fishing, gathering, sugar bush, and snowshoe construction.

At Lac du Flambeau, tribal youth learned the essentials of ice fishing with wooden decoys. Band member Kevin Graveen headed up the exercise, demonstrating how to carve fish decoys from basswood and select paint color that predators, like muskie, find attractive. After crafting their own decoys, the group learned how to present the

wooden bait through the ice and lure fish into spearing range.

Jim St. Arnold, director of the GLIFWC/ANA initiative which ended in January, said that he was pleased with the results of the project.

“It went very well,” St. Arnold said. “Now that materials and equipment are in place, many communities will continue teaching outdoor skills at their own level.”

Bad River coordinator Mike Wiggins said activities like spring spearing and winter trapping sparked a lot of interest among participants.

“The kids are asking when we’re going out again,” said Wiggins, who is planning future outdoor-based events.

He added that not all kids have the opportunity to exercise their treaty rights; the program helped develop ethics and skills of the next generation of Ojibwe harvesters.

“We emphasized having respect for the animals you catch,” said Wiggins.

The Bad River group experienced the full scope of trapping, from making their own equipment, to setting snares, to caring for captured animals—including skinning and tanning.

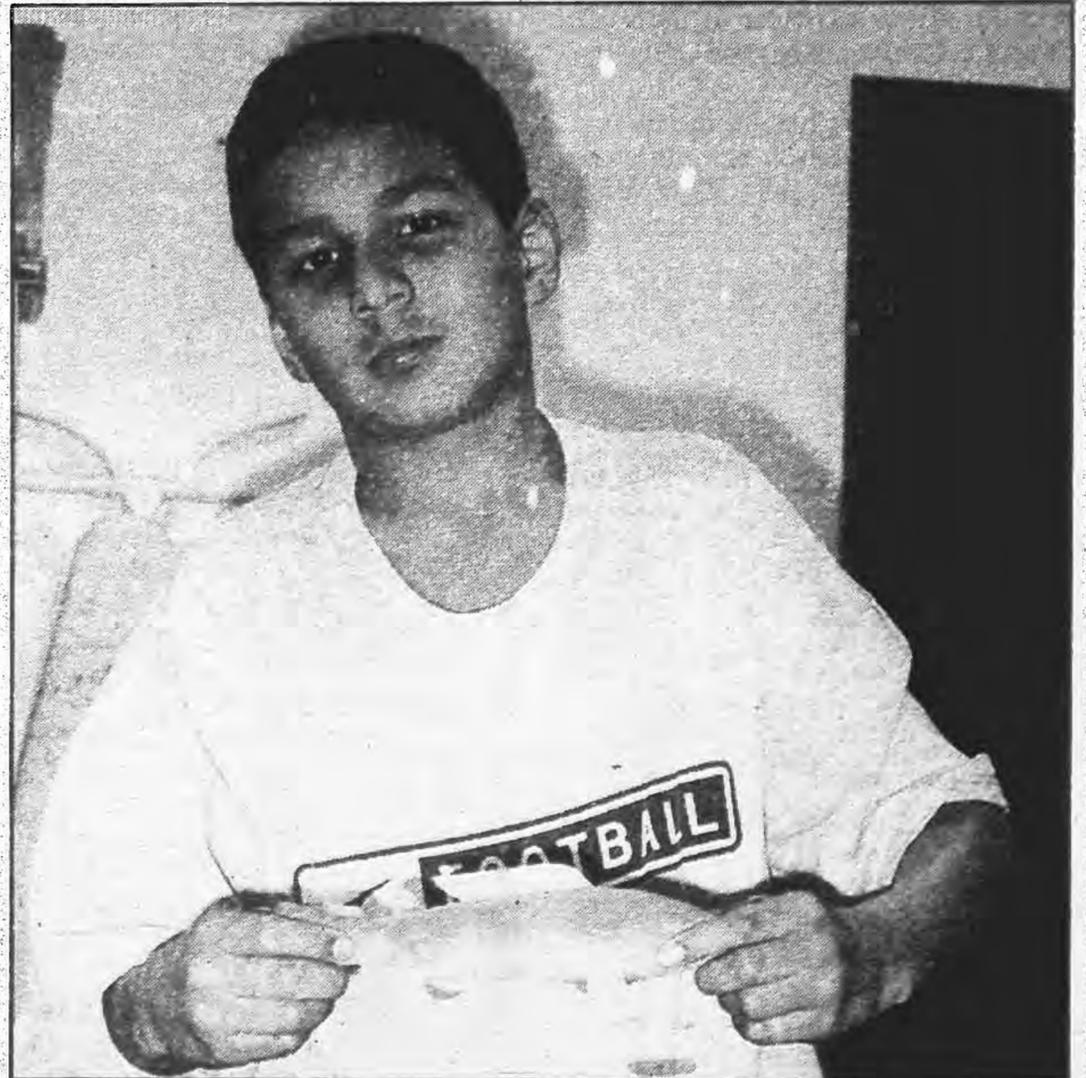
But the kids weren’t quite ready to create rabbit stew with dumplings. When mealtime rolled around, Bad River elder Sylvia Cloud assumed responsibility for preparing the feast. Everyone was glad she did.



The Bad River youth group pose with weasles trapped on a recent outdoor skills venture. From left to right: Miguel Salas, Waylon Jones, Noah Arbuckle and Derek Fernandez. Second row, Tony Deford, Justin Rufus and Ryan Rosin. Third row, Dennis Soulier and Mike Wiggins, youth volunteers; Ron Parisien Jr. and Joe Rufus. Back row, Ron Parisien and Matt O’Claire, volunteers. (Photo by Charlie Rasmussen)



Lac du Flambeau tribal youth carved their own decoys and then learned how to present the wooden bait through the ice and lure fish into spearing range. Pictured above, from left to right: Zak Sunn, Cody Smith, Michael Poupart and Korey Wildcat. (Submitted photo)



Korey Wildcat, Lac du Flambeau, displays a fish decoy carved from basswood. (Submitted photo)



GIS maps interpret data visually

By Troy Hughes, UW-Eau Claire Intern

Madison, Wis.—Though they may be difficult to fold back into their original position, maps provide many of us with valuable information as we go from point A to point B.

At the University of Wisconsin's Land Information and Computer Graphics Facility (LICGF), maps have become much more than tools of navigation. Within LICGF, John Coleman works as environmental section leader at GLIFWC's satellite office in Madison.

Accompanied by Esteban Chiriboga, GIS mining assistant, and Majid Allan, GIS technician, Coleman uses cartography to provide GLIFWC, GLIFWC mem-

ber tribes and federal agencies with information regarding mining, mercury contamination of fish, and several other environmental issues.

At LICGF, maps are a means of communicating statistical data in an easily understood visual language. By utilizing computer programs called Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Coleman is able to show on a map, numbers and information collected over the years by representing them in visual form.

Such groups as the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and Sea Grant, as well as GLIFWC, utilize GIS at LICGF in this capacity.

"We are making maps to understand the relationship between data collected from various projects. This is an alternative way of presenting the same information that agencies have usually presented by using charts or tables," said Coleman.

By mapping data in relation to other data, a GIS is able to show the characteristics of the data.

For example, when GLIFWC conducted a survey of snowshoe hare and bobcat populations in the Wisconsin ceded territory, the GIS program took the data collected and presented it visually on a map of Wisconsin. This provided GLIFWC with efficient, easy-to-understand data.

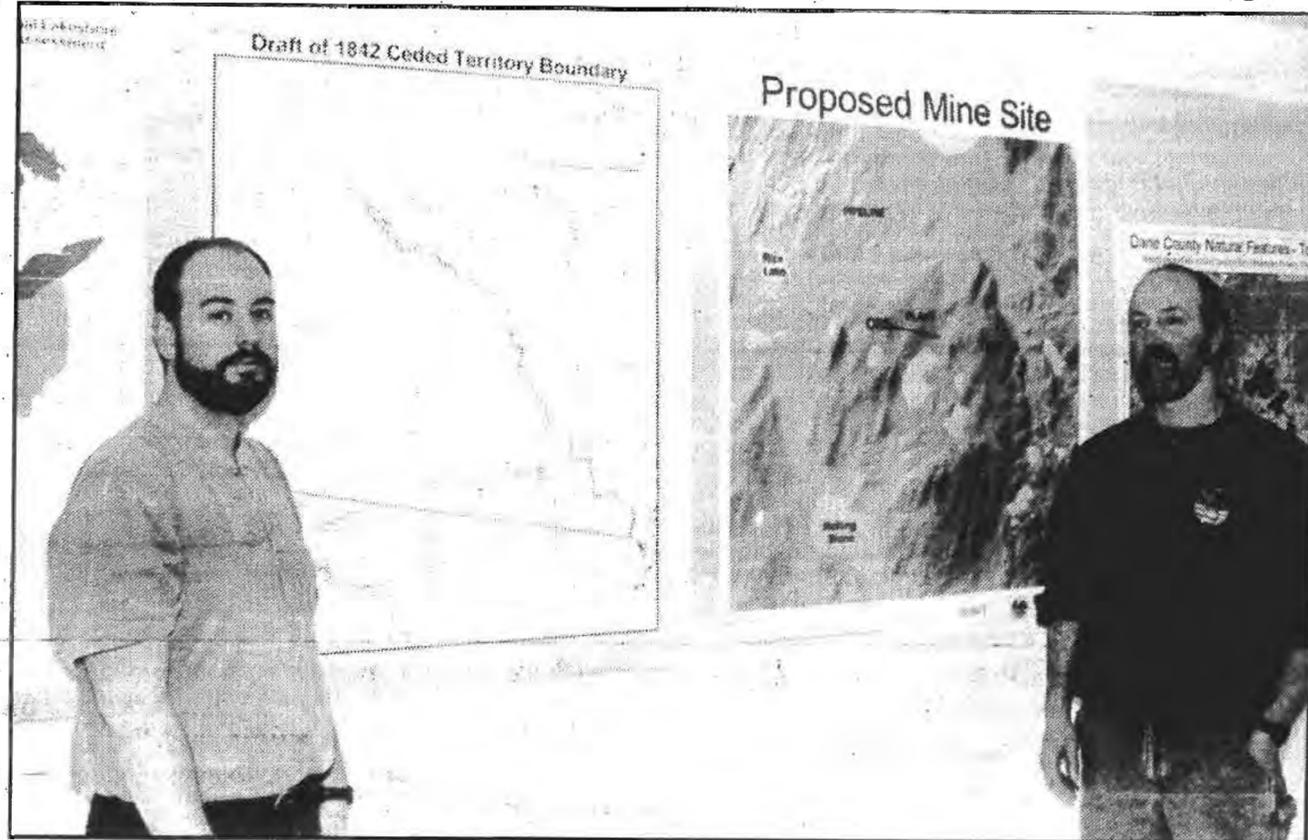
In addition to representing statistical information, GIS can be used to map potential events. In the wake of last year's proposed transport of sulfuric acid across the Bad River reservation, for example, Coleman developed a map that depicted the route of the train and all of the waterways that could be affected by a possible derailment.

This map proved to be useful to the Environmental Protection Agency's review of the White Pine Mine project. This map, among other information, contributed to the eventual mine closure.

Coleman is also coordinating another project that utilizes data from GLIFWC research on wild rice beds in Wisconsin and Michigan. With the information collected, GIS Mining Assistant, Esteban Chiriboga is mapping out lakes that have wild rice, the area these stands cover, and the density of the beds.

While this map is used to analyze the current threat of mining on this valuable tribal resource, Coleman recognizes its potential future use. "It may be possible to keep track of the year to year changes in these beds and possibly keep track of tribal harvest," he said.

(See GIS maps, page 22)



GLIFWC's Esteban Chiriboga and John Coleman produce GIS maps from the Madison satellite office. The maps are useful in better understanding natural resource issues in the ceded territory. (Photo by Troy Hughes)

Ajidamoo wano, squirrel tail, one of many plants traditionally used by the Ojibwe

By John Heim, GLIFWC Wild plant technician

Odanah, Wis.—The Ojibwe have an incredible knowledge of the plant world. In the old days, virtually all of their physical needs were met by the plants around them.

Plants and trees provided the food to sustain them; medicines to mend wounds and cure ailments; tools such as traps and snares for harvesting fish, venison and smaller fur bearers; shelter for protection from the seasonal elements and caches for food storage.

The children were even entertained by toys and games made from plants and kept busy during times of berry harvest.

Plants are a major focus in Ojibwe art and spirituality; and they hold a prominent position in the creation stories. Many plants are honored by being

used for ceremonies, and traditional dance outfits have plant designs beaded on them.

The floral patterns of the woodland Indians are both beautiful and distinctive. The hoops or circles of important items such as medicine wheels and drums are made of woody plants.

With the green world so intertwined in the daily lives of the Ojibwe people, it is not surprising that Ojibwe bands have real concerns about the future of the land and the plants which have so long sustained them.

One plant species which has long been important to the Ojibwe people is yarrow. Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* L.) is known to the Ojibwe as "ajidamoo wano," meaning squirrel tail, which probably refers to the delicate, hairy appearance of the larger, finely divided leaves.

The Ojibwe used yarrow medicinally for a variety of ailments, and some

still do. Yarrow was spread over hot coals and the smoke inhaled to break fevers.

It was brewed in teas and used in decoctions with other plants for skin problems. In general, it was used as an indigestion aid.

Yarrow has been documented by one known source as having been used for medicine by nearly every Native American tribe on the North American Continent between Mexico and the Arctic (Moerman 1986).

This widely distributed and widely used plant goes by a number of names. Yarrow is a.k.a. milfoil, thousand leaf, wild tansy, nosebleed, old man's pepper, sneezewort, knight's milfoil, herbe militaris, staunchweed, blood-wort, and soldier's woundwort. The last five names refer to its use in the military to heal wounds.

Yarrow, a perennial herb, can be found in a variety of habitats but most

abundantly in disturbed sites. Anybody that has been outside of a building in summer has seen yarrow and may not have been aware of it. It is very weed-like in habit spreading and growing quickly.

Some of yarrow's favorite habitats include dry roadsides, fields, railroad grades, grasslands, rocky shores and cliffs, riverbanks, along wood edges, in beach communities, old logging roads, vacant lots, dry woodlands, and almost everywhere except very wet, acidic or shady places.

Yarrow grows with white and, very often light to dark pink flowers, in a sometimes very large, flat topped cluster called a corymb.

The leaves are arranged alternately on the main stem and look feathery or fern-like. They are fragile and, when bruised, are aromatic.



Saying "miigwech" to Archie

The Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITTF) recently honored Archie McGeshick, VITTF representative from the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Chippewa. Archie, who has been battling cancer over the last year, was presented with an Eagle Feather in appreciation for his dedication to the VITTF and the spiritual leadership he has provided to the Task Force through the years.

The honoring took place at the February meeting VITTF at Lac du Flambeau. Gifts from VITTF tribes were also presented to Archie and his new bride, Bev Admundson, and Tobasonakwut, a visiting spiritual leader from the Ojibways of Onigaming, Canada, led a Drum Song in his honor.

With a willing and open spirit, Archie has traveled thousands of miles over the years to participate in GLIFWC/VITTF meetings on behalf of his tribe. Many meetings have opened with his prayers preparing Task Force representatives to work together with good hearts and open minds for the benefit of the Anishinaabe people they represent.

The following resolution was passed at the January VITTF meeting.

WHEREAS, Archie McGeshick has been the Lac Vieux Desert representative to the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission's Voigt Intertribal Task Force from July 1989 to the present.

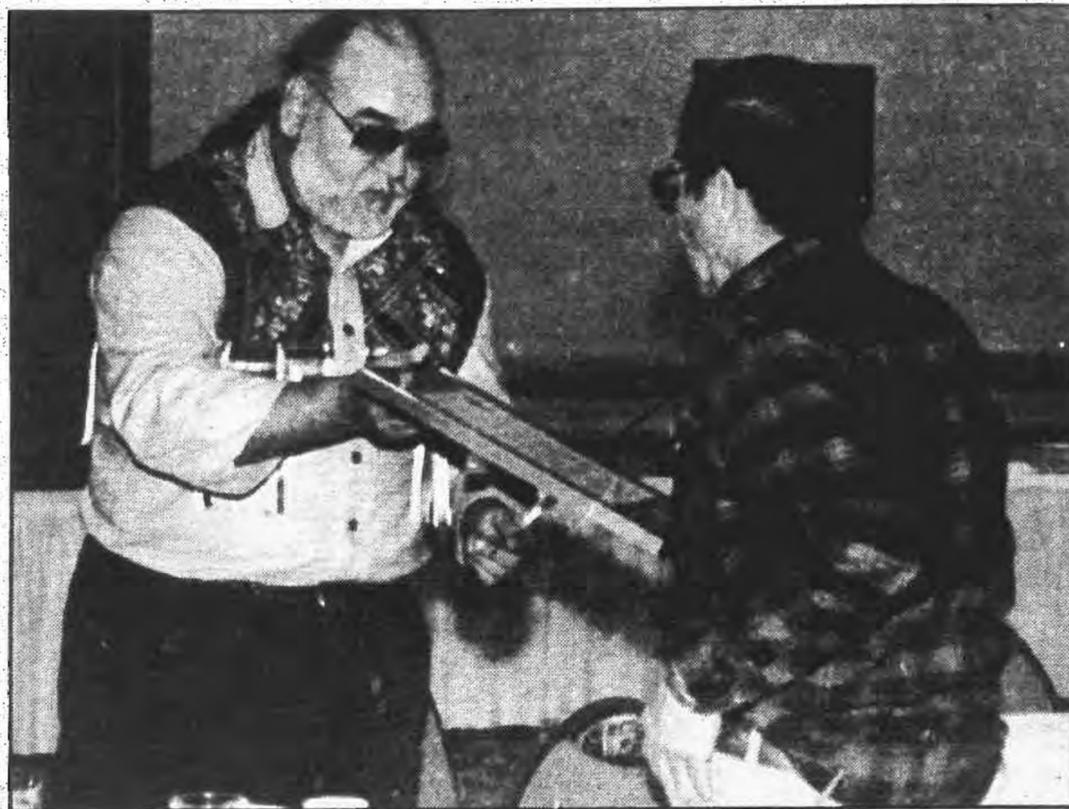
WHEREAS, Archie McGeshick has played an important and valuable role of elder and teacher and the Voigt Task Force and GLIFWC staff have looked to him for the unique leadership and knowledge that only he can provide.

WHEREAS, Archie McGeshick was instrumental in achieving recognition and implementation of the tribes' gathering rights on national forest lands in the ceded territories.

WHEREAS, Archie McGeshick provided an elder's spirit in his wisdom and knowledge of the Chippewa language and the history he brings from past generations.

WHEREAS, Archie McGeshick has conducted traditional pipe ceremonies and prayers to begin Voigt Task Force meetings in a spiritually positive way.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that we, the Voigt Intertribal Task Force of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Archie McGeshick for his dedication and service to our organization and to our member tribes.



Above: Jim Schlender, GLIFWC executive administrator presents Archie McGeshick with an Eagle Feather in appreciation for his dedication to the VITTF. (Photo by Sue Erickson)
Right: Archie McGeshick and Bev Admundson on their wedding day. (Photo submitted)



Chairs Elected to Voigt Intertribal Task Force

*By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer*

Onamia, Minn.—Lac du Flambeau Tribal Chairman Tom Maulson began his eleventh consecutive term as Chairman of the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITTF) following the election of officers at the March 10th VITTF meeting at the Mille Lacs reservation.

Mic Isham, Lac Courte Oreilles Vice Chairman, was also elected as the new VITTF Vice Chairman.

"I appreciate all the support that tribal representatives have shown me over the years," said Maulson, who also serves as GLIFWC Board of Commissioners Chairman.

The VITTF was formed in 1983 following the case of Lac Courte Oreilles v. Wisconsin. The court ruling, known as the Voigt decision, affirmed the treaty rights retained by Ojibwes in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territory.

The Task Force was charged with implementing the treaty rights following the Voigt decision, so consequently



Tom Maulson

has been actively involved in all the early interim negotiations of treaty seasons, in Phase II Voigt litigation, and the subsequent management of inland off-reservation natural resources.

In 1984 the VITTF merged with the Great Lakes Indian Fisheries Commission, an intertribal organization managing the treaty fishing harvests in Lake Superior.

The merger created the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) as it is known today, and the VITTF became one of GLIFWC's



Mic Isham

standing committees. The Task Force makes recommendations directly to GLIFWC's Board of Commissioners, the policy-making arm of GLIFWC, comprised of tribal chairpersons or their designated representative.

Representatives from nine GLIFWC member tribes make up the committee which convenes monthly to consider resource management issues and inland harvest seasons in the ceded territories.

The Task Force also assists member tribes in developing individual regu-

lations and policies to protect natural resources.

Maulson has been involved with the Task Force since its inception in the mid-1980s and has high regard for the commitment of all VITTF representatives. "It has been a positive nucleus of tribal representatives," Maulson said. "Everyone has done an excellent job, and I look forward to continuing to work for the treaty area."

For Isham, whose career began over ten years ago as a GLIFWC intern, the opportunity to serve as vice chair of the Task Force is an honor.

"I believe strongly in the mission of GLIFWC," Isham said. "I will learn as much as I can from my elders on the Task Force and wish to thank them for getting GLIFWC to the status it enjoys today."

After Isham's internship at GLIFWC in 1986, Isham continued to work in the field of natural resources with the Wisconsin Conservation Corps, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and a variety of reservation-based environmental projects.

GLIFWC's new staff



Karen Danielson
Forest Ecologist

Karen Danielsen became a part of the GLIFWC family on January 5th this year as the new forest ecologist with the Biological Services Division. She received her Bachelor's of Science degree in population ecology from the University of California-San Diego and her Master's degree in plant ecology from California State at Los Angeles. She was formerly the forest botanist for the Los Padres National Forest in Galida, California, where she worked for six years.

As forest ecologist, Karen's primary responsibility is to learn how tribal members gather and utilize the flora of this region. In addition to this, she is responsible for managing the botanical resources of the ceded territory. In this capacity, she is the contact person between the federal and tribal governments, and consults with the U.S. Forest Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Recently, she has been studying the impacts of logging and deer herbivory on understory species.

Karen lives with her husband, Dale Thomas, and three year old son, Sean, in Mason. She enjoys hiking, camping, reading and drawing. She also enjoys cross country skiing and snowshoeing.



Carl Reese
Inland Fisheries Biologist

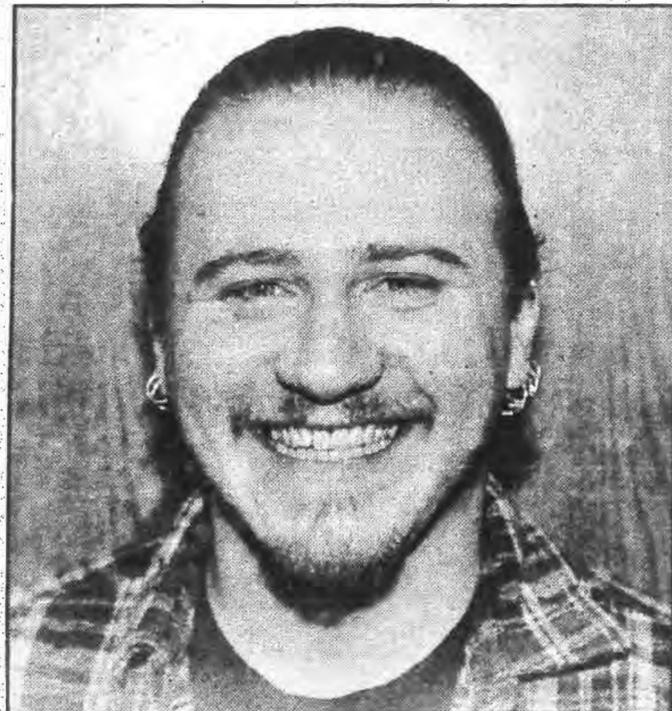
Carl Reece joined GLIFWC in January as the Mille Lacs fisheries biologist. An Arizona native, Carl spent the last few years working in California after earning a graduate degree in natural resources/fisheries from Humbolt State University. Carl gained professional experience working for the California Department of Fish and Game, as well as the USDA Forest Service.

At Mille Lacs, Carl will help monitor the tribal fish harvest, and collect biological and population data on the Mille Lacs area fishery.

Backpacking, running and kayaking are among his favorite pursuits and he looks forward to exploring those activities in Minnesota. Along with his wife and two children, Carl lives in Pierz.



Intern completes studies at GLIFWC



Troy Hughes
UW-Eau Claire Intern

Completing the last of his course requirements for a major in American Indian Studies at the UW-Eau Claire, Troy Hughes is interning this spring with GLIFWC's Public Information Office and the Bad River band's *News from the Sloughs* in Odanah as part of a work experience requirement.

The intent of the internship is to provide first-hand experience working with the tribes on the reservations. Hughes spends his four days a week in the area, writing for GLIFWC's *Masinaigan*, assisting in the production of Bad River's *News from the Sloughs* and working with Dana Jackson, Bad River Department of Education, in developing an Ojibwe mammal identification book. The internship extends through May 1998.

Hughes attended high school largely in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, but graduated in Provo, Utah. He has been studying at UW-Eau Claire since 1993 and will be graduating this spring, along with his wife, Rachel, a psychology major. Hughes' minor is in "Anatomical and Environmental Correlates of Prehistoric Subsistence," which he describes as a study of how prehistoric people survived.

Following graduation, Hughes will be looking for work, preferably with a tribe. His goal is to work with tribes in keeping their traditions alive.



Several GLIFWC staff members were honored for their years of service during a January 1998 staff meeting at the Bad River Lodge and Casino. Receiving recognition were, from the left, Lynn Plucinski, public information, 15 years; Bill Mattes, Great Lakes biologist, 5 years; Ann McCammon-Solits, policy analyst, 5 years; Vern Stone, enforcement, 10 years. Missing from the photo was Duane Parish, enforcement, 5 years. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Harvest opportunities ahead

Upcoming off-reservation, treaty seasons

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

Seasons may vary some from state to state, or from tribe to tribe. However, some of the opportunities for off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering in March through June 1998 are as follows:

Wisconsin 1837, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

- Spearing
- Netting
- Hook and line/ice fishing
- Small game hunting, season vary by species
- Trapping
- Maple sap gathering

Minnesota 1837 Treaty ceded territory

- Spearing
- Netting
- Hook and line/ice fishing
- Small game hunting
- Trapping
- Maple sap gathering

Michigan 1836 Treaty ceded territory

- Spearing
- Netting
- Hook and line/ice fishing
- Small game hunting
- Trapping
- Maple sap gathering

Treaty commercial fishing in Lake Superior, Michigan and Wisconsin waters
(Consult with tribal codes for specific quotas, units, and dates)

WI declarations continued

(Continued from page 2)

The state has chosen to set angler bag limits for the lakes on the basis of the tribal declarations. At times, Rose notes, one fish taken by a tribal spearer could change a bag limit for state anglers from a three-bag to a two-bag a day limit based on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource's method.

In 1997 the Lac du Flambeau (LdF) band entered into an agreement with the State of Wisconsin to leave a three-bag walleye harvest available to sport anglers in the lakes LdF declares. This was honored in the 1998 declarations. LdF declarations do not exceed 54.9% in any declared lake, which, according to the WDNR's calculations, means a three-bag limit can be provided to state-licensed anglers.

In exchange for declaring a quota below 55%, the LdF band keeps revenues from hunting and fishing licenses sold on the reservation...

The Wisconsin Chippewa first exercised a off-reservation spring spearing season in 1985, following the 1983 Voigt decision which affirmed their off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering rights in the 1837 and 1842

Treaty ceded territories of Wisconsin.

As in all previous treaty spearing seasons, the tribal harvest will be closely monitored by GLIFWC biological and enforcement staff. Spearers may only enter and leave from designated landings, must have a nightly permit for a given lake, and all fish harvested are counted and measured prior to leaving the landing.

All open landings each night are staffed by GLIFWC wardens and creel clerks.

Tribal spearers are subject to both bag and size limits. The bag limit on a lake is determined on a daily basis so as not to exceed the declared quota. Size limits are restricted to two walleye over 20", one between 20"-24" and one any size per permit.

Any infractions of tribal codes governing the season are cited into tribal court.

The six Wisconsin Chippewa bands, including Red Cliff, Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake, Lac Courte Oreilles, and St. Croix, have also declared walleye and muskellunge harvests in the 1837 Treaty ceded territory of Minnesota this spring.



Vince and Mayta Bender boil maple sap on the Bad River reservation. (GLIFWC photo)

Loans available for sugar bush upgrading

Are you interested in becoming a commercial maple syrup producer? If you are a commercial producer have you ever thought of improving your operation? Do you know that it is possible to protect your syrup and sugar harvest? Through programs offered by the USDA and Farm Service Agency (FSA) you can do both.

The FSA offers low interest loans to producers who are unable to obtain private, commercial credit. Loans are available to those who want to improve an already existing project or to those who are just starting their business. Funds could be used for the improvement or purchase of pipeline systems; boiling and bottling equipment; advertising; and many other related things.

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides crop loss protection for producers of crops for which Federal crop insurance is not available. NAP crops are eligible when the expected "Area Yield" is less than 65% of normal. Producers must submit production records for the past 4-10 years and then annually.

For more information on the Farm Service Agency loan programs or on the NAP program please contact Joan Markon at the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (218) 879-0898.



Bill to eliminate Indian logos introduced in WI legislature

Madison, Wis.—The Wisconsin Senate Committee on Education under the leadership of Senator Cal Potter, held a public hearing on Wednesday, February 28th on SB341, introduced by Senator Gwen Moore. SB341 has a companion bill in the Assembly introduced by Rep. Frank Boyle.

Since Assembly Education Committee Chairman, Rep. Luther Olson, would not hold a public hearing on it, the hearing was held in the Senate. The Reference Bureau describes the bills:

Current law prohibits discrimination against pupils based upon race. This bill prohibits school boards from using specific names as school nicknames, logos or mascots and from using an American Indian name, nickname, logo or mascot if the state superintendent of public instruction considers its use a violation of the pupil antidiscrimination law and the rules promulgated under that law.

It's a simple bill so what's to not understand?

Forty-nine people testified in favor of the bill. Six testified against. Two registered information only. The hearing lasted several hours so some people had to leave. Many who had to leave before the hearing was over registered formal support of the bill with the Committee.

In all, 61 people registered in favor—five registered against. One of the five against the bill was Senn Brown for the School Boards Association of Wisconsin!

Groups who spoke or registered for SB341 include:

- Wisconsin Indian Education Assoc.
- Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
- WEAC/WFT
- HONOR
- American Jewish Committee
- Wunk Sheek
- Lutheran Office for Public Policy
- National Association of Social Workers
- Black Student Union (Green Bay)
- Red Cliff Band/Lake Superior Chippewa
- Alliance for Democracy (UW-Madison)
- International Socialist Org. (UW-Madison)
- Madison Treaty Rights Support Group/
- Midwest Treaty Network
- Univ. of WI Multicultural Information Ctr.
- Bill Collar from Seymour High School

What happens now?

A vote by the Senate Education Committee members will be held and that vote will determine whether the bill will move to the full Senate for a vote. If one of those listed below is your State Senator please call them at 1-800-362-9647 and ask them to vote for SB341. Be sure to mention that you are a voter in their district. Calvin Potter, Scott Fitzgerald, Joanne Huelsman, Carol Rosessler, Richard Grobschmidt, Kevin Shibilski, Robert Jauch.

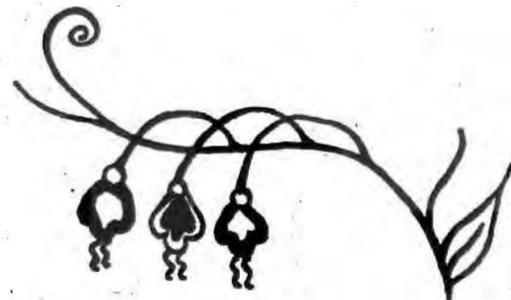
(Reprinted from HONOR Digest.)

Mosinee Indian logo upheld

Mosinee, Wis. (AP)—Mosinee High School's nickname, with a logo featuring a chief in full feather headdress, does not discriminate against Indians, a state appeals court has ruled.

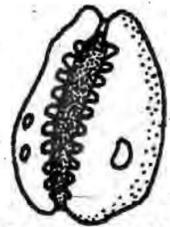
The February 17 decision upheld an earlier decision by the state Department of Public Instruction. Since the 1920s, the high school has used the logo. A sign outside the gymnasium says, "This is Indian Country."

Barbara Munson of Mosinee, an Oneida, now has failed at nearly every hearing level—school board, state and now an appeals court—in trying for several years to get the mascot dropped.



Madeline Island sacred to Ojibwe people

Madeline Island is one of the Chippewa people's most sacred places. This becomes clear from the origin tradition related to me by a Bad River Band member. Shortly after the creation, the Chippewa people fell upon hard times. They asked their leaders to take them to the land of the dawn—the East coast.



Megis Shell

They traveled east until they came to the Atlantic Ocean, and they lived there for generations. Some time later, they fell upon hard times again. This time, the creator sent emissaries to the elders to tell them of signs that would guide them back to their old land.

They were told that a megis shell—a sacred ocean shell—would lead them back. The shell would take them to a place where the food grew on the water. The shell appeared seven times, leading the Chippewa to Madeline Island and the Bad River area.

The megis shell came to rest on Madeline Island. For this reason, Madeline Island is sacred (the Mecca or Jerusalem) to the Chippewa people. To this island, all the Chippewa in the United States and some in Canada trace their origin. The abundant wild rice around the Bad River was the sign that they had come to the sacred ground.

The Chippewa practiced the Midewiwin—their principal ceremony—on Madeline Island, until missionaries harassed them about it. They then moved their ceremony and its associated bundles to the shores along the current Bad River

reservation but were to keep Madeline Island always within view.

Their ceremonial ground today is situated so they can look at the island. They celebrate the ceremony of the three fires here, and tribes from all over the Great Lakes region in the United States and Canada come for the ceremony each year.

They told me of Chippewa from the St. Croix area, from Turtle Mountain, North Dakota, and from Canada who talked about the sacredness of Madeline Island and its surrounding lands.

Any log removal activities immediately adjacent to La Pointe and Madeline Island would also disrupt a deeply sacred area.

The waters off La Pointe carry extra significance because a burial ground there had partially eroded into the water. Band members believe the logs protect the burials. Taking up the logs could disrupt the burials.

To even look for the logs there, one person said, would be disturbing the burials. Part of the original townsite of La Pointe may also be underwater, just off may also be underwater, just off shore.

Band members do not want us to issue any permits for the area just off the island.

(Excerpted from a memorandum by John Anfinson, Cultural Resources Unit regarding Lake Superior sunken log permits and interviews with Red Cliff and Bad River Chippewa Bands.)

Underwater logging

(Continued from page 4)

entire area was once heavily used by Chippewa people and would contain burial grounds, ceremonial sites, gathering areas, settlements and hunting and fishing grounds.

In its comments, the Bad River band objects to relying solely on information obtained from the State Historical Society, suggesting that the State's records of potential sites and artifacts may very well not be complete.

Madeline Island is considered by many Chippewa people to be an ancestral homeland in the Lake Superior region. Because of the historical, cultural and spiritual importance of the Island to the Chippewa, the tribes ask that the Corps perform an EIS to best determine the impact of submerged logging on the sites.

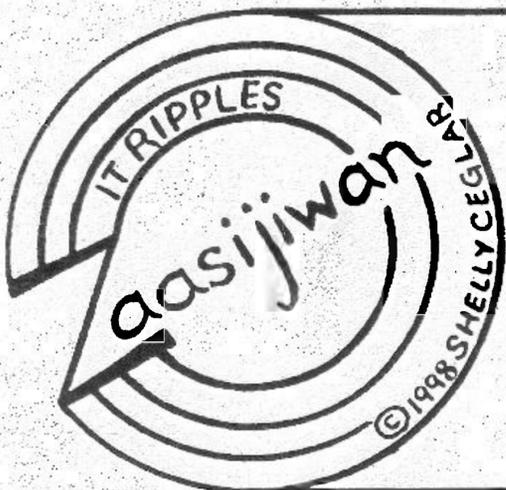
According to Swanstrom, the Red Cliff band does not believe that an Environmental Assessment (EA), which the Corps plans to perform, will provide a sufficiently in-depth examination of environmental and cultural impacts of the logging in this sensitive area. Unlike an EIS, Swanstrom says, an EA has no specific parameters, so the extent and content of the EA is entirely up to the Corps.

Underwater logging requires two, sometimes three, permits before log retrieval can begin. A permit from the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands is necessary since the logs are laying on the bed of Lake Superior, which is considered state property. A permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also required under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act because it is navigable waters.

If the permit is for a unit located within a quarter mile radius of a national park, the National Park Service would also have to issue a permit for the activity.

Currently, the tribes are awaiting a response from the Army Corps of Engineers in regard to their requests.

With the mild winter, ice-out may be early this spring, and loggers eager to begin their 1998 season.



Ziigwan — It is spring

Ziigwang, niminwendam. Nimawadisaag ingiw mitigoog. Ginoodawaag ina ingiw bineshiiyag? Waanzhing ingiw makwag goshkoziwag. Bi-izhaa a'aw zhaawani-noodin.

(When it is spring, I am glad. I visit (them) those trees. Do you hear (them) those birds? In the den those bears (they) wake up. S/he comes this way that south wind.)

Bezhiig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

ogaa - as in father

wendad - as in jay

ziigwang - as in seen

noodin - as in moon

—Short vowels: A, I, O

makwa - as in about

niswi - as in tin

ogaa - as in only

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.

—Generally the long vowels carry the accent.

—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

Verbs

There are four major verb types, each have their own rules in speech. Ziigwan is an IT IS. . . verb or VII (Verb, Inanimate, Intransitive).

When translated in English, these verbs are IT IS something or there is something.

Ozaawaa - It is yellow, brown.

Niibin - It is summer.

Aabitose - It is halfway (Wednesday)

Wendad - It is easy.

Niizh—2

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

A. Awan idash awanibiisaa zaaga'iganing.

B. Wadiswaning boonamoog ingiw opichiwag.

C. Biboonong bangii eta gii-soogipon agwajiing.

D. Giwii-izhaa na niimi-iding?

E. Ziigwang aamiwag ingiw ogaawag.

F. Aaniin waa-izhichigeyeg ziigwang?

G. Ganabaj giwii-kiigoo-yikem.

O A U Y
A W W T A S
G A N A B A J
W N X A N R A I
A I A I B A A Z R
J B O O N A M O O G
I I J P K Q I C L P B
I I Z I I G W A N G A
N S O C A B A N G M N O
G A C H H D G C L M G F
I A T I Z H A A E M I A

Niswi—3

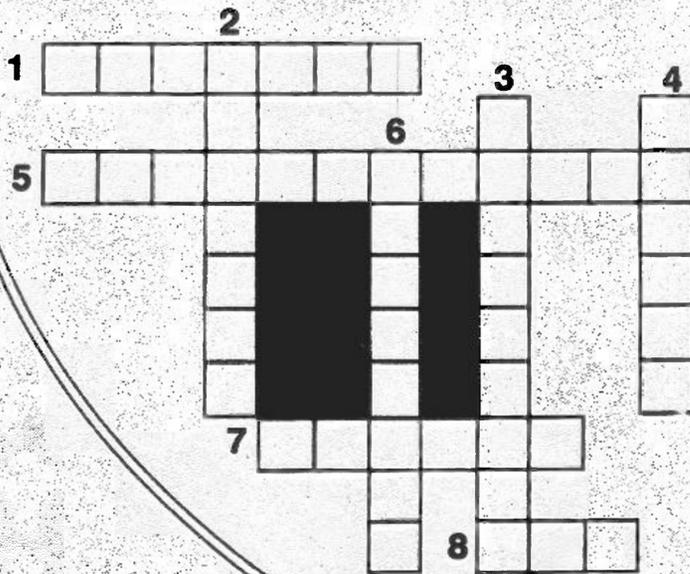
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

2. It is spring
3. S/he does something
4. It is easy
6. Trees

Across:

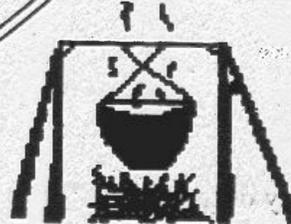
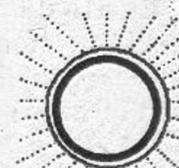
1. S/he comes
5. S/he boils sap down
7. It is windy
8. Only



Niiwin—4

Ojibwemowin

1. Ziigwang gimiiwan.
2. Ani-ziigwang bimise a'aw aandeg.
3. Ziigwanong ningii-iskigamizigemin.
4. Ziigwang gaawiin zoogiponzinooon.
5. Mino-giizhigad noongom.



Translations: Niizh—2 A. It is foggy and foggy mist by the lake. B. In the nest, they lay eggs those robins. C. Last winter a little bit only it did snow outside. D. You will go? to the dance? E. When it is spring, they spawn those walleye. F. What will you all do when it is spring? G. Perhaps, you all will fish. Niswi—3 Down: 2. Ziigwan 3. Izhichige 4. Wendad 6. Mitigoog Across: 1. Bi izhaa 5. Iskigamizige 7 Noodin 8. Eta Niiwin—4 1. When it is spring, it is raining. 2. When it is approaching spring s/he flies that crow. 3. Last spring we boiled sap. 4. When it is spring it doesn't snow. 5. It is a good day today.

There are various Ojibwe dialects, check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose it's natural flow as in any foreign language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. All inquiries can be made to **MASINAIGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861** or e-mail pio@win.bright.net.

The Ogichidaw—warrior

Exploring the meaning of Ogichidaw today

By **Eddie Benton-Benaise, Lac Courte Oreilles**

There are times or situations where people (or a person) may identify themselves as such, but it should be done in a respectful manner. Never in a boastful manner.

What does Ogichidaw mean? Does the word really mean warrior? And what is a warrior? Who is a warrior? Does being a warrior mean to have been in armed combat and surviving to tell about it? Or does it mean having suffered wounds or losing a limb?

The answers are yes, no, some of the time, and not necessarily. This is not to be frivolous with the question, or the answer. Perhaps the better way to approach the question is to ask what the word means. That is a good place to start.

Our neighbors of the Plains, the Lakota, have a similar sounding word for warrior—Okeechita. It is not difficult to think that perhaps we both described warriors in the same way since we shared many engagements with them in war and peace. In the Ojibwe language the word Ogichidaw has evolved from the description of “a person with a big heart” or “person with a great heart.” Going further back, it means “a person of brave heart.”

The Ojibwe language is an all embracing language, full of meaning and description. The “Ogi” means him, her, or one person at a time, unlike a plural. The word “chi” means big or large, but in context such as this, it means great, like Great Spirit, “Chi-Manitou.” The word “ohday” means heart.

By usage and the passing of time, generation to generation, the word became “ogichidaw” from the original term “ogichioday.” That is the literal meaning and the evolution of the term. It does not bestow the status or the deep cultural/spiritual definition of who, when, how, or why a person may be called or described as an “OGITCHIDAW.”

Implicit in the term is a time or event(s) wherein one displayed a brave heart, or was a brave-hearted person. This does not always mean in the face of an enemy, or in physical combat. To think so would be self-deceiving or foolish, or both. Like all things worthwhile, it is a status or recognition earned over a long period of time, circumstances and situations, just as in Sundance or the Midewiwin Lodge.

To be a Sundancer one must actually sundance, so too, with the Lodge, a person must earn it. There is no other way. No one can give it to you. A non-Mide person cannot give it. A person must earn and learn through traditional Midewiwin manner, by and through the Lodge. There is no other valid way to become Mide or a Sundancer.

In history, our story, there are many who did not achieve recognition as an Ogichidaw or warrior in their time, only after having passed into the spirit world. We know some of them, but not nearly all of those we should.

In our time we do now know Ogichidaws Pedro Bissonette and Lil Joe Stuntz, and Ogichidawquay Anna Mae Aquash. But sadly we do not know of Bugoonay, Gishick, Hole in the Day, Chi Banaise, Pontiac, Tecumseh, Maitawigonse, Zoongi Day, Peguis, Buffalo, WaubiQuainse, all people of the Midewiwin Lodge and the ages old Confederacy of the Three Fires.

This is one of the many reasons we no longer have or maintain the Ogichidaw Society, which is the true warrior society of the Three Fires Anishinabe nations.

In the Great Lakes area of the U.S. and Canada, the Ogichidaw Society is still existent, albeit weakly. It is also known as The Chief Dance Society and is still thriving among the Menominee Nation at Zorr, Wisconsin. The Ogichidaw Society must be revived, brought back from obscurity to take its rightful place of service to the healing people, the healing nations of today.

The recognition, the status and the meaning has evolved but must still be earned. It cannot be earned in the bars or in secrecy. It must be known, recognized by the people, Elders, and spiritual leaders. A person should seldom, if ever, identify him or herself as such.



Eddie Benton-Benaise, fourth degree Midewiwin, Fish Clan, Ojibwe Anishinabe. (Photo by Amoose)

There are many ways by which a person, male or female, may earn warrior recognition/status. In the distant past being recognized as a warrior most often came about directly as a result of enemy encounter, combat or warfare. But it must be understood that it was but one way. There were other ways then, just as there are now, such as being a good hunter or a diplomat on behalf of the people.

All of America's wars—World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm—have given us warriors. In equal status, so has Wounded Knee '73, the Menominee Abbey, the L.C.O. Winter Dam, the Wisconsin Boat Landings. In Canada, Oka, Gustafson Lake, Anishinabe Park, Kenora and other encounters have produced warriors.

There are warriors in many different ways and places. Personally, I consider all single moms and dads raising their children and family together as warriors of the highest stature.

I also consider men and women who have defeated alcohol and drugs and returned to the original spiritual ways as warriors. Sober, drug free tribal leaders and treaty lawyers are warriors.

So are teachers who dare to create culture-based curriculum and methods incorporating Anishinabe First Nation values, history, language, and pride of nation—they are warriors. Leaders, Chiefs, Councilors, and Elders who are sober and stand up for our rights, our culture, and our spiritual ways consistently, they are warriors.

Men and women who, in many different places and in many different ways, stand up and fight for justice, equality, the right to be Anishinabe; wherever it need be—on the streets, city hall, prison, the Rez, in the fields, the workplace. It doesn't matter as long as it is done consistently with pride, integrity, honesty and an abiding faith in the Creator demonstrated through prayer and ceremony.

A person must always give of self and time without fanfare or proclamation, tirelessly without complaint, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Then, some day, perhaps after you have long passed into the Spirit world, people may remember and might even call you an Ogichidaw!

The Warrior Society, or the Ogichidaw Society, bears and demands high standards of its members. Anishinabe people expect a warrior to be an example for the whole community. Those observable behaviors are truth, peace, humility, kindness, honor, integrity, and loyalty to self, family, community, and nation. All of it held firmly together by faith and belief in the Creator, Giche Manitou and love and respect of our Mother the Earth.

I give this in the spirit of sharing and being a brother at peace with all my relatives. Migwetch, thank you. I am Bawdway wi dun, a.k.a. Eddie Benton Benaise. Fourth degree Midewiwin, Fish Clan, Ojibwe Anishinabe. . .L.C.O. Anishinabe Nation of Wisconsin.

Ojibwe phrases

Nimiigwechiwi'aag manidoog—I give thanks to the spirits.

Daga izhaadaa iskgamiziganing—Let's go to sugar bush.

Gidojibwem ina?—Do you talk Ojibwe?

Aaniin ezhiwebak agwajjiiing?—What's the weather like outside?

Zaagi' giniijaanisag—Love your children.

(Reprinted from Ojibwe Language Society, Minneapolis, Minnesota)

Indian issues in congress

By Megan Taylor
HONOR Advocacy Office

Sovereign Immunity Threatened

Washington, D.C.—Last fall, Sen. Slade Gorton (R-WA) added a rider to an appropriations bill that would have required tribes to waive their sovereign immunity from civil lawsuits before they would receive any federal funding.

This proposal, known as Section 120, was removed from the bill in exchange for a promise of hearings on the issue. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs agreed to hold hearings before April 30, 1998 and Gorton withdrew the rider. Now both parties have lived up to their end of the deal.

On February 27, Gorton introduced his legislation waiving sovereign immunity. The bill, S. 1691, also deceptively entitled "The American Indian Equal Justice Act," basically promotes the idea that a tribal government should be treated no differently than any private individual or organization when it comes to being subjected to lawsuits.

Gorton has combined many specific immunity waivers into one large bill. These specifics include requiring tribal governments to waive their immunity from personal injury claims, contract claims and collection of state taxes. It also subjects tribal governments to lawsuits in federal and state courts.

This means a tribal government could be sued by anyone. Unprotected by the doctrine of sovereign immunity, all of the tribes' assets would be threatened by potential lawsuits.

Clearly, this constant threat would disastrously cripple a tribe's ability to function on a day-to-day basis. And requiring disputes to be heard in non-tribal courts is certainly an erosion of self-determination. This gives other governments power over tribal concerns. This an "equal justice" act?

Indian supporters are well aware of this bill and are making every effort to prevent it becoming law. The first hearing is scheduled for March 11, but the bill will likely not be marked up until the end of April.

Tribal leaders and legal experts have been invited to testify at the March hearing. Lobbying and educational efforts are going to be essential in this battle which is regarded as yet another threat in the fundamental attack on sovereignty that Congress continues to wage.



VITTF representatives met at the Mille Lacs reservation recently to discuss tribal quotas during the upcoming 1837 treaty fishing season in Minnesota. Pictured above are: Mic Isham, Lac Courte Oreilles; Matt O'Claire, Bad River; Richard Shalifoe, Keweenaw Bay; and Ervin Soulier, Bad River. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

FY99 Budget

On February 2, President Clinton released his Fiscal Year (FY) 1999 budget request to Congress. It calls for small increases in programs that affect tribes including:

- improvements in law enforcement services
- funding for school construction, repair and maintenance
- fulfilling the trust responsibilities for natural resource management.

Although these areas call for increased funding, the budget has been criticized for failing to fund in proportion to existing needs.

The Indian Health Service (IHS), for example, is slated for a mere 1% increase as opposed to the overall Labor, Health and Human Services budget calling for a 7% increase.

"In all reality the budget request for the coming year [for IHS] represents a zero dollar increase," said Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) in addressing the National Congress of American Indians at their Executive Winter Council Session.

"The bottom line here is that in fiscal year 1996, the Indian Health Service per capita health care expenditure was \$1,500 compared to the United States civilian per capita expenditure of almost \$4,000."

Funding Concerns

Funding levels for Indian programs are endangered by the federal balanced objectives.

Pressures to balance the budget in the 1999 cycle will mean some "discretionary" spending on Indian programs could be severely limited.

For example, the transportation bill, known as ISTEA, will likely provide over \$200 billion for transportation infrastructure. The good news: money for roads and repairs in Indian Country will probably be included. The bad news: the spending level is so high that it will force cutting in those "discretionary" programs.

Gaming

Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), states and tribes must agree to terms that would allow tribes to run casino-type gaming. This compacting process depends on the state and the tribe both entering into good faith negotiations.

Its original intent was to allow the states to have some role in negotiating over potential off-reservation impacts. Most states that have reservations within their borders have already negotiated compacts. Sometimes, however, negotiations between tribes and states do not run smoothly.

In 1996, the Supreme Court ruled in the *Seminole* case that states are immune from suit and gave states an unintended ability to completely block the compacting process. Without compacting agreements, tribes cannot open or operate casinos.

To remedy this situation, the Interior Department proposed rules to create procedures to allow gaming when states do not negotiate in good faith with tribes. The Department would be able to mediate compacting and create alternative operating rules.

Several senators immediately introduced legislation that would stop the Interior Departments' plans and a bill was also introduced in the House. This legislation is a threat to tribes' ability to operate casinos because it allows states the upper hand in negotiations. States could potentially stop casino operations altogether by refusing to compact.

Although this scenario is extreme, tribal supporters are closely monitoring the developments in this area.

If you would like more information on any of these or other national issues, please contact the HONOR Advocacy Office at 224 2nd Street SE, Washington, DC 20003; phone 202-546-8340. We will be happy to answer any questions and equip you to voice your concerns to decision makers in Washington.



U.S. supreme court issues ruling in tribal sovereignty case

In a decision decried by one tribal leader as "a breach of honor" the Supreme Court ruled that 1.9 million acres of ancestral lands owned by a remote Alaska Native tribe are no longer under the governmental jurisdiction of the Tribe.

Anchorage, AK—The unanimous and unusually short 13-page decision written by Justice Clarence Thomas came in a much-watched landmark case brought by the State of Alaska twelve years ago to block an outside construction company from paying a tribal tax that funds road repairs, maintenance of a rudimentary airstrip, and other governmental services in the Native Village of Venetie.

The ruling reverses a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that upheld the tribal tax.

Much of the litigation centered on the interpretation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)—the largest tribal land claims settlement in American history. Under that Act, Con-

gress extinguished Alaska tribal claims to 340 million acres in return for a cash payment of \$962.5 million and secure title to 44 million acres selected and to be divided under a complex formula.

In an unprecedented move in federal/tribal relations, Congress directed that the 44 million acres be conveyed not to the Alaska tribes, but to new Native corporations which the tribes were required to establish under state law.

At the same time, Congress eliminated some of the federal controls over land development that generally apply on Indian reservations elsewhere. In the end, some 200 village tribes took part in the land claims settlement.

The conflict that gave rise to the litigation in this case involved the application of ANCSA to the Venetie Tribe of Neetsaii' Gwich'in Indians—a remote Athabascan Tribe that inhabits a vast area north of the Arctic Circle and hundreds of miles away from Alaska's major population centers.

Accessible only by air, boat, snowmobile or dogsled, tribal members largely live a traditional life based on hunting, fishing and trapping. The tribal council administers all essential governmental services other than the federally supported local school.

In 1943, the Secretary of the Interior set aside a 1.9 million acre reservation in order to protect the Venetie Tribe from outsiders encroaching on tribal hunting and trapping grounds. During the late 1960s the Tribe opposed the evolving ANCSA legislation.

The Tribe wrote to Congress to retain its reservation even if doing so meant giving up the cash settlement. Congress obliged, and the Tribe received no share of the monetary settlement. Still, Congress required that the land initially be conveyed to two state chartered corporations established by the Tribe for its tribal citizens.

Once the lands were conveyed, the corporations immediately reconveyed the lands back to the Venetie Tribe, which continues to own the land today.

In ruling against the Tribe's continued right to tax, the Supreme Court reasoned that when a reservation does not exist, Indian tribes can only continue to govern their lands if those lands qualify as a "dependent Indian community" under a 1948 federal law known as the Indian Country statute.

Relying heavily on two Supreme Court cases decided at the early part of the century, the Court interpreted that term narrowly to mean that the federal

government must have "set apart" the lands "for the use of Indians as such," and that the government must retain "superintendence" and "control" over how the land is used and developed.

The Court then ruled that Venetie's lands could not satisfy this standard because Congress initially conveyed the lands to the corporations for whatever use they might, and because the Congress had deliberately chosen to forego any control over how those choices would be made.

Native American Rights Fund (NARF) attorney Heather Kendall-Miller called the opinion "superficial and poorly reasoned." She remarked that "over thirty years ago Congress abandoned the Court's paternalistic view of keeping Indians under absolute federal control and of being unable to take charge of their own affairs.

Instead Congress did everything possible to promote tribal independence and self-governance. The Court's analysis today twists that policy into a cruel and backhanded termination of the very rights it was intended to promote."

Indeed, the Court's opinion acknowledges the apparent conflict between statutes like the Settlement Act designed to promote greater Native American autonomy, and the Court's conclusion that tribal governmental jurisdiction demands federal control over tribal lands.

But Justice Thomas added that the conflict is one "entirely for Congress" to resolve.

Tribal jurisdiction/sovereignty at issue in "Crazy Horse" case

Minneapolis, Minn.—A recent ruling from the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has denied the request of the Crazy Horse estate to have its case heard in tribal court.

According to Phyllis Tousey Frederick, national coordinator for the Crazy Horse Defense Project, Minneapolis, Minn., issues in this case go beyond the defamatory use of Crazy Horse's name, and involve tribal jurisdiction over its own property and issues of sovereignty.

The estate of Crazy Horse filed a lawsuit against the Hornell Brewing Company in 1993 in the Rosebud Tribal Court in South Dakota, to prevent the company from using the leader's name on The Original Crazy Horse Malt Liquor.

A federal district court in South Dakota decided the case should remain in the Lakota court to determine facts, but did not let the tribal court hold a trial on the merit of the case.

This decision was appealed in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Hornell Brewing Co. told a federal appeals court that the dispute over a beer named after Lakota spiritual leader, Crazy Horse, does not belong in tribal court.

Cherie Krigsman, an attorney for Hornell, told a three judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that returning the case to tribal court would result in "an unprecedented expansion of tribal court jurisdiction beyond the boundaries of the reservation."

Krigsman stated that Rosebud courts should have no jurisdiction because the liquor is not sold on the reservation, and the company has never been there.

An attorney for the Crazy Horse estate, Robert Gough, argued that the issue is whether or not the brewing company stole something belonging to a tribal member, which in this case is the image of the spiritual leader.

Gough claimed the property is intangible, and therefore it is not necessary to step onto the reservation to misappropriate and asked the panel to allow the tribal court to decide the case.

Information about this case can be obtained from the Crazy Horse Defense Project in Minneapolis, Minnesota at (612) 22-4703 or Email:chdpmn@aol.com



An aspiring jingle dress dancer. (Photo by Amoose)

Wildlife managers plan for future of wolves

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Onamia, Minn.—In response to the growing gray wolf population across the upper Great Lakes region, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is considering removing the predators from the federal endangered species list. Should removal occur, GLIFWC and its member tribes will be involved in the reclassification or delisting process.

In a meeting with the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITTF) on March 10, USFWS wolf specialist Ron Refsneider said that dealing with the growing wolf population posed a particular challenge to wildlife managers.

"With the exception of the spotted owl, delisting the wolf may be the most complex issue that the USFWS has faced," Refsneider said.

Rising wolf populations have stirred a passionate public debate in the past year in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Wolf supporters want to see continued protection for the animals, while others call for some level of direct management through hunting or trapping seasons.

While the Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently issued a wolf management plan for its estimated 125 animals in the Upper Peninsula, Wisconsin and Minnesota are still outlining management objectives. Suitable state management plans would have to be established before federal reclassification. At that point, the USFWS intends to finalize the process in consultation with the VITTF.

GLIFWC wildlife biologist Peter David noted that individual management plans drafted by the larger Ojibwe reservations would help the process of federal reclassification.

"One important consideration will be wolf packs that straddle reservation boundaries," said David. "Obviously, these wolves will be impacted by management activities that take place on either side of the boundary. Reservation boundaries are meaningless to wolves, and it will be important for the states and tribes to work to together."

In Minnesota, wolves number well over 2,000 and depredations on livestock as well as white-tailed deer have some local residents concerned.

The severe winters of 1996 and 1997 trimmed the deer herd in northern forests, causing alarm among hunters who saw few whitetails and more evidence of wolves.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources sponsored a series of public meetings this past winter to gauge attitudes about their wolf population—the largest in the lower 48 states. Residents expressed a range of viewpoints at the sessions as wolf supporters challenged advocates for hunting and trapping seasons.

People have made their feelings clear in other ways as well. Since last November, at least five wolves were intentionally killed in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The most shocking incident occurred on a frozen Minnesota lake where snowmobilers chased down a wolf, running it over repeatedly.

Another wolf photographed on the Bad River reservation last fall was killed by a gunshot wound in northern Bayfield County, Wisconsin.

"People's fears need to be addressed," David added. "When it comes to wolves, emotions tend to run high."

State of the Band address

(Continued from page 3)

Other priorities she defined for the band included the continued preservation and protection of the band's language, culture and traditions as a cornerstone for the well-being of the community. Anderson also emphasized the need to continue enhancing the self-governance program and integrate it into all aspects of the band's programs.

In conclusion, Anderson noted that the path to empowerment for the Band has not been easy, but that the Mille Lacs band has become known for tak-

ing calculated risks. "It is important that we dare mighty things," she said.

"As a Nation, we have survived a long, glorious, and sometimes sad, noble history. We are stronger than we have ever been before.

"As Tecumseh once said, 'I have made myself what I am.'"

And so the challenge Anderson issued was one to be met by each individual band member to "take on the future with pride in our past and a firm hope for the promise of the future."



GLIFWC wildlife staff have been trapping, collaring and tracking fisher, bobcat and martin, but this time they captured a young wolf. Ron Parisien, GLIFWC wildlife technician, collared the young female wolf named Mary, recorded growth data, and released her. Information was provided to the WDNR wildlife managers who are tracking wolf in Wisconsin. (Photo by Ron Parisien.)

Early to rise: Moderate weather rouses black bears

Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Odanah, Wis.—During a winter of unprecedented mild temperatures, unusual wildlife sightings have become the norm in the ceded territory.

While some robins have made early arrivals at backyard bird feeders, one of the largest mammals in the northwoods—black bears—have emerged to take advantage of the spring-like weather that characterized much the past winter.

"It's not at all unusual for bears to get out and stretch on a warm winter day," said Jon Gilbert, GLIFWC Wildlife Section Leader, "But this year, bears have had a lot of opportunities to be out and there is a higher frequency of sightings."

Although black bears are not true hibernators, they survive long winters by reducing their metabolic rate by one-half. During warm spells, bears experience a slight reprieve from this drowsy state—known as torpor—and are ac-

tive outside the den for a few hours up to an entire afternoon.

Late-winter sightings have occurred from eastern Minnesota, across Upper Michigan. Country residents west of Ashland have observed a sow frequenting a well-traveled roadside near her den site since February.

"You'd be surprised where bear dens are located," Gilbert said, "They can be pretty close to people, near houses, or in farm fields."

Bears usually go into dens in November and remain there approximately six months. Cubs are born in January and spend the next two to three months nursing until the mother introduces them to solid foods in the spring. Throughout the summer, young bears continue to suckle while they adapt to wild foods in their home range.

Although black bears rarely attack humans, Gilbert suggested that people avoid den sites, especially those that house cubs. For the safety of both bears and family pets, Gilbert added that dogs should be leashed or kept indoors in bear country during the spring.

Draft Mining Moratorium Bill awaits Governor's signature

AN ACT to amend 293.49 (1) (a) (intro.); and to create 293.50 of the statutes; relating to: issuance of metallic mining permits for the mining of sulfide ore bodies.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 293.49 (1) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

293.49 (1) (a) (intro.) Except as provided in sub. (2) and s. 293.50 and except with respect to property specified in s. 41.41 (11), within 90 days of the completion of the public hearing record, the department shall issue the mining permit if it finds:

Section 2. 293.50 of the statutes is created to read:

293.50 Moratorium on issuance of permits for mining of sulfide ore bodies. (1) In this section:

(a) "Pollution" means degradation that results in any violation of any environmental law as determined by an administrative proceeding, civil action, criminal action or other legal proceeding. For the purpose of this paragraph, issuance of an order or acceptance of an agreement requiring corrective action or a stipulated fine, forfeiture or other penalty is considered a determination of a violation, regardless of whether there is a finding or admission of liability.

(b) "Sulfide ore body" means a mineral deposit in which metals are mixed with sulfide minerals.

(2) Beginning on the effective date of this subsection [revisor inserts date], the department may not issue a permit under s. 293.49 for the mining of a sulfide ore body until all of the following conditions are satisfied:

(a) The department determines, based on information provided by an applicant for a permit under s.293.49 and verified by the department, that a mining operation has operated in a sulfide ore body which, together with the host rock, has a net acid generating potential in the United States

or Canada for at least 10 years without the pollution of groundwater or surface water from acid drainage at the tailings site or at the mine site or from the release of heavy metals.

(b) The department determines, based on information provided by an applicant for a permit under s.293.49 and verified by the department, that a mining operation that operated in a sulfide ore body which, together with the host rock, has a net acid generating potential in the United States or Canada has been closed for at least 10 years without the pollution of groundwater or surface water from acid drainage at the tailings site or at the mine site or from the release of heavy metals.

(2m) (a) The department may not base its determination under sub. (2) (a) or (b) on any mining operation that has been listed on the national priorities list under 42 USC 9605 (a) (8) (B) or any mining operation for which the operator is no longer in business and has no successor that may be liable for any contamination from the mining operation and for which there are no other persons that may be liable for any contamination from the mining operation.

(b) The department may not base its determination under sub. (2) (a) or (b) on a mining operation unless the department determines, based on relevant data from groundwater or surface water monitoring, that the mining operation has not caused significant environmental pollution, as defined in s. 293.01 (4), from acid drainage at the tailings site or at the mine site or from the release of heavy metals.

(3) This section applies without regard to the date of submission of the permit application.

Exxon sells its half of Crandon mine to Canadian partner

Madison, Wis. (AP)—Exxon Corp. said on January 23, it has sold its stake in a mining company to its Canadian partner, which plans to proceed with the project that has drawn heavy opposition from environmentalists.

Rio Algom Ltd. bought Exxon's 50 percent interest in Crandon Mining Company for \$17.5 million, a Rio Algom spokesman said.

The sale announcement on the proposed mining project in northern Wisconsin came a day after the state Assembly passed legislation Exxon opposed that would establish new environmental standards for opening mines.

However, an Exxon spokesman said the sale was a business decision and had nothing to do with the "mining moratorium" bill, which the Assembly passed 75-21 on January 22.

"We think the Crandon Mine is still a good project," said L.D. McLallen of Exxon.

McLallen would not elaborate further on the reasons for the sale nor would he say how much Rio Algom paid to own the whole company. Rio Algom spokesman Corey Copeland said that his company paid \$17.5 million to own Crandon entirely.

Copeland also said the sale was not connected to the mining bill's passage in the Assembly.

Crandon Mining Co. seeks state and federal permits to remove 55 million tons of copper and zinc ore from a site Exxon found in 1976. Exxon postponed plans to open a mine in 1986 because of low copper prices. The current Crandon mining project started in 1994. □

Gaming/treaty rights

(Continued from page 5) in 1996. "Did both sides give up something?" Matthews said. "Yes, that's what negotiations are all about."

Thompson's negotiators have said they will seek more than \$22 million a year from the tribes, although some of that money could be earmarked for revenue-sharing among the tribes, for economic development around reservations and to promote tourism.

It is illegal to tax a tribe. The payments, computed using the state income tax rate of 7.9 percent, are packaged as a fee for the exclusive right to offer casino games in Wisconsin. □



Rio Algom Inc. recently bought out the interest of Exxon in the proposed mine near Crandon, Wisconsin. Above, cans of uranium at the Rio Algom owned Stanleigh Mine near Elliot Lake, Ontario sit waiting for shipment in 1994. Mining waste, particularly uranium tailings, are stored indefinitely near the Serpent River reservation in Ontario. (Photo by Amoose)

Passage of Mining Moratorium a big victory

By Rep. Spencer Black

Madison, Wis.—On February 4, the Legislature—at long last—approved a strong Mining Moratorium Bill. This bill will delay a mine in a sulfide ore body like the proposed Wolf River mine near Crandon until the mining industry can show that a similar mine has operated and been reclaimed for at least ten years without causing pollution.

Passing the bill hasn't been easy. When I first introduced the Mining Moratorium Bill in 1995, state Capitol pundits gave it no chance of passing. In 1996, the Republicans refused to even allow the bill to come up for a vote.

The state Senate passed the bill in March, 1997, but the Assembly Republicans delayed a vote on the bill until January, 1998. Meanwhile, Exxon, Crandon Mining and other mining interests spent millions of dollars on lobbying, campaign contributions and advertisements trying to kill the bill.

The Mining Moratorium passed only because of the actions of tens of thousands of citizens. A broad coalition of hunters, anglers, environmentalists, church groups, senior citizens, local governments, students and Native Americans created the largest grassroots campaign for legislation in recent Wisconsin history.

The success of this legislation shows that concerned citizens can make their voices heard even if they are vastly outspent by well-funded special interests.

When the bill finally did come up in the Assembly, Republicans altered the Mining Moratorium Bill by voting for an amendment pushed by mining industry lobbyists.

The Assembly Republican amendment gutted the bill because it changed the definition of "pollution" so that only a mine subject to a legal or administrative action would be considered "polluting."

Had the Assembly Republican action been allowed to stand, the Mining Moratorium bill would have been useless because hundreds of polluting mines (mines that have contaminated drinking water and rivers with cyanide, arsenic and other toxic chemicals) would have been declared "non-polluting."

When citizens heard about the Assembly's action to gut the mining bill, they were outraged. For example, over 200 anglers jammed a meeting in Menasha to castigate their Assembly representatives for voting to weaken the bill.



State Representative Spencer Black

Fortunately, the state Senate listened to the strong public sentiment. The Senate restored the original intent of the bill by closing the loophole contained in the Assembly Republican version of the bill.

As a result, the bill that passed defines "pollution" the way it should be—as contamination of surface or ground water by toxic chemicals based on scientific data.

As one newspaper put it "The Senate put the muscle back in the Moratorium."

Passage of a strong moratorium bill is a big victory for our environment. I introduced the Mining Moratorium Bill because I believe that protecting our rivers, lakes and streams is essential to the future of our state.

After all, our greatest wealth in Wisconsin is not copper or zinc—it is our plentiful supply of clean water.

The last step to making the Mining Moratorium Bill into the Mining Moratorium Law is the Governor. The same citizen pressure that forced the Legislature to pass a strong Mining Moratorium bill must now be directed at the Governor.

I urge you to call or write Governor Thompson today and tell him to sign the Mining Moratorium bill.

You can call Thompson at 608-266-1212. (Sorry, he does not have a toll free number) or write him at: Gov. Tommy Thompson, State Capitol, Madison 53702. Your call or letter can help make the difference.

(Editor's note: Representative Spencer Black is the Assembly author of the Mining Moratorium bill.)

VITTF supports Mining Moratorium

(Editor's note: The following resolution in support of the Mining Moratorium bill was recently passed by the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITTF). The VITTF is concerned that sulfide mining poses numerous risks to the tribal lifeway and to the resources that tribes rely upon to sustain that lifeway.)

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) is an organization consisting of eleven federally recognized tribes from Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin which have retained off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering rights in territories ceded to the United States in 1836, 1837, 1842, and 1854; and

WHEREAS, The Mission Statement of the Commission includes a duty to provide assistance to member tribes in the conservation and management of natural resources throughout the Great Lakes region thereby ensuring access to the traditional pursuits of the Chippewa people; and

WHEREAS, The Chippewa lifeway, as recognized and protected in what we know as the Voigt case, depends upon clean and healthy natural resources for religious, medicinal, cultural, subsistence and economic purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Voigt Intertribal Task Force, a constituent committee of GLIFWC, develops natural resource management plans, assists its member tribes in developing suitable conservation regulations, and directs GLIFWC's programs with respect to territories ceded to the United States in the 1837 and 1842 Treaties with the Chippewa; and

WHEREAS, portions of these territories cover approximately the northern one-third of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin legislature is considering a mining moratorium bill that would prohibit the issuance of a metallic mining permit in Wisconsin until the Department of Natural Resources determines that (1) a mining operation has operated in a sulfide ore body in the U.S. or Canada for at least 10 years without polluting surface or groundwater, and (2) a sulfide mine has been closed for 10 years without polluting surface or groundwater; and

WHEREAS, sulfide mining poses numerous risks to the tribal lifeway and to the resources that tribes rely upon to sustain that lifeway; and

WHEREAS, at this time, uncertainty exists about whether these risks can be avoided or adequately mitigated, and this uncertainty makes it unwise to engage in sulfide mining in the ceded territory.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Voigt Intertribal Task Force of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission does hereby go on record as supporting the passage of the mining moratorium bill.

GIS maps continued

(Continued from page 11)

GIS can also be used to map potential underground minerals as well. Chiriboga is currently producing a map that reveals the results of mining samples taken in the ceded territories.

By mapping the results of small mining samples, Chiriboga is able to identify larger regions within the ceded territories that contain such minerals as uranium, iron and copper.

Coordinating this map with others will help Chiriboga to predict how mining might affect tribal resources, like groundwater, wildlife habitat and wild rice.

While GIS may seem limitless in its capabilities to produce maps, it is controlled by one factor: information. In order for Coleman, Chiriboga or Allan to develop maps, the information to be represented must be entered in to a GIS database.

The data entry aspect of this useful tool can be very time consuming and, at times, tedious.

However, the hours of work provide an invaluable source of knowledge and a powerful tool for the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and the Great Lakes ecoregion.

Firm seeks to stiff State of WI

The DNR let Noranda run up \$300,000 tab that it's now refusing to pay.

By Will Fantle
Isthmus

Madison, Wis.—Canadian-based Noranda Minerals is refusing to pay a \$300,000 bill to the state of Wisconsin for DNR work connected with the company's abandoned mining project near Rhinelander. "We are very interested in getting compensation," says DNR chief George Meyer.

The state's mining regulators have been trying to collect the money since at least September 1996, but their efforts have been met by denial and outright hostility from Noranda.

"What's happened with Noranda is all too typical of mining companies across the country," charges state Rep. Spencer Black (D-Madison), a mining foe. He says it's another example of a "take the money and run" mentality.

Noranda had been considering mining the copper/zinc deposit since 1989, when its discovery was announced.

The ore body lay under a wetland—and next to a stream—about one mile south of the Willow Flowage. DNR staff helped Noranda assess potential impacts on wildlife, ground and surface waters, and on the forests of Oneida County.

"That all takes a lot of staff time," notes Howard Druckenmiller, Meyer's executive assistant. "It was a tremendous amount of work in a very sensitive environment."

The fieldwork even included Meyer's trudging about the backwoods. Before his appointment to the DNR's top post, Meyer was directly involved with a controversial determination that the wetland was an intermittent lakebed. He recalls being "buried up to over my hips" while walking the boggy site.

Unlike other land users, mining companies are permitted under state law to fill wetlands. This exemption was voided by the DNR's classification of Noranda's site as a lakebed, which invokes more stringent regulations.

The ruling was hotly disputed by Noranda, which had already flexed enough political muscle to delay efforts to declare the Willow Flowage an Outstanding Resource Water.

This designation, suggested by DNR staff a year before Noranda's discovery, would not have allowed discharges of common mining pollutants into the flowage. The DNR, after additional costly reviews, this year moved again toward granting this status to the Willow.

In late August, Noranda abandoned its mining project and renounced its

"What's happened with Noranda is all too typical of mining companies across the country. It's another example of a 'take the money and run' mentality."
—Representative Spencer Black

lease on the forestland where the copper/zinc deposit sits. The firm's flight probably won't help the DNR recover the \$300,000 it spent working with the company.

Calls to Noranda's Madison lawyer, Wali Arts, concerning the unpaid bill went unreturned, but Arts' most recent correspondence with the DNR carries a defiant tone. "Noranda has no legal responsibility for any of the costs allegedly associated with this project," writes Arts in a September 29 letter to Druckenmiller.

Arts calls the agency "antagonistic" to Noranda's mining project from its inception and defines the lakebed designation as "questionable science [that] would have been the basis of protracted and costly litigation." Arts concludes that Noranda "does not owe DNR any additional amounts."

In response, Druckenmiller wrote to J.R. Schnarr in Noranda's Toronto office. Arts' letter, he maintained, "was factually and legally incorrect, and its confrontational style was so off-setting as to be counterproductive."

Druckenmiller also expresses his disappointment that Schnarr did not directly contact him about the bill as promised during a meeting in August.

It's not unusual for the DNR to allow mining companies to postpone payments to the agency for staff work associated with their projects.

Exxon currently has a tab in excess of \$1 million for staff work concerning its proposed Crandon mine. The company has paid the state about \$850,000 toward development of its Environmental Impact Statement, but this is a separate billing that is not allowed to accumulate like other costs incurred while reviewing a permit application.

Rep. Black says the fact that mining companies are sometimes allowed to run up tabs proves that the state's mining rules are too lax: "When push comes to shove, you see the loopholes." And he thinks the Noranda episode should serve as something of a wake-up call.

"The DNR and Tommy Thompson are saying we should trust the mining companies," says Black. But in this case, as in the infamous oil spill at Valdez, Alaska, where "nine years after the fact, Exxon is still fighting them in court," the companies have proved untrustworthy.

DNR Secretary Meyer expresses his disappointment with Noranda. "It's a trust issue here," he says. "It raises a question of credibility as to how they would interact with us in the future." Still, he's not willing to draw sweeping judgments: "We don't judge an industry by one company."

Meyer expects a resolution to the matter within the next 30 to 60 days. He indicates the DNR may be willing to settle for less than the amount they have itemized in billings to the company, particularly to avoid taking the matter to court. "Litigation takes time," Meyer explains, "and costs money to the state of Wisconsin."

The trust issue is a major impetus behind Black's authorship of a mining moratorium bill. It would prohibit new metallic mining operations in sulfide rock bodies until mining companies can show an example of a similar project that has not polluted the environment during 10 years of operation and for a period of 10 years following its close. The bill passed the state Senate by a 29-3 vote last March and appears headed for a vote in the Assembly in January.

Meanwhile, Rep. Tom Ourada (R-Antigo) has introduced a bill to prevent future fiascos like the Noranda situation. Assembly Bill 488 would annualize payment of mining-related costs incurred by state agencies.

Jim Wise, an environmental activist in Tomahawk and outspoken opponent of Noranda's mining proposal, says essential DNR work on mercury deposition in northern lakes, pollution runoff and wildlife management practices was delayed while limited agency staff responded to mining company proposals. "Mine permits," he argues, "are really a drain on local DNR districts."

Druckenmiller agrees the DNR was unable to move as fast as it would have liked to on other matters but says all of the work was eventually completed. Wise remains incensed over Noranda's apparent unwillingness to pay what it owes.

"This isn't the DNR's money," asserts Wise. "This is the citizens' tax money, and it's owed to the people of the state. Why doesn't the governor just call Noranda to pay their bills? Why doesn't former Gov. Tony Earl [who works for Noranda's Madison law firm] get Noranda to pay its bill?"

(Reprinted from Isthmus)



WDNR Secretary George Meyer talks to citizens during one of the public hearings regarding Crandon Mine's Notice of Intent at Nashville, Wisconsin. The proposed mine near Crandon and its potential impact on the Wolf river watershed has been an issue of public concern for the past several years. (Photo by Amoose)

Conservation advocate and tribal ally, Charles Stoddard, walks on

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Spooner, Wis.—When Charles Hatch Stoddard was born in Milwaukee, 1912, the unchecked exploitation of the environment was well underway across America. Consumption of natural resources accelerated as people demanded more from the earth.

As a young man interested in forestry, Stoddard witnessed the aftermath of the Wisconsin logging era when the northern tier of the state was cut-over by lumber barons and charred from wild fires. For Stoddard, it was clear that the natural world could not endure this reckless misuse and he embarked on a lifelong journey to become one of Wisconsin's most accomplished conservationists.

Stoddard died Christmas Day 1997 in Spooner, Wis. at age 85.

Tribal members fondly remember Stoddard through his support in recapturing the Chippewa Flowage, opposing the Sanguine Project in the 1970s, and his help following Chippewa treaty rights litigation in the early 1980s.

Throughout his lifetime, Stoddard's relationship with Great Lakes Ojibwes extended beyond concern for the environment. He shared a spiritual connection with the land and the wild things that thrived there.

"Chuck Stoddard was certainly one of the friends along the path of life here," said Eddie Benton, Lac Courte Oreilles spiritual leader. "He was one of the principal men who defeated the original Sanguine Project. Chuck Stoddard was brilliant."

The Sanguine Project was a United States military proposal to create a massive underground communication network across northern Wisconsin that could withstand an atomic attack and relay messages to American nuclear submarines. Through Stoddard's efforts, the scope of the project was greatly reduced and is now known as ELF (Extremely Low Frequency), a 28-mile surface



Charles Stoddard

transmitter operated by the US Navy near Clam Lake, Wisconsin.

Stoddard's first involvement with the Navy occurred during the Second World War as a Reserve officer in the South Pacific where he operated a jungle timber sawmill. He also collected tree samples and discovered a new tropical species that carries his name, *Mastixiodendron Stoddardii*.

Following the war, Stoddard—who had a master degree in forestry from the University of Michigan—served as a professional forest consultant for both private and public organizations. During this period, his expertise expanded beyond forest conservation to include wildlife, land, and water resources.

Through the 1960s, Stoddard held several federal positions including Director of the Bureau of Land Management where he was responsible for administering 400 million acres of the public domain. In 1967 he was appointed to serve as Upper Midwest Coordinator for the Interior Department and led the successful effort to stop the Reserve Mining Company from dumping taconite tailings into Lake Superior.

After leaving public service in 1969, Stoddard organized a regional environmental group—the Northern Environmental Council.

Committed to protecting natural resources in northern Wisconsin, Stoddard forged an alliance with Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) in the 1970s. He was instrumental in resolving the dispute between

LCO and Northern States Power over control of the Chippewa Flowage. In addition to lobbying against the Sanguine Project, he advised the tribe in their efforts to promote positive public relations with the non-Indian community after the Voigt decision.

Along his life path, Chuck Stoddard left distinct footprints, guiding future generations to live in unity with aki, Mother Earth, to use its gifts with wisdom. *Miigwech Nijii.*

MASINAIGAN STAFF:
(Pronounced MUZ IN IAY GIN)

Susan Erickson Editor
Lynn Plucinski Assistant Editor
Charlie Otto Rasmussen Writer/Photographer



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**GLIFWC
MEMBER
TRIBES**

Jeff Parker, Chairman
Bay Mills Indian Community
Route 1, Box 313
Brimley, MI 49715
(906) 248-3241

Donald Moore, Chairman
Bad River Chippewa Band
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861
(715) 682-7111

Charlie Fox, Acting Chairman
Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe
Route 1, Box 625
Crandon, WI 54520
(715) 478-2604

Minnesota

Robert Peacock, Chairman
Fond du Lac Chippewa Band
1720 Big Lake Road
Cloquet, MN 55720
(218) 879-4593

Marge Anderson, Chief Exec.
Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe
HCR 67, Box 194
Onamia, MN 56359
(320) 532-4181

Michigan

Wayne Swartz, Chairman
Keweenaw Bay Indian Comm.
Route 1, Box 45
Baraga, MI 49908
(906) 353-6623

John McGeshick, Chairman
Lac Vieux Desert Band
P.O. Box 249
Watersmeet, MI 49969
(906) 358-4722

Wisconsin

gaiashkibos, Chairman
Lac Courte Oreilles Band
Route 2, Box 2700
Hayward, WI 54843
(715) 634-8934

Tom Maulson, Chairman
Lac du Flambeau Band
P.O. Box 67
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538
(715) 588-3303

George Newago, Chairman
Red Cliff Chippewa Band
P.O. Box 529
Bayfield, WI 54814
(715) 779-3700

Lewis Taylor, Chairman
St. Croix Chippewa Band
P.O. Box 287
Hertel, WI 54845
(715) 349-2195