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A Chronicle of the Lake Superior Ojibwe

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Tribes and state manage shared fishery in Mille Lacs Lake

By Joe Dan Rose, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—In January 2001, members of the Minnesota 1837 Ceded Territory Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC) met in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The FTC is a federal court-approved committee through which state and tribal fisheries biologists exchange data, coordinate assessment work, and address biological issues relevant to shared ceded-territory fisheries resources.

One of the most important and difficult tasks performed by the FTC is the determination of an annual harvestable surplus level for walleye in Mille Lacs Lake.

State and tribes stay under walleye quotas in 2000

During the January 2000 meeting, a harvestable surplus level of 370,000 pounds for walleye in Mille Lacs Lake was agreed to by the FTC. The eight

Chippewa Bands declared a tribal walleye quota of 70,000 pounds in accordance with the "Interim Treaty Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for the 1837 Minnesota Ceded Territory for the Years 1998-2002."

This federal court approved plan provides for the gradual development of treaty fisheries in the 1837 Minnesota Ceded Territory. The plan also establishes tribal walleye quotas for Mille Lacs Lake for a five-year period that increase at a rate of 15,000 pounds each year, from 40,000 pounds in 1998 to 100,000 pounds in 2002.

During the 2000 fishing year, a complete count of the Band harvest was conducted by tribal harvest monitoring teams. Between April 1, 2000 and January 15, 2001, the combined Band harvest from Mille Lacs Lake was 47,577 pounds of walleye, 7,444 pounds of northern pike, 569 pounds of yellow perch, 489 pounds of tullibee, and 1,121 pounds of burbot.

In 2000, the state walleye quota for Mille Lacs Lake was 300,000 (See Tribes and state, page 2)



It's almost that time again! Ice and snow will give way to the sound of water, and treaty netting and spearing seasons will begin. GLIFWC biological and enforcement staffs have begun preparing for another busy spring season. Above, tribal members remove fish from nets at a Mille Lacs Lake landing. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Tanning hides the "old way"

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—"I keep my brains in the freezer," Kathleen Wiggins announces with a twinkle in her brown

eyes. "I only take them out when I need them." She opens the chest freezer in her home and takes out a plastic bag stuffed with brains—deer brains, that is.

Besides a few packages of venison steak and walleyes, the freezer is

jammed mostly with deer hides and brains packaged in an assortment of containers. Kathleen, better known as Sis, relies on her stash of frozen deer brains as one of the key ingredients to produce a soft, supple piece of deerskin using the traditional Ojibwe process of brain-tanning. Eventually, the deerskin will be transformed into a dance dress, moccasins or mits.

She was fortunate to learn much of the skill from Bad River elders, but has also relied on the old teacher—trial and error.

Though brain-tanning is a technical process, it is equally a spiritual process for Sis, who emphasizes the use of asemaa (tobacco) from start to finish. "The old-timers have taught me to use tobacco," she says, as she carefully works a creamy white hide stretched taut on a frame in her kitchen. So, Sis is careful to respect the deer's spirit throughout the process.

"Producing a nice piece of buckskin begins with the hunter," Sis says. The hunter must not only put down asemaa before and after the kill, but also shoot with an accuracy that leaves no holes in the body of the hide, or the skin will be damaged.

Secondly, the hunter must remove the skin correctly, cutting on the "white

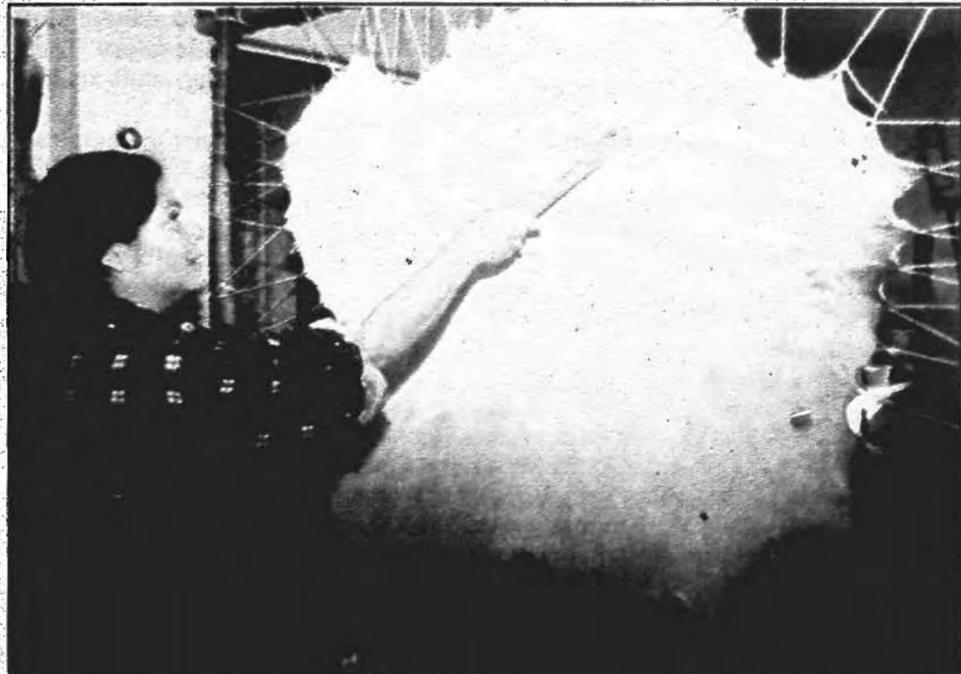
lines" of the deer (where the brown hair meets the white underbelly hair), then pull the hide off. No knives are allowed, as a sharp knife is too likely to damage the hide. The hide must be as symmetrical as possible. Once off the carcass, the hide should be spread out and any remaining fat pulled off.

Sis receives most of her hides from her brother Mike Wiggins, Bad River vice-chairman, who also learned from the old-timers how to remove a deerskin in preparation for tanning.

The next part of the process requires rainwater—the best solution for soaking a hide. Sis prefers to soak her hides in a 50-gallon drum of rainwater to loosen the hair, epidermis and blood. "Blood rots the hide," she warns, so it must be entirely removed.

The time for soaking depends, like many parts of this process, on conditions such as temperature and the thickness of the hide. She watches each one. "During warm weather, soak for one day. If it's cold, maybe soak two days, maybe longer. Each hide is different," she says. Experience is partly the teacher. The object is to get the skin and fat loose.

Once the hide is thoroughly soaked, it must be scraped. For this you use a (See Bad River, page 12)



Scraped clean and soft, this milky white deer hide is ready to tan. Sis Wiggins, Bad River, uses a traditional deer brain solution, lots of "elbow grease," and a small smoker to produce soft, supple buckskin. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

New Supreme Court ruling on Clean Water Act analyzed

Most jurisdiction over wetlands remains intact

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Counsel for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) recently analyzed the January 9th U.S. Supreme Court ruling relating to regulatory jurisdiction of wetlands under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and found that it may not undermine federal wetlands protection to the extent initially feared.

The initial reaction to the 5-4 Supreme Court decision was that millions of acres of wetlands could be without protection following the ruling.

The case in question, Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, known as SWANCC, specifically challenged the assertion of CWA jurisdiction over "isolated, non-navigable, intrastate waters used as habitat by migratory birds."

The legal opinion of EPA and Corps counsel states that the "Supreme

Court held that the Corps exceeded its statutory authority by asserting CWA jurisdiction over 'an abandoned sand and gravel pit in northern Illinois which provides habitat for migratory birds.'"

Essentially, the Court said that use by migratory birds alone is not sufficient to give the Corps regulatory authority under CWA jurisdiction.

The legal opinion stated that the Court "clearly recognized the CWA's assertion of jurisdiction over traditional navigable waters and their tributaries and wetlands adjacent to them." So, the ruling would not change jurisdiction on these waters.

The opinion advised the Corps and EPA staff that they should continue to exercise CWA authority over any waters that do not fall into the category of "nonnavigable, isolated, (and) intrastate." However, staff can no longer rely on use by migratory birds alone as the basis for asserting CWA jurisdiction.

Other elements, such as being navigable waters, use for interstate commerce (such as hunting and fishing), and proximity to other bodies of water

come into play in determining CWA jurisdiction and definition as "waters of the United States."

Potentially affected waters include a broad set of waters, such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams, mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds. If, for instance, they could affect interstate commerce only because of the use as migratory bird habitat, the recent Supreme Court decision may inhibit asserting jurisdiction under the CWA.

State/Tribal jurisdiction

As the legal opinion states, interpretation and impact of the Supreme Court's ruling will be further explored on a case by case basis.

The opinion also notes that the SWANCC decision does not change the extent of either state or tribal jurisdiction over aquatic features, since the CWA explicitly states the CWA cannot be interpreted as "impairing or in any manner affecting any right or jurisdiction of the States with respect to the waters (including boundary waters) of such States."

Legislation has been introduced into the Wisconsin legislature that would provide protection for wetlands no longer protected under federal law. The bill requires certification from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any discharge of dredged or fill material into a wetland. The legislation has passed the Senate at this time.

Tribes and state watchful of Mille Lacs Lake walleye spawning biomass levels

(Continued from page 1)
pounds. Creel surveys conducted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources during 2000 estimated state recreational angler harvest at 226,396 pounds of walleye, 205,166 pounds of yellow perch, 14,052 pounds of northern pike, 2,593 pounds of tullibee, and 12,281 pounds of burbot from Mille Lacs Lake.

This harvest estimate indicated that state recreational anglers stayed within the 2000 state walleye quota for Mille Lacs Lake, unlike the significant state walleye quota overages that were observed there in 1998 and 1999.

The 2001 fishing year

During the January 2001 FTC meeting, state and tribal fisheries biologists presented and discussed statistical models used to calculate harvestable surplus levels for walleye in Mille Lacs Lake.

While most of the modeling suggested an increase in walleye spawning stock biomass (i.e. pounds of adult walleye), some modeling suggested that a slight decrease may have occurred. Given this range of modeling results and uncertainties, tribal biologists advocated for the establishment of a 2001 harvestable surplus level that would

protect the walleye spawning stock biomass from going below the lowest observed level and avoid "uncharted territory."

The FTC agreed to a 2001 harvestable surplus level for walleye in Mille Lacs Lake of 395,000 pounds along with an assurance from the state that steps would be taken to increase the walleye spawning stock biomass if next year's modeling indicates that it has dropped below the lowest observed level.

In accordance with the FMP, the 2001 tribal walleye quota for Mille Lacs Lake is 85,000 pounds. The 2001 state walleye quota for Mille Lacs Lake will be the remainder of harvestable surplus or 310,000 pounds.

State and tribal biologists also reviewed 2001 harvestable surplus levels for other quota and cap regulated species in Mille Lacs Lake.

For 2001, these harvestable surplus levels are 270,000 pounds for yellow perch, 24,000 pounds for tullibee, 28,000 pounds for burbot, and 23,000 pounds for northern pike.

The harvestable surplus levels for these species of Mille Lacs Lake fish are identical to those used since 1998 and can be shared equally by the state and tribes.



Shane Cram and Royce Bresette, GLIFWC fishery aides, work up walleye aboard a GLIFWC electrofishing boat during 2000 population assessments. Data are collected on the fish and then they are returned to the lake alive. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

GLIFWC to survey 17 Wisconsin lakes

Each year during spring, biologists with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) survey lakes to assess the spawning adult walleye populations. GLIFWC conducts these population surveys on behalf of its member tribes to generate sound scientific data that will help in the understanding and management of fisheries resources within the Wisconsin ceded-territory. These surveys allow GLIFWC to estimate the population of spawning adult walleye using electrofishing boats.

The surveys start once the ice cover has left the lake and water temperatures warm-up enough to stimulate spawning. The surveys usually last 3-5 days. The crews give all adult walleye a fin clip, and then do a one night recapture run covering the entire shoreline, noting the number of clipped and non-clipped fish captured. After collecting biological data, all fish will be released alive.

GLIFWC will be sampling 12 walleye between 10"-32" from select lakes for mercury testing. All testing will be done at the Lake Superior Research Institute, UW-Superior, Superior, Wisconsin.

The lakes to be sampled are: Red Cedar Lake, Barron County; Lake Owen, Bayfield Co.; Siskiwit Lake, Bayfield Co.; Big Sand Lake, Burnett Co.; Lower Eau Claire Lake, Douglas Co.; Butternut Lake, Forest Co.; Enterprise Lake, Langlade Co.; Hasbrook Lake, Oneida Co.; Pelican Lake, Oneida Co.; Squirrel Lake, Oneida Co.; Annabelle Lake, Vilas Co.; Big Arbor Vitae Lake, Vilas Co.; Big Lake (Boulder Jct.), Vilas Co.; Kentuck Lake, Vilas Co.; Sherman Lake, Vilas Co.; Squaw Lake, Vilas Co.; Bass-Patterson Lake, Washburn Co.

The following lakes may also be sampled if time and scheduling constraints permit: Viola Lake, Burnett County; Whitefish Lake, Douglas Co.; Katherine Lake, Oneida Co.

For additional information or questions regarding these surveys, contact: Neil Kmiecik, Biological Services Director or Joe Dan Rose, Inland Fisheries Section Leader, GLIFWC, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861, or call (715) 682-6619.

On the cover

The Thomas C. Mullen breaks ice on Keweenaw Bay near Chassell, Michigan in late February. Owner and operator Joe Newago is one of several tribal commercial fishermen who net lake trout and whitefish on Lake Superior. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Winter, a mixed bag for Lake Superior fishermen

By **Charlie Otto Rasmussen**
Writer/Photographer

Chassell, Mich.—Winter made a comeback in 2000-01. Yet despite the return of extended frigid weather, many Lake Superior commercial tug operators managed to squeeze in a fourth straight year-round fishing season.

“Usually we’re done fishing by February,” said Joe Newago. “It was closer to a real winter this year, but we were able to fish through it.”

A Bad River tribal member and 16-year veteran on the Big Lake, Newago operates his commercial fishing tug out of Chassell on the western shore of Keeweenaw Bay. The reinforced hulls of the these large fishing

boats—called tugs—enables tribal fishermen to break up to a foot or more of nearshore ice to reach open water where they can set their gill nets.

For commercial fishermen who set their nets through holes in the ice, however, the recent mild winters have made for poor fishing conditions.

“The fishermen on the tugs have been fortunate, but the guys who fish under the ice have had a hard time,” said Ken Gebhardt, Bay Mills fisheries biologist. “In the last three or four years, ice fishing opportunities in this area have been virtually nonexistent.”

This past February was one exception, Gebhardt added, when good ice conditions allowed Bay Mills fishermen to harvest herring, whitefish, and lake trout in Whitefish Bay.

“Weather conditions really dictate how successful tribal commercial fishermen are in the winter,” said Bill Mattes, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) fisheries biologist. “It’s not uncommon for ice to freeze up the nearshore areas, delaying fishermen from pulling in their catch until wind moves the ice off. In other cases, high winds or blizzard conditions may keep the tugs moored at the landing.”

Although people have difficulty accessing fish in bad weather, the bottom-dwelling sea lamprey make easy meals of lake trout and other species that congregate in the depths during winter.

“I usually see badly scarred lake trout in the winter,” Newago said. “The lamprey will move along the side of the

fish looking for a better supply.” Long streaks of exposed flesh on trout caught by fishermen reveal the lamprey’s feeding pattern.

Lamprey getting ready to spawn in Lake Superior tributaries in May and June feed very aggressively at this time of the year, Mattes said.

Mattes and GLIFWC fisheries technician, Mike Plucinski monitor the off-reservation commercial fishing harvest in the Michigan 1842 treaty ceded area of Lake Superior throughout the year. The fishing season runs from November 28 to October 31, and is closed most of November during the height of lake trout and whitefish spawning.

“We monitor the harvest to help determine the status of the population over time,” Mattes explained. “By recording age and size data, it gives biologists a good idea of the structure of the fish population being harvested.”

Commercial fishing is a physically demanding profession, regardless what season of the year it is. And while winter weather creates additional challenges, there are perks for working those long, cold hours. The supply of fish on the market is generally low in the winter, creating better prices from the large commercial fish buyers. And as winter melts into spring, increased fish consumption during Christian and Jewish holidays boosts demand for fish.

“Everybody fishes hard in late March and April,” Mattes said. “It’s one of the most important times of the year for tribal fishermen on Lake Superior.”



Joe Newago, a commercial fisherman from Bad River, displays a lake trout badly injured by a lamprey. Newago operates his fishing tug out of Chassell, Michigan where mild weather allowed him to fish through the winter. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

New restrictions proposed for Great Lakes water use

By **Sue Erickson**, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—A proposal from the Council of Great Lakes Governors (CGL), representing eight Great Lakes states, to tighten restrictions on Great Lakes water use is currently under consideration.

Concern was prompted last year when Ontario approved the export of Lake Superior water to supply bottled water to Asia.

Subsequent investigations showed that the Great Lakes Charter, under which both states and provinces have been operating since the mid-80s, and federal law may have loopholes, leaving the Great Lakes waters vulnerable.

The Council’s proposal includes new requirements for Great Lakes basin residents that would impact homeowners, municipalities, farmers and businesses. Four new tests would have to be met before anyone could start pumping, or increase pumping, Great Lakes water or any water from lakes, rivers, or groundwater from the Great Lakes basin.

The tests require proving that the water withdrawal would not harm the quantity or quality of water in Great lakes basin, including groundwater, lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

According to Ann McCammon Solitis, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) policy analyst, the new proposal will be brought to GLIFWC’s Board of Commissioners at the March meeting, and she expects to be providing comments on behalf of GLIFWC.

McCammon Soltis notes that GLIFWC has gone on record through a July 1999 resolution in opposition to the bulk removal of both ground and surface water from the Great Lakes watershed by diversion, transfer, bulk shipment, or by any another means.

GLIFWC’s resolution opposing the removal of Great Lakes water

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission is an organization consisting of eleven federally recognized tribes from Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, these tribes retain hunting, fishing and gathering rights in territories ceded to the United States in 1836, 1837, 1842, and 1854, which include portions of Lake Superior and the Lake Superior basin; and

WHEREAS, the tribes of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission are committed to the protection of Lake Superior basin ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the removal of Great Lakes water from the basin has the potential to impact spawning grounds, migratory birds, coastal wetlands and wild rice beds in Lake Superior and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, current U.S. law is being interpreted by some to allow diversions of groundwater, failing to recognize the inevitable connection between ground and surface water.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission does hereby go on record opposing the removal of both ground water and surface water from the Great Lakes watershed, whether by diversion, transfer, bulk shipment, or any other means, as antithetical to the long-term protection of Lake Superior and its watershed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission supports proposals to change any provision of law that could be construed as permitting removal or diversion of groundwater from the Great Lakes watershed when a similar surface water removal or diversion would otherwise be prohibited.

Lamprey still a problem in the Great Lakes

Abundance increasing in all lakes

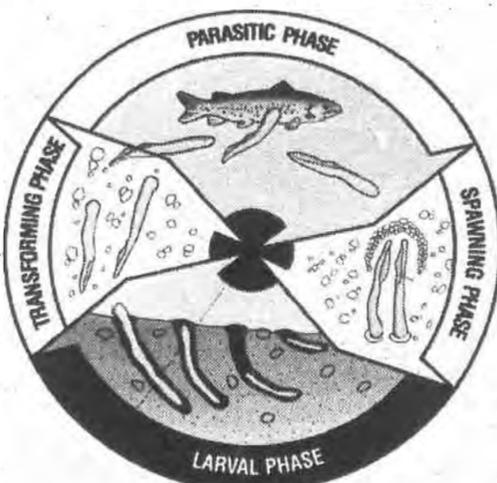
By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—“A lot of people ask me, ‘Are lamprey still a problem?’ and I say ‘YES! lamprey are still a problem!’” Bill Mattes, Great Lakes biologist with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), sees the ravages of lamprey during fishery assessments and also works with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Lamprey Control Program during summer months.

“Lamprey are pests. Like mosquitoes, they don’t go away,” Mattes said. Acknowledging lamprey are no longer at the levels experienced in the 1940s and 1950s when the lake trout, whitefish and chub fishery collapsed, Mattes said their impact on the fishery is still substantial.

Lamprey kill as many lake trout as the sport and commercial fishery combined in Lake Superior, and fishery managers continue to seek cost effective means of lamprey control.

Lamprey control was one of the items in the January meeting of the Lake Superior Technical Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC),



Lifecycle of a lamprey.

established by the U.S. and Canada to improve and perpetuate the fishery resources in the Great Lakes.

According to GLFC Biologist Jeff Slade, adult spawning assessments in 2000 indicated increased lamprey abundance in the Great Lakes. In Lake Superior, lamprey abundance has been on the rise since 1994; however, the increases are not great enough to be considered statistically significant.

Based on biological models, biologists estimate there were about 107,000 spawning-phase lampreys in Lake Superior in 2000.

Biologists are not sure of the reasons for the increase in lamprey population. However, potential reasons include a decrease in the control effort over the last 20 years, with about a 20% reduction in the size of the control program in 1995. Mattes said the decrease in control effort is caused, in part, by a frozen budget, while costs of control increase.

Another potential reason for increased lamprey populations cited by Slade is the use of lower TFM (a lampricide) concentrations in recent years, moving from an alkalinity based to a pH based minimum lethal concentration (MLC).

Explaining the MLC, Mattes says that the concentration of the lampricide is set to be just above the dosage required to kill a lamprey, leaving little margin for error.

For example, in streams with lake sturgeon, a sturgeon protocol is implemented and only 1.2 times the MLC is used. This leaves a very small window in which lamprey are killed, while also minimizing the effect of TFM on sturgeon.

Finally, the stream selection process has been limited to streams surveyed the year before. Currently, stream selection includes streams surveyed in the past three years, which will broaden the selection process.

Fishery managers select streams for treatment where they estimate they will be able to kill the most lamprey for the least dollars, basing selection on data about lamprey populations in specific streams.

Other components of the integrated control program for sea lamprey, besides treating streams with lampricides, include use of lamprey barriers and sterile-male-release to prevent the growth of the lamprey populations.

Much of the lamprey treatment takes place in streams and rivers where spawning lamprey lay their millions of eggs. First, the lamprey exists in a larval stage that can last from three to seventeen years. However, in streams like the Bad River, most transform within 4-5 years.

The larvae metamorphose into a small adult, called a transformer. Similar to a caterpillar changing into a butterfly, physical changes occur to the larval lamprey. They develop eyes, teeth and the characteristic sucking mouth of the adult parasitic lamprey.

Once adulthood is reached, the lamprey enters the lake, where it will spend about one to one-and-a-half years feeding on fish. It uses its disc-shaped mouth, lined with sharp teeth, to attach to the host fish and feed on its body fluids.

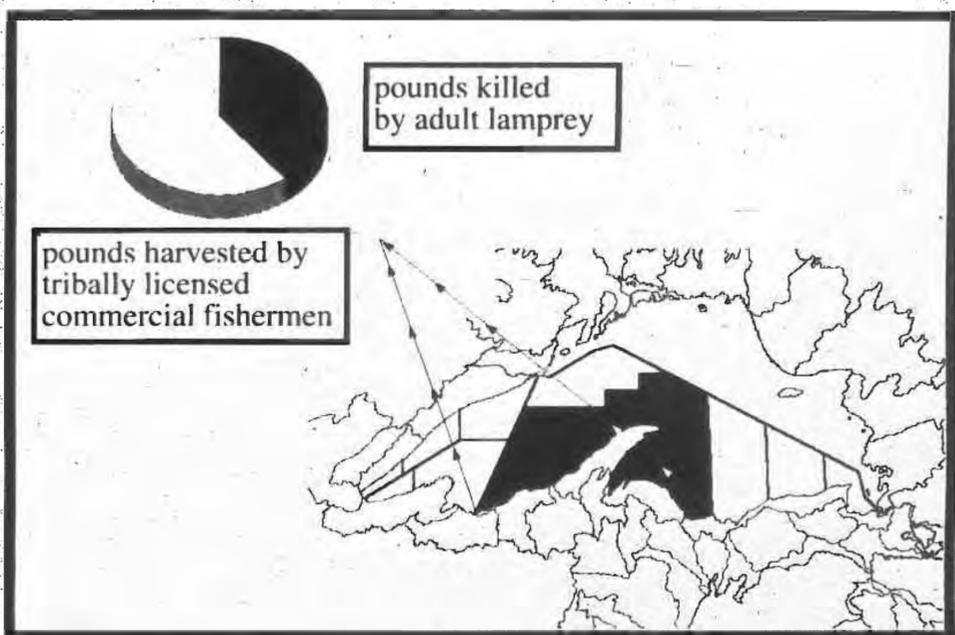
Sea lamprey came from the Atlantic Ocean. The opening of shipping canals to the Great Lakes in the 1800s provided a route for the lamprey to enter the Great Lakes system.

Lamprey are probably best known as the killer of lake trout; however, they also prey on other species, like whitefish and chub. Lake trout are a popular target for the parasitic fish because they tend to share the same habitat near the lake’s bottom. Lake trout may also be preferred by lamprey because they have very soft scales and are easier to penetrate than whitefish with hard, stiff scales.

Mattes and Mike Plucinski, Great Lakes technician, continue to work cooperatively with other agencies on lamprey control initiatives. GLIFWC has done lamprey population estimates since 1984.

To Mattes lamprey remain a continuing and real threat to the Lake Superior fishery requiring continued monitoring and control efforts. They have no natural predators in the Great Lakes, and one spawning female releases up to 100,000 eggs.

They are a problem that will not go away.



Graph comparing pounds of lake trout killed by lamprey and pounds of lake trout harvested by the inter-tribal commercial fishery for Michigan waters of Lake Superior within the 1842 treaty ceded waters. (Graphic by Bill Mattes).

Monitoring zebra mussel population and public education top priorities for St. Croix Riverway Task Force

By Neil Kmiecik, GLIFWC Biological Services Director

Odanah, Wis.—In 1992, a Task Force was assembled to develop a plan to stop or slow the spread of zebra mussels in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Even while this plan was being developed, agencies worked cooperatively to monitor the extent of zebra mussel infestation in the river and to action to control their spread.

Finally, in 1998, state and federal agencies, seven tribes, and several other parties signed an Interstate Management Plan. A goal of this Plan is to prevent the spread and to control zebra mussels and other non-native aquatic species within the St. Croix river.

During 1999 and 2000, funding was received from the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force to implement the plan. Key components included: information and education, boat inspections, access management, research, and monitoring.

During 2000 an agency-staffed SCUBA dive team was formed with divers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and

GLIFWC. Dives were conducted on 21 days from June into October and about 50 miles of river were searched. Areas inspected included bridges, piers, buoys, river bottoms, native mussel beds, boats, and marina slips.

Zebra mussels were found south of Hudson, Wisconsin in numbers which suggested the area had been settled. The density of zebra mussels was estimated in the thousands at Hudson which included a “Critical Area” for a federally endangered native mussel, the Higgin’s Eye.

In this and other areas, small zebra mussels were found which indicated they were successfully reproducing. No zebra mussels were found north of Stillwater, Minnesota.

Part of the Task Force’s strategy involves extensive boat checks and an all-out public education effort. By the end of October 2000, National Park Service (NPS) employees examined 1,919 boats dry docked for the season and found zebra mussels attached to 166 boats.

Four NPS visitor centers on the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers make a variety of zebra mussel information (See Zebra mussel, page 5)



Sea lamprey continue to plague many fish species in Lake Superior, like this lake trout caught by a tribal commercial fisherman. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

2000/2001 final deer harvest for the Minnesota and Wisconsin portion of the 1837 & 1842 ceded territory

Registration Station*	Antlered	Adult doe	Fawn buck	Fawn doe	Totals
Bad River	133	83	14	8	238
Lac Courte Oreilles	374	318	88	75	855
Lac du Flambeau	345	343	30	43	761
Mille Lacs	67	46	42	39	194
Mole Lake	121	182	15	11	329
Red Cliff	162	151	148	150	611
St. Croix	114	126	11	11	262
TOTALS	1316	1249	348	337	3250

*Numbers indicate registration by station, not by tribal affiliation.

Deer Management Unit 7 takes shape around Bad River Reservation

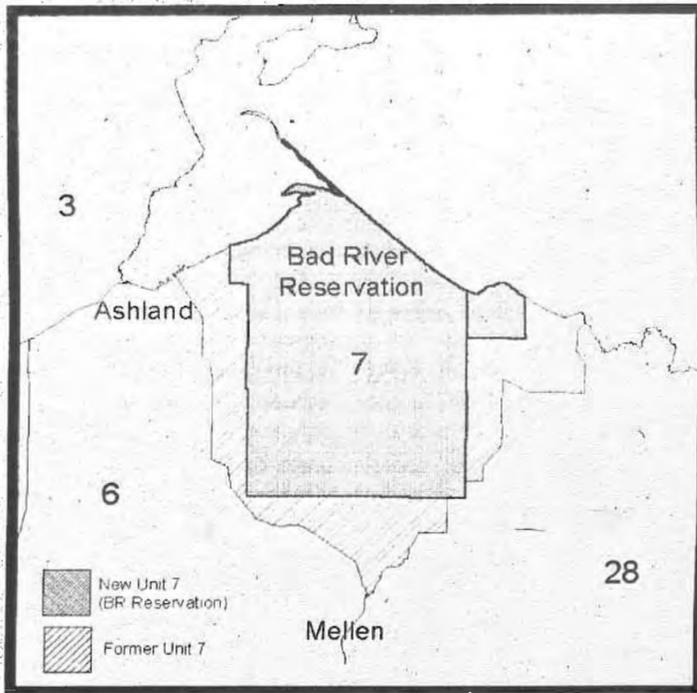
By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Odanah, Wis.—It may become the most studied deer management unit (DMU) in Wisconsin, tapping the efforts of both state and tribal biologists. The Bad River Tribe and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) recently forged an agreement to modify DMU 7 so that its boundaries conform to the Bad River Reservation.

Bad River and state wildlife biologists will utilize both computer modeling techniques and field surveys to estimate the deer population. Currently, state wildlife officials consider only Sex-Age-Kill (SAK) estimates to assess Wisconsin's deer herd status and trends.

"We've established a good population history on the reservation through years of annual deer pellet surveys," said Tom Doolittle, Bad River wildlife biologist. "With multiple sets of data to consider, we expect to have a better handle on the deer population."

Pellet surveys are conducted in spring and involve counting groups of deer feces—shaped like pellets—on plots along transects of deer habitat. The count is plugged into a formula to estimate deer density. SAK population estimates rely on both harvest data and field surveys of fawns to determine deer numbers.



DMU 7 now conforms with the Bad River Reservation boundary. (Map by Jonathan Gilbert)

Doolittle said the change will also help Bad River wildlife officials deal with trespassing problems on tribal lands. Private property and lands open to the public are situated in both the interior and exterior of the reservation, creating conflicts when state user groups—like hunters—wander onto tribal lands.

"State hunters who apply for choice or bonus permits in DMU 7 will receive a map from the WDNR showing tribal boundaries," Doolittle said. "Primary access points like roads and major ATV and snowmobile trails will be posted with signs delineating the border."

Changes off-reservation

As DMU 7 shrinks to conform with the boundaries of the Bad River Reservation, approximately one-third of the old unit remains. Tribal and state wildlife officials agreed that rather than creating a new V-shaped unit (see map), the remaining land will be redistributed to DMU's 6 and 28, with the Bad River providing the boundary between the expanded units.

"We basically have to build a history for these new units through collecting and analyzing data. Over time we will figure out how to best manage these new units," said Jonathan Gilbert, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission wildlife biologist. The DMU boundary changes will be in effect beginning with the 2001 hunting season.

Wisconsin man sentenced for killing bald eagle

Crandon, Wis.—A Crandon, Wisconsin, man was fined \$1,500, ordered to pay \$500 restitution and a \$25 special assessment by a Federal Court in Milwaukee for shooting a bald eagle last March.

Michael J. Pagel, 22, was sentenced by U.S. Magistrate Judge Patricia Gorence for killing the eagle while it perched in a tree along Old Highway 8 in Forest County, Wisconsin.

On March 17, 2000, Pagel, his cousin, Richard A. Marvin of Crandon, and another man were driving along Old Highway 8 in Forest County when they spotted the eagle, an immature female, perched in a tree.

The three men drove to Pagel's house, retrieved a .22 caliber rifle, then returned to where they first saw the bird. Pagel shot the eagle from inside Marvin's pickup truck. The men took the dead eagle to Pagel's residence, where they removed the wings and feet.

Marvin later discarded the carcass in a nearby woods.

Local residents told a Wisconsin conservation warden that Pagel and Marvin were displaying a dismembered eagle foot as a trophy, and were speaking openly about shooting the eagle. Special Agents from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were asked to assist with the investigation.

Once classified as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), bald eagles have recovered to healthy population levels and are now listed as threatened under the ESA.

However, bald eagles and other birds of prey remain protected by federal wildlife laws such as the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Lacey Act.

In addition to the monetary penalties, Pagel was placed on probation for two years. While on probation, Pagel is

banned from hunting or fishing anywhere in the United States and many not possess any firearms or other dangerous weapons.

Pagel is the second person to be sentenced for the eagle killing. Richard A. Marvin was sentenced in Federal Court in December for his role in the shooting.

Marvin was fined \$1,000, ordered to pay \$500 restitution, ordered to perform 50 hours of community service, and placed on one year's probation.

While on probation, Marvin is banned from hunting anywhere in the United States, and he cannot possess dangerous weapons.

(Reprinted from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region.)



Zebra Mussel task force

(Continued from page 4)
available to the public. Nearly 15,000 copies of the NPS newspaper, *Two Rivers Guide*, with information about zebra mussels were provided for distribution.

The Minnesota DNR also provided visitors with information at five state parks along the river. During 2000 an additional 2,877 visitors were contacted by roving NPS interpretive rangers and provided zebra mussel information.

GLIFWC provided information to its member tribes and readership about zebra mussels in the St. Croix river through a newspaper, *Masinaigan*.

For more information about zebra mussels in the St. Croix river or zebra mussels in general, contact Neil Kmiecik at GLIFWC, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, Wisconsin 54861 or phone (715) 682-6619.

Ojibwe elders identify over 100 plants with non-medicinal use

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—“Watch the birds. If they don't eat it, you don't eat it!” This seems to be an old rule-of-thumb for Ojibwe gathers to prevent consumption of poisonous plants and berries. The rule was mentioned in several recent meetings with Ojibwe elders designed to elicit information about traditional uses of plants.

Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Program Director James St. Arnold has been on a fast track through Indian Country, holding often lively meetings with elders on nine of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission's member reservations.

Travelling as far east as Bay Mills, Michigan and as far west as the Fond du Lac reservation in Minnesota, he has met with about 220 elders to date.

Information on over 100 plants gathered by the Ojibwe for non-medicinal purposes has resulted from this and other meetings designed to elicit Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK) on plants from participants.

The process requires some memory jogging, and typically, some humorous and slightly off-the-subject anecdotes result, such as using the slime from northern pike as a remedy for wrinkles.

Elders talk about their own experiences gathering and using plants and also recollect what mom and dad, grandma and grandpa or aunties and uncles did with various plant species and where they gathered them.

Each meeting is recorded and the discussion later transcribed by Sharon Nelis, secretary for the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission's (GLIFWC) Planning and Development Division. While word-for-word transcription is a tedious process, Nelis says the information is very interesting, and the stories frequently make her chuckle while she works.

Steve White, GLIFWC research associate, tabulates the information from the discussions into a chart showing each plant species and its uses. For instance, identified uses for the cattail include utility, craft, and food. Specifically, elders recalled using the cattail for baskets, mats, torches, decora-



Sharing information on plants and their uses, Bad River elders participate in meetings designed to elicit traditional knowledge about plants. Information obtained from the meetings is being collated and will be archived with each participating tribe. Pictured above are: Pearl Bigboy, Darlene Kupsco, Clarence Crow and Harold Crowe. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Looking forward to June, the Strawberry Picking Moon (*Ode'imini-giizi*)

By Karen Danielsen
GLIFWC Forest Ecologist

Odanah, Wis.—Of all nature's berries, the wild strawberry (*ode'imini*) ripens the earliest. Appearing exactly like a diminutive form of the cultivated strawberry, the wild strawberry tastes exceedingly sweeter than its domesticated cousin. Start hunting for these tiny heart-shaped fruits beginning in June.

Wild strawberry plants occur in dry to moist open woodlands, forest edges, and grassy fields. They grow abundantly throughout the ceded territories. Since these plants appear to be quite commonplace, gathering the fruit would seem to be effortless.

However, few wild strawberry plants actually develop fruit in a given year. And, like all berries, some years prove to be better than others for fruit production.

Consequently, finding a patch of these sugary wild strawberries should be considered a wondrous gift not to be brazenly taken for granted.

Birds, deer, rabbits, and other wildlife also eat these berries. The seeds often pass undamaged through the digestive tract of these animals allowing for a very natural mechanism of dispersal. So when gathering, try to leave some berries for the animals.

If fortunate enough to gather a bucketful of berries, one can make jams, jellies, or pies. The berries may also be frozen or dried. Whether eaten raw or



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cooked, these berries are a good source of vitamin C.

The leaves also contain a high amount of vitamin C. To prepare a delicious tea, pour boiling water over dried leaves to steep, then sweeten to taste. Make sure to use *thoroughly* dried leaves. Partially wilted leaves can be poisonous!

Wild strawberry plants provide many traditional Ojibwe medicines. For example, an infusion made from the roots can relieve stomachaches. Some traditional Ojibwe ceremonies also call for the use of these plants, particularly the berries.

Thus, even the smallest plants can be very powerful, and the smallest fruits can produce an enormously sweet flavor.

All plants, whether large or small, provide many gifts for us and the other beings on aki (mother earth).

tions, flour, diaper liners, and for food, either boiled or dried and peeled. For some plants, only one or two uses have been recorded, such as ginseng, which is used for tea.

But others, such as white cedar, have a wide range of identified uses. White cedar has been used by the Ojibwe for cradle boards, paddles, bedding, tip-ups, utensils, warding off bad luck/spirits, dandruff, tea, kindling, tanning, trapping, ricing sticks, basket frames, drum frames, snowshoe frames, maple taps, sap paddles, yokes, fish decoys, smoking hides, and flutes.

Basswood also has multiple uses, such as rope, thin lacing, baskets, trapping rabbit, canoes, carving, snares and nets, tobacco, fish decoys, and as a coffee substitute.

Some of the plants are unusual, such as sour sabs and squirrel tail, both mentioned at a meeting in Keweenaw Bay as plants eaten as greens. Bad River elders recalled eating boiled beach peas.

Sometimes elders recall a plant, know what it looks like, but don't know the name. Plans are to hold meetings again next fall so samples of these plants can be brought in for identification. Sometimes one plant has several different names, like the broad-leaved arrowhead is called moose ears in Fond du Lac, Minnesota.

The information will be compiled and archived on CDs, which will be given to each participating tribe as a resource. In addition to the information on each plant, White uses the Geographical Information System to create maps of each reservation that show where different plants are growing.

He is also digitizing portions of maps composed by William Trygg that show Indian trails and early roads in the 1800s. Using the field notes of early surveyors, Trygg's maps show canoe landings, beaver ponds, meadows, sugarbush stands, and location of wigwams. White says the information is valuable as a guide to where some plants have historically existed and been gathered.

Another component of the project entails a review of scientific literature about the various plants. White will compile the scientific information to be presented in conjunction with the TEK information elicited from the elders.

While the primary goal of the ANA plant project is to ultimately make this information available to the tribes, GLIFWC Forest Ecologist Karen Danielsen says land management agencies will be encouraged to include TEK in combination with scientific information when making land management decisions.

During the meetings, elders have noted the decline in several plant species, Danielsen says. For example Fond du Lac has noticed their berry bushes are not producing berries, and Red Cliff has noticed a significant decline in berry bushes and hazelnuts.

These declines could possibly be due to fire suppression, Danielsen comments. If so, GLIFWC could potentially suggest prescribed burns to land managers as a method to encourage the rejuvenation of these species.

GLIFWC's plant project is funded through an ANA grant. Other elements of the project include production of an informational display and poster featuring plants used by the Ojibwe and presenting each tribe with a copy of Daniel Moerman's book, *Native American Ethnobotany*.



Recovery potential for white cedar

Good and bad news

By Dr. James Meeker
Associate Professor, Northland College

I have always rooted for the underdog. Translated to the world of trees (hence "undertree," if you will), I am compelled to favor the white cedar. In an earlier era, prior to the devastating cutover and subsequent opening of the landscape, I may have been more a fan of white birch or even aspen, as they would have been relegated to the infrequent disturbance patches that dotted the pre-settlement landscape.

Likewise, if I were living in the northeastern UP of Michigan or in the deep snow belt on the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula, I may feel differently, as cedar is regenerating in these areas. But today, living on the edge of the clay plain adjacent to Lake Superior where the discovery of young cedar is a notable event, my heart goes to this tree of life.

Hiking along the river corridors in out-of-the-way stretches along the Potato, White or Tyler Forks Rivers, white cedar numbers are but a mere hint of their original abundance. The scattered remnant stumps that resisted decay and withstood the cutover fires are evidence of cedar's former abundance. In these cedar graveyards a few remaining live individuals, ghost trees, still hang on.

On a recent hike along the White River I noticed one solitary individual cedar, perhaps two feet in diameter and likely 200 plus years old. Infrequently, these remaining sentinels appear full-crowned and healthy, but more often appear stressed, retaining only a fraction of their former live foliage.

Perhaps these solitary sentinels "miss" their cedar siblings, as the moisture-retaining capacity and mossy ground layer of the former dense cedar slopes may have been more conducive to full crowns. Is there hope for this species in our region? Can we create a situation where cedar still regenerates? Well, there's good and bad news.

Part of the good news is that ghost trees still hang on and can be long-lived, potentially providing a viable seed source now and for some time into the future. Indeed, in many riparian areas, we see evidence of cedar seedlings (those plants less than 1 1/2 to 2 feet tall) that then are browsed once they grow above the snow level.

The other good news is that we have gotten a lot of snow this year. Much of the Penokees' landscape, areas where snow depths normally reach greater than 2 feet, have finally reached that depth again after several low snow years. The last time I heard, the Hurley area had received 18 feet of snow this season, and there's been at least 3 feet of snow on the ground since the first of the year in most of the Penokees.

How important is this for the regeneration of cedar? It appears that with deep snow deer leave the area, allowing cedar to escape their browse pressure. Con-



Dr. James Meeker

versely, without deep snow levels, the deer aren't forced to leave, and their winter abundance is just too great to allow the cedar to grow up past the snow line.

Our snowshoe treks support these ideas. They tell us that deer tracks this year are at very low densities in the high elevation, deep snow areas. The few places that have scattered remaining tracks apparently exist where people are feeding. This is good news for white cedar (and perhaps white pine and hemlock as well).

Further evidence of the importance of winter snow depths for certain conifer regeneration comes from our studies with the Bad River Band. We have shown that cedar and hemlock have not regenerated well on the low elevations of the Bad River Reservation since the turn of the last century. Whereas the upper elevational areas of the Reservation, near the Iron County line, that receive more snow, have seen more recent regeneration of both cedar and hemlock.

For hemlock, there appears to be a major pulse of regeneration along the Vaughn Creek ravine country immediately following the cutover (1880-

1900), with very few hemlocks coming in since then. This is in contrast to the deeper snow areas where we have seen hemlock regeneration up through the 1960s.

For white cedar, the story is even more telling. As far as we can determine, there has absolutely no cedar regeneration anywhere in the lower elevations of the Bad River Reservation since 1920, while scattered cedar has come in the higher elevations as late as 1940.

To repeat, in all these areas of the Bad River we have seen evidence of cedar and hemlock seedlings, yet poor recruitment of these seedlings into young saplings at low elevations that don't receive as much snow. This suggests that deer are certainly a major factor in the lack of regeneration, hence a return to normal snow levels at the higher elevations is good news. (Even though this doesn't help the bottomland area very much, in that the snow doesn't ever appear to get deep enough to chase deer out.)

In addition, although we can't look to Bad River for conifer restoration potential, the snow factor suggests where we should be looking. At least some areas of the landscape where deep snow occurs show an inkling of restoration potential (the return of cedar and hemlock) without doing much more.

Where on the landscape does this potential lie? It exists generally in the federal lands of the Penokees. Here ghost trees are scattered, but present, providing a seed source. Snow depths are generally greater, offering more winter protection, and here the potential for large block management is possible. Such forest management could reduce deer densities in these areas to levels that may allow cedar recovery.

So what's the bad news? You may remember from this column that I have been asking folks to get involved with federal forest plans. Well, the plan revision for the US forest lands in Wisconsin is now on the back burner and is still a long way from completion.

Unfortunately, this disappointment occurs at the same time that the agency is gearing up for a whole new round of cutting activity with nothing but the 15 year old plan to guide them. Remember that this old plan was challenged in court, and only survived a conservation lawsuit because the Forest Service showed signs of implementing sound conservation principles in the interim. From that moment until now, there had been some conservation momentum within the agency.

Proposals were being discussed in the plan revision that included talks of reference sites, buffer zones and a series of conservation-rich ideas that incorporated large areas of continuous canopy forests that would reduce deer numbers. But now as pressures to harvest trees increase, it appears that all bets are off, and that cutting proceeds under the old ideas.

How would this return to the activities of the last forest plan slow down cedar (and hemlock!) recovery? Just last week I was snow shoeing a part of the North Country Trail that includes a long section of hardwoods, and just down slope this mature, continuous canopy forest gave way to an edge between the hardwoods and a 15 year-old clearcut.

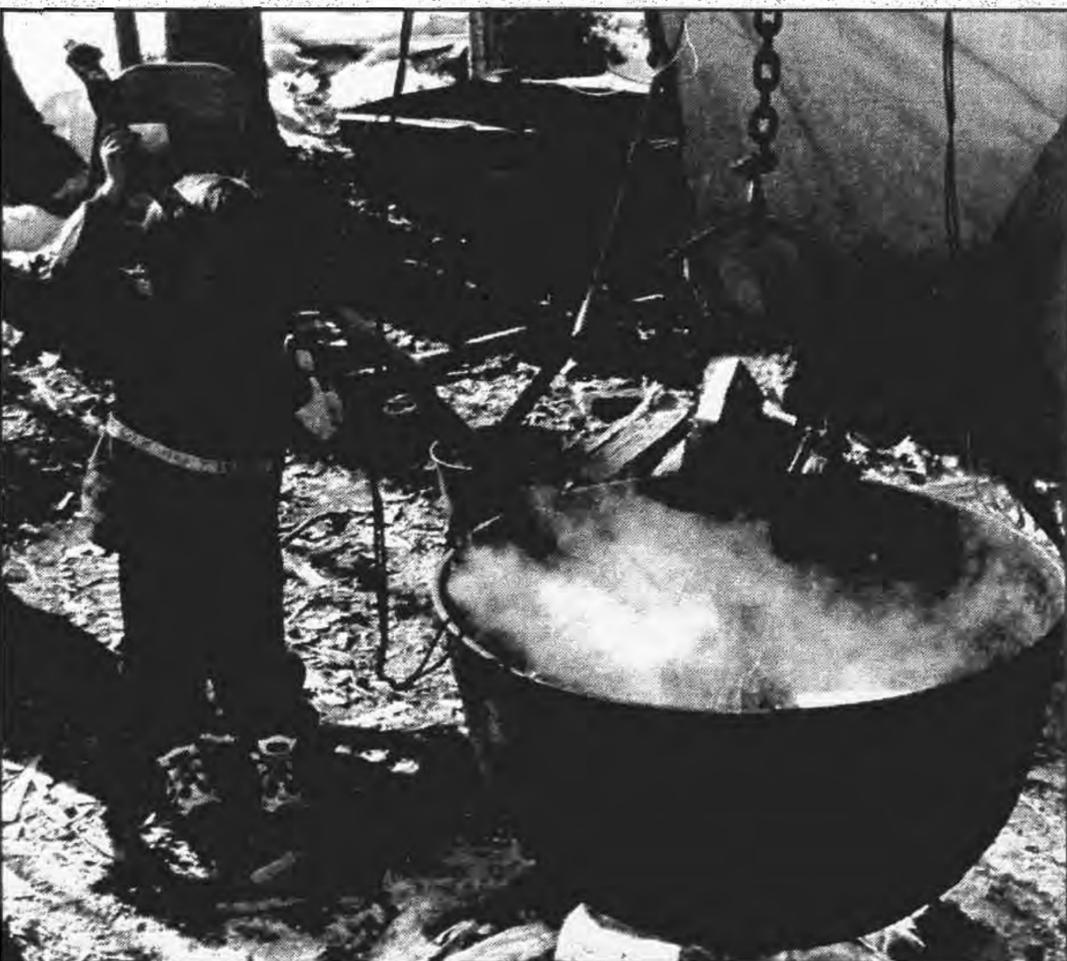
This pattern of clearcuts in the transition zone between hardwoods above and lowland forests is a pattern that has been repeated many times across the USFS landscape, as a result of the old forest plan. The area ends up as a checker board habitat that favors deer, while providing very few areas with a semi-mature forest that could promote conifer regeneration through reducing deer abundance.

With no new plan in effect, we should call for a moratorium on cutting until we can incorporate the last 20 years of sound conservation ideas into the new plan.

The Forest Service's attorney stated during the last lawsuit that the federal government is always going to be a bit behind the times relative to the most recent conservation ideas.

But 20 years is too long. These ideas, which are now widely accepted, call for some large tracts of continuous canopy forests to maximize conifer regeneration in the remaining areas that hold this potential. We can't afford any more backsliding.

(James Meeker is an Associate Professor of Natural Resources and Biology at Northland College, Ashland, Wis., and is active in regional conservation issues.)



One of the first seasons to herald spring is maple sugar time. Soon, the sap will start to flow in the sugar bush and gatherers will be out in the woods collecting sap and cooking down maple syrup. Above, a young fellow helps out the family at sugar camp. (Photo by Amoose)

Plant man, John Heim, leaves GLIFWC for new career in water quality

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—It wasn't an easy decision for John Heim to resign his position as a wildlife technician for the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), a position he has held since 1992.

"I've always liked my job and enjoyed working for GLIFWC," Heim says, but family needs required a change in location and took precedence over the job.

When Heim first joined GLIFWC, his major task was to compile the book, *Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa*, a 440-page compilation of native plants and their uses.

With an associate degree in computer science, Heim was largely responsible for layout of the publication, including scanning line drawings of 384 plants. The project required book research and working closely with Dr. James Meeker, Northland College professor, in preparing plant descriptions.

By the time the book was completed, Heim's knowledge of native

plants had greatly increased and his interest in plants was stimulated by the infectious enthusiasm of Dr. Meeker.

Heim enrolled at the UW-Superior to study plant science in 1996, pursuing his education while continuing full-time as a wildlife technician with GLIFWC.

Heim has also been involved with GLIFWC's long-term study of the impact of logging on understory plants. The study, undertaken in 1995 in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, involves setting up sampling methods and sites in areas that are both logged and not logged. Long-term, annual monitoring of the research sites and tabulation of data are the basis of the study.

Heim has also worked with GLIFWC's Wild Plant Committee, and with several programs funded through the Administration for Native Americans involving plant studies.

He has worked considerably with sweetgrass, making sweetgrass available to tribal members who wish to grow it, along with information as to how and where the plant grows best.

Using Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping, Heim also pro-

duced maps showing locations of sweetgrass beds that he has identified.

Other projects while at GLIFWC include establishing and maintaining an interpretative garden of traditional, medicinal plants near GLIFWC's main office; assisting with GLIFWC's predator-prey studies in the field, and also with sampling insect larvae and skins near the Flambeau Mine at Ladysmith, Wisconsin.

Heim will be assuming a position as a laboratory technician with Fraser Paper in Park Falls, Wisconsin. He will be monitoring the water quality of discharge waters from the paper mill to be sure state water quality guidelines are met.

Heim, his wife, April, and their daughter, Crystal, live in Phillips, Wisconsin, where April works for Price County.

Heim, a Bad River tribal member, will miss the Commission, the diversity of his work, and friends, but gladly bids good-bye to the long, daily commute from home to work.

GLIFWC says miigwech for all the good work and extends best wishes for success in a new career!



John Heim, GLIFWC wildlife technician, with wild leeks gathered in the Chequamegon National Forest. After nine years with GLIFWC, Heim reluctantly resigned his position recently. He will be working in Park Falls with Fraser Paper Inc. as a laboratory technician and will be much closer to his home, wife and daughter in Phillips, Wisconsin. (Photo by Amoose)

Need a map? Try new internet map site

By Miles Falck, Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) has recently added a new application to its web site that promises to provide a wealth of information to member tribes, cooperating state and federal agencies, and the general public.

Anyone with internet access can view, query, and print maps at glifwc-maps.org. This new application serves GIS (Geographic Information System) data over the internet in an interactive format.

The initial application displays the distribution of the wetland invading plant purple loosestrife. Additional layers depict where biological controls have been released to combat its spread, as well as sites that are suitable for future releases.

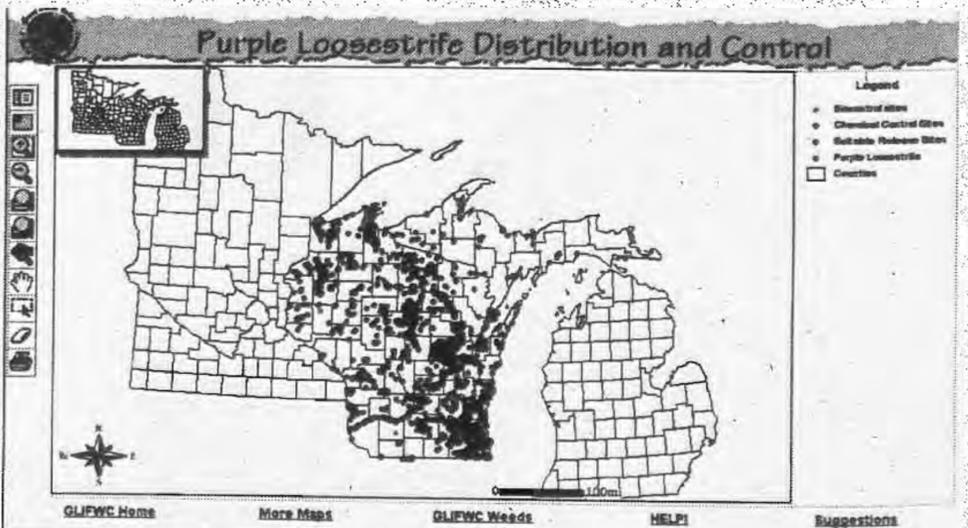
The data for this project has been compiled from GLIFWC, Lac Courte Oreilles Natural Resource Department, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, and The Nature Conservancy.

Noxious weed management benefits from coordination because the weeds don't recognize ownership boundaries, and control efforts can be futile without cooperation among landowners. The internet map site will assist managers and volunteer beetle rearers to coordinate their loosestrife control efforts by locating potential release sites and avoiding sites that have already been treated.

In addition to depicting locations, a click of the mouse will bring up a data table for each site with information on the acreage, number of plants, control methods, date found, even hyperlinks to site photos if available.

Need a map to locate that site in the field? Just zoom in to the area of interest and click on the printer icon for a custom map of the area you are interested in. GLIFWC biologists rely heavily on GIS to illustrate how resource abundance, harvest, and environmental impacts vary by location.

Watch for more applications of this technology in the near future at glifwc-maps.org!



Letter from an old friend

Mr. James Schlender:

First, thank you for the chronicle, *Masinaigan*, and also your nice letter. It meant so much to me. All the years I spent for Indian causes are rewarded by your letter.

Speaking of letters, I kept a few—one defending Indian Rights to Gov. Tommy Thompson (1989); and I also received a thank-you from Rick Baker, Lac Courte Oreilles (1974), which I appreciated. I have also received much historical data from Charlene at LCO. My interest in history is to preserve this information, and I have much information since I camped on Big Chief Lake at LCO in the 30's.

Now I'm going on 86 years and won't be doing much. Also, I'm glad I survived WWII. My wife, Eleanor needs lots of my attention. We have been married 63 years and the loss of her sight bothers her more than her diabetes and heart problem. But she is 82 years old and grateful. If there is any information that I can help with, let me know—information on history or family etc.

God bless all Chippewas and their friends!

Sincerely,
Morgan Stenseth, Chippewa Falls, WI

Benjamin challenges Mille Lacs Band to chart a new course during January "State of the Band" address

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Mille Lacs reservation, Minn.—Mille Lacs Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin challenged an audience of about 600 people to take responsibility for needed change.

Holding the band's highest position since last June, Benjamin said it is her job to create the atmosphere for change, but the people's job to make necessary reforms.

Acknowledging that the Mille Lacs economy "is the strongest in the history of the Band," Benjamin also noted significant problems still plague the community's success, problems such as "business failures, stagnant wages, increasing inequality between the haves and the have-nots, and deep divisions among the People."

Her message was one to encourage tribal unity in approaching and finding new directions to promote more universal prosperity and success among band members.

Benjamin's challenges to the band were three-fold: increase accountability of the government, reform failing government programs, and take more individual responsibility.

In terms of increased governmental accountability, Benjamin stated that requires more band members in "key positions throughout our government."

To do this band members must accept the challenge to obtain necessary training and education, and the band should provide increased opportunity to learn through internships and mentored positions.



Melanie Benjamin, Mille Lacs chief executive. (Photo submitted)

Increased accountability also requires band members participating more in the government process by sharing ideas and concerns. "Be courageous enough to chance that you might just have the answer we've been searching for," she stated.

Likewise the band's government needs to trust its public enough to encourage participation in decision-making and share more information.

The second challenge, reform of government programs, recognizes that "too many Band members have missed out on the explosion of our tribal economy."

She cited the school drop-out rate, the existence of gangs, drugs and violence, and the fear of crime within the community as indicators that programs have not met the needs of enough community members.

According to Benjamin the governmental bureaucracy is "too large." Programs need to be reformed in a manner that strengthens programs that are working and eliminating those that do not. She challenged her commissioners to be responsible to the people and make necessary reforms.

Lastly, Benjamin challenged individuals to take more personal responsibility for change, to point fingers of blame away from others and back to themselves. "Today, I ask you, what will you as Band members do to show that you are responsible to yourselves, to your family, and to your community?" Benjamin asked.

Again, she encouraged individuals to seek training and education, risk starting businesses, seek public office, or make personal changes, such as seeking help with chemical dependency. "Courage is about going out on that limb, about accepting responsibility, about trying to be the change you want to see in the world," she said. Concluding the 2001 State of the Band address, Benjamin emphasized the need for tribal unity and working for the benefit of all.

Bigboy highlights past, future events at Bad River in "State of the Tribe" address

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Odanah, Wis.—More than 80 people gathered at the Bad River Convention Center on February 20 for Chairman Eugene Bigboy's "State of the Tribe" address. Highlighting public improvements on the Bad River Reservation in northern Wisconsin and casino expansion efforts, Bigboy characterized the year 2000 as a time of progress.

Formalizing an agreement with the St. Croix Band to pursue development of a large Casino complex in Beloit was a major undertaking, Bigboy said.

"At this point the tribes have made an offer to the city of Beloit and continue to stand by that offer," Bigboy said. "Our negotiators have been hard at work to make this move forward into a reality with the full backing of this entire Council."

Much of Bigboy's presentation dealt with issues closer to home, like bringing basic amenities to the reservation to provide an economic boost and serve the needs of those who live, work, and visit the Odanah area.

"For many years there has been a lot of talk in our community about the need for services here on the reservation," Bigboy said. "In 2000, action was taken to get a grocery store/gas station development in the works. This major 5.4 million dollar development will serve the basic needs of our mem-



Bad River Tribal Chairman Eugene Bigboy delivers the first annual "State of the Tribe" speech in Odanah. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

bership and customers. For many years we had no economy to speak of but this is the beginning of a tribal economy. Diversity beyond gaming is possible."

Along with the new commercial building, an addition to the Bad River Casino will include a large conference room and expanded food service facilities.

Concerning alienated tribal lands, Bigboy said that he was committed to reacquiring property within the Bad River boundaries. "Today, with better revenue we can reacquire our land base. These lands are near and dear to our people," Bigboy said. "Our ancestors held this land for us of today and we of today must safeguard it for the ones yet to come."



GLIFWC's member tribes & chairpersons Michigan

- Bay Mills—
Jeff Parker
- Keweenaw Bay—
Leonard "Bill" Cardinal
- Lac Vieux Desert—
Richard McGeshick

Minnesota

- Fond du Lac—
Robert Peacock
- Mille Lacs—
Melanie Benjamin

Wisconsin

- Bad River—
Eugene Bigboy
- Lac Courte Oreilles—
gaiashkibos
- Lac du Flambeau—
Henry St. Germaine
- Mole Lake/Sokaogon—
Sandra Rachal
- Red Cliff—
Jean Buffalo-Reyes
- St. Croix—
David Merrill

GLIFWC officers bid farewell to Gumby and sweat it out in new cold water rescue suits

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Ashland, Wis.—One size fits all, Jerry White told me as we watched a group of Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) conservation officers shuffle across the Lake Superior ice in canary yellow rescue suits.

I was well acquainted with that dubious sizing description. It had appeared on a miniature rain poncho I attempted to use on a stormy fishing trip years ago.

For these wardens of diverse builds, however, the full-body suits acquired through a U.S. Department of Justice COPS grant fit nicely as GLIFWC Enforcement conducted its annual cold water rescue training in Chequamegon Bay on January 31. The Community Oriented Policing Services, or COPS funding, is helping to replace aging equipment and provides officers with advanced medical and tactical training.

"These new suits are amazing," said White, GLIFWC's Chief Enforcement Officer. "Because they are so flexible and easy to get into, I'd estimate it cuts our previous response time in half during rescue situations."

White was so impressed by their performance at the afternoon training session, he claimed that even I could fit my rangy frame into the one-size-fits-all wrapper.

It did look considerably better constructed than my rain poncho. And, besides working up a sweat, wardens from the first round of exercises were emerging from their yellow suits bone dry. I decided to give it a try.

Goodbye Gumby

Gumbies were noticeably absent at this year's cold water rescue training. Not to be confused with the actual green claymation wedgehead, these were 1990s-era GLIFWC officers struggling to conduct cold water training in tight-fitting orange suits. The robot-like motions wardens found themselves making spawned the nickname "Gumby suits." Leaky, rigid, and cumbersome, replacing GLIFWC's eight-year-old rescue suits was a high priority, White said.

"The overall workability of our new suits is exceptional," White said. "They are easy to put on and remove, and the gloves make working with your hands much easier."

The suits are made of two layers. The inner portion is a wetsuit, highly effective in keeping the occupant dry. The outerlayer is buoyant, providing additional insulation and acts like a personal floatation device.

Many wardens who had on more than a single undershirt quickly broke a sweat after working in the suits for a short time.

"With this type of suit it's possible to conduct a rescue alone, or at least keep a person afloat until someone comes and pulls you in," said rescue instructor and GLIFWC officer, John Mulroy. "Ideally, there should be two or more people to get a victim out of the water. Because of the effects of hypothermia, the victim often won't be able to speak coherently, let alone hold onto a rope. So our training involves going into the water, attaching a line to the victim, and then getting pulled to safety."



Rescue instructor and GLIFWC officer John Mulroy (center) explains cold water rescue techniques to GLIFWC conservation enforcement staff during annual winter training in Ashland. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

When my turn came to join the exercise, I was pleasantly surprised after narrowly sliding into a borrowed suit. A watertight hood and facemask left only my eyes and nose exposed. Standing on the edge of the ice, I did a little bending and stretching to test my mobility. Soon, snowballs began plunking into my back—a little encouragement from some wardens behind me who thought I might chicken out.

I joined a group of officers on the frozen lake preparing ropes used to haul waterlogged victims onto safe ice. Mulroy knotted one end of a rescue line onto my suit clasp and sent me out to open water where a "victim" splashed around calling for help.

Entering the water was accomplished by kneeling down near the edge

of the ice and gradually rolling in, mindful that the lifeline stays untangled. It took some awkward bobbing around to find balance after I slipped into the water. The officer I planned to rescue motioned for me to do what appeared like a self-bear hug. With my hands under my armpits, I squeezed out the air trapped in my suit and gained equilibrium.

The ensuing rescue attempt was successful. I maneuvered behind the officer and attached a harness, binding us together. Tapping my head with a free hand, I signaled the rescue team and they pulled us to safety on thick ice.

Afterwards, Mulroy sent me back into the water to play the victim. Warm and dry, I didn't mind in the least. It sure beat slogging around in my rain poncho.

Snowmobile safety taught by GLIFWC wardens

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Lac Courte Oreilles, Wis.—Thirteen youth were certified to operate snowmobiles following the on-reservation snowmobile safety course held at Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) in February.

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) wardens have been offering the course to both tribal and non-tribal youth since 1988, according to Sgt. Ken Rusk, GLIFWC warden and certified snowmobile safety instructor.

Rusk says the course will be mandatory in Wisconsin for anyone born in 1985 or after. Current law states youth must be twelve to operate a snowmobile, but eleven year-olds can take the safety course.

At LCO, the course is jointly instructed by GLIFWC wardens Ken Rusk and Kris Kessenich, and George Morrow, LCO conservation officer.

During the February class, Cory Fossum, a newly hired GLIFWC warden, also qualified to instruct snowmo-

bile safety courses, which GLIFWC wardens offer on most other member reservations.

"We don't teach the kids how to drive snowmobiles," Rusk says, but to understand the rules and regulations governing snowmobiles and safe operation of the machines.

The course emphasizes safety by encouraging the buddy system and teaching the meaning of signs used along snowmobile routes and snowmobile regulations, like the 10 mph. speed limit and 100' distance required when near ice fishermen.

At LCO, the course is divided into two sessions, and both written and practical testing takes place. The written test requires students to know the laws and signs relating to snowmobiling. The practical exam, taken outside on snowmobiles, checks for safe operating practices.

GLIFWC wardens also offer boating and ATV safety courses on reservation during the summer months, and hunter safety classes in the fall. For information on classes, contact the GLIFWC satellite enforcement office on each GLIFWC member reservation.

Use of defibrillators adds to warden first response skills



Ken Rusk, left, and Cory Fossum train with one of GLIFWC Enforcement's five new defibrillators. Warden staff attended several days of training at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, Ashland, on use of the defibrillators and First Responder training. The defibrillators and training were funded by the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), which also provided updated cold-water rescue equipment and radio equipment for GLIFWC officers. (Photo by COR)

Harvest opportunities ahead Upcoming off-reservation, treaty seasons

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

Seasons may vary some from state to state, or from tribe to tribe. However, some of the opportunities for off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering in April through June 2001 are as follows:

Wisconsin 1837, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

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

Minnesota 1837 Treaty ceded territory

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

Michigan 1836, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

- Spearing
- Netting
- Hook and line
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Maple sap gathering

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



GLIFWC and tribal natural resources staff meet with Bad River fishermen at a February 27 spearers' meeting.



Lac du Flambeau's Tom Maulson (left) and Mic Isham, Lac Courte Oreilles, were reelected to chair the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF) on January 11 at a meeting in Odanah, Wisconsin. The occasion marked the fourteenth consecutive one-year appointment as chairman for Maulson who also chairs the GLIFWC Board of Commissioners. VITF Vice Chairman Mic Isham is serving a fourth consecutive term. Isham is also Vice Chairman of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band.



GLIFWC Executive Administrator James Schlender awards Ed White, GLIFWC fisheries technician, with his ten-year pin during GLIFWC staff day on February 2nd. Recognition was given to 13 employees. Receiving five-year pins were Tim Tilson, warden, and James Mattson, warden. Receiving ten-year pins were Sharon Nelis, secretary, and Ed White, fisheries technician. Receiving fifteen-year pins were Ron Parisien, wildlife technician; Delores Martin, secretary; James Schlender, executive administrator; Jim Thannum, natural resource development specialist; Rose Wilmer, executive secretary; Kim Campy, enforcement administrative assistant; Gerald L. White, chief warden; Gerald DePerry, deputy administrator; and Peter David, wildlife biologist.

Photos by Charlie Otto Rasmussen

New GLIFWC conservation enforcement officers hired in January

Cory Fossum

Hometown: Grantsburg, WI
Experience/education: Bachelor of Science, Law Enforcement, Mankato State University
Station: St. Croix

Jim Stone

Home reservation: Bad River
Experience/education: former GLIFWC enforcement intern; Associate Degree, Political Science, Chippewa Valley Technical College.
Station: Bad River

Roger McGeshick Jr.

Home reservation: Mole Lake Sokaogon
Experience/education: GLIFWC Enforcement Officer 1988-1993; Mole Lake Tribal Chairman.
Station: Mole Lake

An additional GLIFWC conservation enforcement position is open at Mille Lacs. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the GLIFWC enforcement office in Odanah (715) 682-6619.



New conservation enforcement staff are, from the left, Cory Fossum, Jim Stone and Roger McGeshick.

Bad River woman keeps traditional tanning skills alive

(Continued from Page 1)

fleshing pole, and it should be built to fit you. The fleshing pole is a large, thick pole held up on one end by a wooden brace, similar to a sawhorse, and touching the ground on the far end. The hide is laid over the pole, neck end up, and a scraping tool is used to remove the hair and epidermis by carefully scraping downward on the hide. "You generally start in the center of the hide and work out, because the belly of the hide is the softest," Sis states. The fleshing pole should be of a height that allows the person to use their arms without bending over the pole.

Care must be taken not to tear the hide while scraping. Sis has two scrapers made of wood pieces about 18" long and 2 1/2" square with a dull, metal blade set into the center of one side. One of the blades was made from an old metal ruler, but the edge was rounded.

Once the hair and epidermis is removed, the hide is flipped over and any excess fat on the underside scraped off. The hide is then air-dried, resulting in a brittle, translucent piece of rawhide which can be stored for years if desired.

Rawhide has its own traditional uses, Sis explains. Ojibwe people use rawhide to cover drums, for use in snowshoes, drumsticks, or to make parfleches (box-like containers to protect items such as eagle feathers).

But if it's a soft, supple piece of buckskin you're after, the process continues. The next step requires the brain solution. Sis crosses over to the stove and quickly lifts the lid from a white kettle, inviting you to take a whiff of the brew before slapping the cover back on. From the smell of it, one knows brain-tanning could not be considered for any form of aromatherapy!

Sis uses three deer brains per hide, simmering them in a gallon of water for 20-30 minutes. The brains become a jelly-like substance, and the solution looks milky white. Sis notes that hard-

wood ashes may be used with the brain solution.

The rawhide is laid out flat and the jelly-like glob of brain is taken from the solution and rubbed into the rawhide to soften it. Then the hide is slowly immersed in the solution. Sis usually uses a gallon ice cream bucket because it has a tight-fitting lid to prevent accidental spillage of the smelly brew. The hide softens as it is immersed, until the entire stiff hide is like a wadded up tee shirt in the bucket. (It's similar to immersing a lasagna noodle that slowly relaxes into the water.)

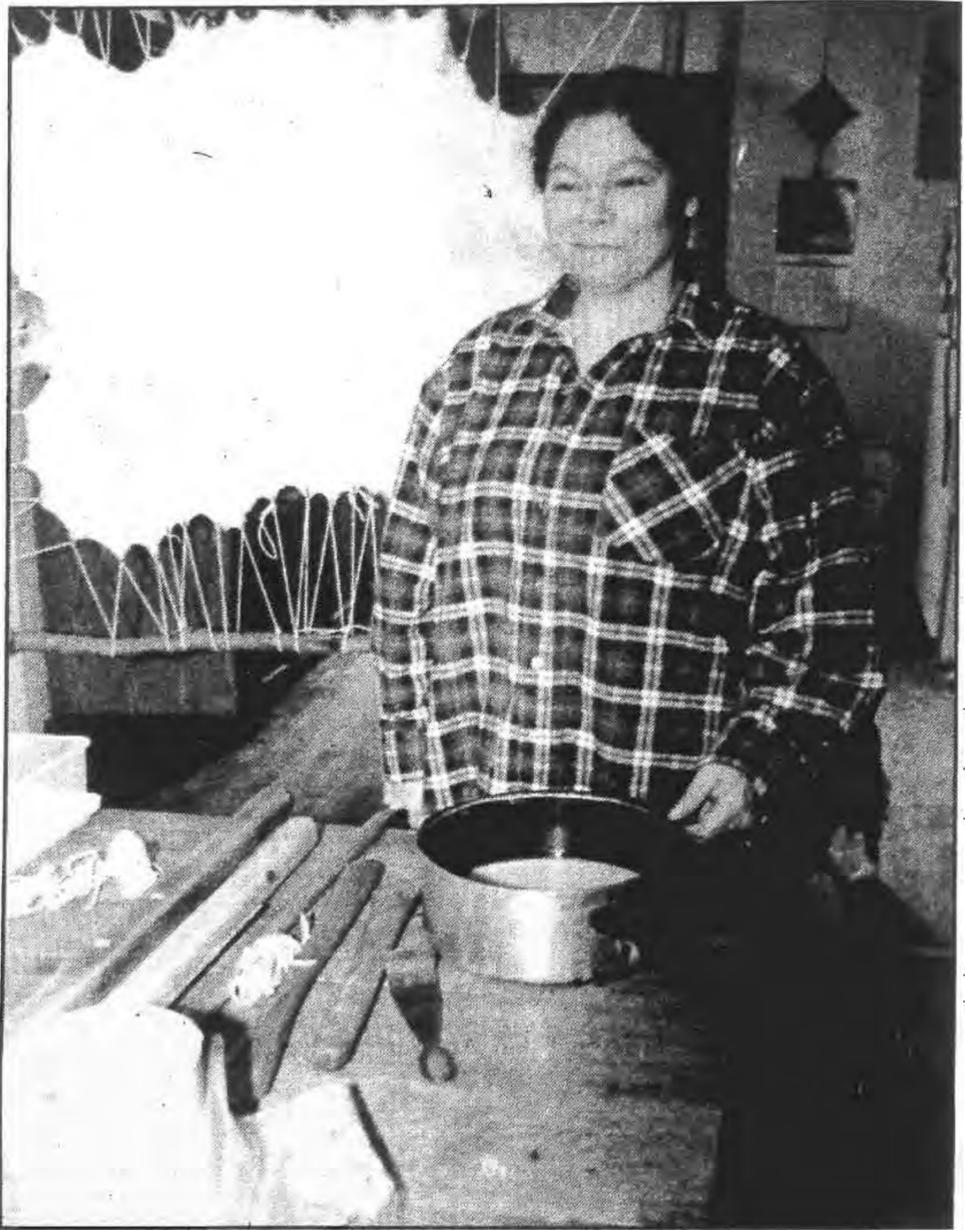
It is important to submerge the entire hide. Sis places a plate and a rock on top of it to make sure the hide remains under the solution. The hide must be soaked until it is porous, which can be days, depending on the temperature and the hide. Sis works the hide five or six times while it's in the solution. Stretching and pulling it with her fingers to loosen the membranes, she goes around the entire hide.

She tests for readiness by forming a small bubble pocket with the hide. If the solution runs through the hide and the bubble collapses, it's ready. If the solution stays in the bubble, it must soak longer. There's no rushing the process; patience is required to obtain the desired product.

After the hide has become porous, all the brain solution must be wrung out. To do this, the hide is rolled up, forming a long rolled strip, then wrapped around a tree, making a loose loop. A smooth stick is inserted in the loop and used to twist the hide until it's twisted tightly against the tree trunk. This wrings all the solution from the hide.

You twist and wring until the hide becomes almost dry. The color begins to turn white from the brownish hue of rawhide.

Thoroughly wringing the hide will save work down the road, Sis says. When the hide dries, any remaining (See From deerhide, Page 13)



Three deer brains per hide is Sis Wiggins' recipe for the brain-tanning solution she uses. Above, Sis shows a pot of the brain solution, into which a whole deer hide can be squished, and other tools of the tanning trade—various scrapers, ropes, and sticks for twisting and wringing the hide.

Text and photos by Sue Erickson



After a deer skin has been soaked in brain solution and wrung, it is stretched on a frame and scraped further with a well-rounded paddle. The process breaks down the membranes of skin, producing a soft texture and a creamy white color.



Kathleen (Sis) Wiggins, Bad River, shows the small pieces of hardwood she uses in conjunction with pulverized punk wood in the homemade smoker for smoking or tanning a hide.

From deerhide to moccasins or dance dress, the process requires patience and watchfulness

(Continued from page 12)
solution will form a yellowish tinge that will have to be scraped off.

For the next step, stretching, it is nice to have two people. Sis believes tanning is supposed to be done by a man and a woman together, because parts of the process, such as wringing, require the strength of a man, and other parts require the patience of a woman. Unfortunately, Sis's partner of nine years unexpectedly walked on last year, so she must become creative in accomplishing some of these tasks.

To stretch the hide, two people pull the hide, turn it a little, pull, and keep turning it until you've stretched all the way around the hide. On her own, Sis puts a thick towel over a wooden chair back, lays the hide evenly over it, and pulls down.

If there are any holes in the hide, those should be sewn together at this point. It is critical not to have holes in the body of the hide for smoking.

To continue stretching the hide, small holes are punched in the outer edges of the hide about every three inches. Thin, sturdy rope is laced into the holes, as the skin is stretched in a frame of four poles. The lacing should all be done from one direction, so that it can be tightened, to keep the hide taut.

As it dries on the frame, Sis works the hide with a wooden paddle until the hide is dry and soft. The wooden paddle, with a well-rounded end, breaks the membranes of the skin, producing the soft, supple texture of fine buckskin. At this point, the buckskin is very soft and white.

Some people love the pure white color and use the buckskin without smoking it.

The smoking process adds the soft brown hues. It also makes it more waterproof.

Before smoking, the buckskin must be made into a sleeve that can be fit around the small, round smoker. Pieces of canvas are added to both ends of the skin (neck and butt ends), then the skin is folded in half and sewn together lengthwise, forming a long sleeve, with canvas on both ends. Some of the old-timers used to call this "making the bologna," she says. This is also why it is important to have the hide removed symmetrically when the deer is skinned, Sis notes.

The smoker is made from a large round cookpot, about 18" in diameter. It must have a hole in the side of the pot to allow airflow and a grate in the bottom. Sis also uses two coffee cans, in which there are hardwood coals.

Pulverized punk wood, such as punk white pine, punk alder, or punk birch, is thrown in on top of the hardwood coals in a coffee can. (Punk wood refers to rotten wood that can easily be pulverized.)

The can is placed inside the smoke pot. The larger end of the sleeve is fitted around the circumference of the smoke pot and the narrow end is attached to a tree limb above, allowing the smoke to fill the buckskin sleeve. The second coffee can is ready with hardwood coals and pulverized punk wood in case the first can is used up.



Deer hides that have been scraped and cleaned can be stored for indefinite periods of time as raw hide, a very stiff dry product, before being soaked in brain solution and tanned. Sis Wiggins holds a piece of rawhide in her right hand and a soft, supple piece of brain-tanned buckskin in her left.

"Remember—NO FLAME!" Sis emphasizes. The smoker must produce smoke, but never flame. Never use birch bark as it will produce flames and blacken the skin, she warns. Also if any rough tufts of fiber have been left on the skin's meat side, they have a tendency to ignite. So, tufts should be pulled off before smoking.

The type of pulverized punk wood used, such as white pine or alder, determines the hue of the tan. Alder tends to have a redder hue, and white pine is lighter, Sis says.

While smoking you have to keep peeking inside at the skin, and you NEVER LEAVE the skin unattended. Once the desired color is there, the sleeve needs to be reversed and the other side smoked. Each side takes approximately ten minutes. Longer smoking time makes a deeper color.

Sis especially enjoys smoking the deerskin. The smoke fills the skin, making it billow. "It takes on the shape of the deer again and moves, as if it had come to life," she explains.

Sis sits at her kitchen table sipping tea, sharing freely her knowledge of traditional brain-tanning, concerned that all parts of the process are adequately presented. As elders walk on, the knowledge of these practices goes with them. Sis is determined this knowledge be shared and encourages people to try it. There's a great deal of satisfaction in transforming the skin into something both practical and beautiful. No factory-tanned hide can compete with the quality and texture of a brain-tanned buckskin, Sis says. It's durable but soft enough to easily bead and sew.

Sis' work is seasonal. Much of the tanning process she prefers to do out-

side when it's not so cold, but she is also set up to do most of it inside if necessary.

Brain-tanning isn't Sis's only traditional skill. She makes cradle boards, traditional hominy and other native

foods. She sews and beads, making her first buckskin dance dress and beaded bag at the age of 16. She makes moccasins, using one of her late great grandmother, Annie Stone's patterns, and choppers (mits), vests for men, as well as leggings, cuffs, and aprons. She finger weaves sashes and does feather and some quillwork.

Her work is usually on the way out the door when completed. Not much is sitting around the house as ornaments or to show. Sis treasures the value of culture and heritage in her work. Only a few are fortunate enough to receive as gifts or to trade with Sis for her work. She has also taken time to work with family and friends on special projects.

Sis' work is truly a labor of love—love for those who have passed on these skills, love for the Ojibwe culture that her products express, and love for the spirits of plants and animals that have given of themselves. Her hope is to allow them to live again.

"It's taken most of my lifetime to learn these skills and techniques. They have been shared with me by family and friends that have long passed on, and by family and friends of today who respect and share our culture and heritage," Sis explains. "This needs to be handed down and live with our people forever."

Sis credits many people for helping her. Besides Mike Wiggins and Vince Bender, both from Bad River, the late Gordon LeGarde Jr., Grand Portage, Minn.; Terry Hudson, Wheat Ridge, Colorado; and her brother Steven Wiggins, Bad River, have made many of the tools she uses during tanning, such as the scrapers, frames and fleshing poles.



Smoking the hide is the last step of the long process to produce a brain-tanned buckskin. The hide is hung over the smoke pot, after attaching canvas to both ends of the hide and sewing it together lengthwise. The smoke pot should produce no flame as the hide can easily ignite. It requires careful tending and intermittent checking to see if the desired color is obtained.

"It takes on the shape of the deer again and moves, as if it had come to life."

—Sis Wiggins, Bad River

LCO Vice Chairman Mic Isham says Gaawiin—NO to the proposed transmission line

Editor's note: The following is the text of the testimony provided by Mic Isham, LCO vice chairman during a December 6, 2000 public hearing on the proposed Arrowhead-to-Weston transmission line.

My name is Michael J. Isham, Jr., and I am the Vice Chairman of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. We are a federally recognized tribe organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, 25 U.S.C., Sec. 462, et. seq.

We entered into treaties with the United States in 1836, 1837 and 1842. In these treaties, our chiefs negotiated long and hard to forever secure this beautiful 76,000 acres of our homeland. They also reserved the rights to fish, hunt and gather in the territories we ceded. This ceded territory encompasses roughly the top third of Wisconsin and parts of northern Michigan and Minnesota.

This territory is where we intend to live forever and feed countless generations off of the resources of the area. We must do everything in our power to protect our reserve and ceded territory and that is why we have so many concerns about the proposed power line project.

Before I list some of our concerns, I need to make something perfectly clear. Executive Order Number 13084, signed by President Clinton, requires entities such as the Wisconsin Public Service Commission to conduct a government-to-government consultation when any proposed projects may impact a federally recognized tribal nation.

This has not taken place with Lac Courte Oreilles.

This is a public hearing and I want to take the opportunity to re-state our opposition to the proposed Arrowhead-to-Weston project, but we are not the general public. Lac Courte Oreilles is a sovereign nation and compliance to the executive order has not taken place.

Lac Courte Oreilles, also known as LCO, has extremely high cancer rates. We are currently doing many studies to help us find out why. One factor that might be



Mic Isham, LCO vice chairman.

having effects on us is the ELF project near the east end of our reservation in Clam Lake, Wisconsin. ELF stands for extremely low frequencies, which literally bombard us daily with electromagnetic fields.

Now there is a possibility that this transmission line will go on the west side of our reservation, so basically we could be sandwiched between ELF and the transmission line bombarding us daily with increased magnetic fields, stray voltage and harmonics. We fear this will elevate our cancer rates even more, when our cancer rates are already unacceptably high. Experts for the utility companies state there is inconclusive evidence of transmission lines causing cancer. I believe that the burden of proof should rest on the utility companies to first provide absolute proof that transmission lines of any size will not cause cancer.

We are also concerned for our sacred mother earth and the traditional foods and materials she continues to provide us. If this project is approved, many of our subsistence resources, medicinal plants and cultural sites are potentially in jeopardy. What will affect mother earth affects her children.

LCO, like many of our neighbors, relies on tourism.

We believe potential environmental damage, health factors, and ugly transmission lines will negatively affect our primary industry in the north.

In addition, we are concerned about who will profit from this proposal. It appears that the majority of economic benefit will go to corporations, people in other cities, profiteers at the coal plants and foreign suppliers. Once again, the rural residents in the north receive little opportunity for economic gains from local employment of localized generation. They get the proverbial goldmine and we get the proverbial shaft.

Corporations have enormous political clout. We do not have the numbers to drive the political machine, so we get projects like ELF and the transmission line shoved into our lives. We call this "Environmental Injustice." Ignoring sovereign tribal nations and ignoring the executive order are what we believe to be "Environmental Racism."

So what is new? History is repeating itself. Back in 1923, a federal power commission forced another electrical project on us. They ignored the devastating effects of their project on the LCO people and flooded our villages, cultural sites, burial grounds, wild rice beds and thousands of acres of forests. We cannot allow any more losses to occur.

Manitoba Hydro, a big player in this project, has created the same devastation for our Cree brothers and sisters to the north, by flooding over their ancestral lands. Although we support tribal self-determination and self-governance, we could never support a project by a company that puts greed and money as a priority over the suffering of the Indigenous people, especially when a tribal nation comes to us expressing their concerns.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board supports local generation and alternative renewable sources of electrical generation as the best and most efficient method for meeting a particular community's needs. We believe a 250-mile transmission line is the least efficient method, especially when people who will not bear the burden or the negative impacts will gain the profits and benefits.

We are the ones who have to bear the burdens and we are the ones who should decide and we say "Gaawiin"—"NO"—to the proposed Arrowhead to Weston transmission line.

EPA picks director for Indian Environmental Office

Chicago, Ill.—The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has selected William Dew as the first director of its Indian Environmental Office. Several acting directors have filled the position since it was created while the Region conducted a nationwide search for a permanent director.

Dew brings his experience in health and environmental activities, which include work at the national, as well as area office and tribal nation levels. Dew began work in early January 2001.

He was previously employed at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service—Indian Health Service (IHS), Urban Indian Health Program where he managed a wide variety of program oversight and administrative management functions.

Dew's previous positions include serving as associate director, Office of Tribal Activities and Self Governance for IHS in Nashville, Tennessee, as well as director of the Cherokee Nation Department of Health and Human Services, a position he achieved after service as deputy director there.

Dew has worked in the private sector as a consultant for the Environmental Consultants Lab in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as well as an environmental health coordinator with IHS in Oklahoma City.

His academic background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Northeastern Oklahoma State University, and a master's degree in public health with a concentration in environmental health science from the University of California, Berkeley.

Articles reprinted from *Tribal Communications*, a publication of Region 5 EPA

Tribal wetland program highlights

Chicago, Ill.—The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Wetlands Office in Washington has released a publication, Tribal Wetland Program Highlights, to support the development of comprehensive tribal wetland programs.

Eleven case studies are presented that highlight experiences of tribal organizations and feature varying components of tribal programs, including tools and strategies currently employed

to protect and restore wetlands and watersheds.

These case studies are presented so that Tribes, as well as State and local governments can learn from the experience of others.

Copies of the publication can be ordered from the Wetlands Helpline, 800-832-7828, or fax a request, 703-748-1308. The publication is available also at the EPA Office of Water Web site, www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands.



A sign, near Superior, Wisconsin, in opposition to the proposed transmission line. (Photo by Lynn Plucinski)

Recent developments in the Crandon Mine review process

**By Ann McCammon Soltis
GLIFWC Policy Analyst**

Odanah, Wis.—A number of issues have arisen recently that are related to the state and federal reviews of the Crandon mine permit application.

As a result, the issuance of state and federal draft Environmental Impact Statements will have to wait until thorough review of these issues is complete.

Water flowing from the TMA may violate groundwater quality standards

Nicolet Mining Company's (NMC's) model to calculate how much water should move through the tailings

management area (TMA) significantly underestimates the amount of water that will flow out of the TMA into the surrounding aquifers.

GLIFWC staff recently discovered that the model fails to incorporate a fundamental law of physics—called "Darcy's Law"—that governs the movement of water through porous material.

Both state and federal regulators are assessing this model flaw, and apparently it will not be difficult to modify NMC's model to comply with Darcy's Law.

However, once the model is appropriately modified, it appears that 3 to 5 times more water will leave the TMA than NMC's model currently predicts.

If this is true, the accompanying larger amount of contaminants may re-

sult in violations of groundwater quality standards.

NMC predicts reflooded mine will violate groundwater quality standards

In December 2000, NMC filed an addendum to its mine permit application entitled "Reflooded Mine Management Plan" (RMMP). The RMMP addresses regulatory requirements regarding the closure and reflooding of the mine.

The RMMP reveals that the reflooded mine will cause violations of Wisconsin's groundwater quality standards even with a number of contaminant control and management techniques. In particular, enforcement standards for sulfate will be violated and preventive action limits for at least four other contaminants, including lead and nitrates, will be exceeded. These predictions assume that the proposed contaminant control techniques are 95% effective.

Based upon NMC's analysis, it is neither economically nor technologically feasible to meet Wisconsin's groundwater standards for these contaminants. The RMMP is based on what NMC calls "best engineering judgment."

It states that current technology and control techniques cannot prevent

groundwater contamination. Moreover, the company admits in the RMMP that it is not economically feasible to do so.

Neither GLIFWC staff nor the WDNR have fully evaluated all of the assumptions and calculations underlying NMC's groundwater contamination predictions. Based on past experience in assessing the company's previous groundwater flow and contamination predictions, further analysis likely will show an increase in the number and magnitude of groundwater quality standard violations.

Corps shifts responsibility for EIS preparation

The Corps recently announced that it will shift responsibility for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Regulatory Branch will remain responsible for the section 404 permit and any permit conditions, but the Environmental and Economic Analysis Branch will now oversee the preparation of the EIS.

The Corps' stated reason for the shift is that the Environmental and Economic Analysis Branch has more experience preparing National Environmental Policy Act documents than the Regulatory branch does. How this shift will impact the federal permit process remains unclear.

Honoring Walter – A friend, warrior, and advocate



On February 23 a walk, ceremonies and feast at the Red Cliff Bingo Hall honored Red Cliff's Walter Bresette, who walked on two years ago. Master of Ceremonies for the event, Judy Pratt-Shelley noted Walter's many accomplishments as an Indian activist and advocate for Mother Earth, saying she missed him as a leader, advisor and friend. Those sentiments were shared by a crowded roomful of Walter's friends and family.

Leigha Peacock and Sandy Gokee, pictured above, danced holding Walter's picture during an Honor Song for Walter. Leigha is the daughter of Julie and Guy Defoe, Red Cliff, and Sandy is the daughter of Betty Kerr and Mark Gokee. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Crandon Mine project sold to Billiton

Toronto, Ontario—Rio Algom Limited ("Rio Algom") announced in December that it will transfer its interests in its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Atlas Ideal Metals Inc. ("Atlas Ideal") and NAMD Inc. ("NAMD") to wholly-owned subsidiaries of Billiton ("Billiton").

Atlas Ideal and NAMD, directly and through subsidiaries, carry on Rio Algom's metals distribution business. In addition, wholly owned subsidiaries of NAMD carry on Rio Algom's uranium mining activities in the United States and own the Nicolet exploration project near Crandon, Wisconsin.

These transactions will allow Rio Algom to achieve an orderly and certain transfer of non-core assets at market value, permit it to concentrate and grow its core business of copper mining and relieve the company of the investment requirements necessary to maintain its competitive position in the consolidating metals distribution business.

From Billiton's perspective, the transaction will align Rio Algom's and Billiton's management structures and eliminate certain tax inefficiencies as-

sociated with Rio Algom's corporate structure.

A committee of independent directors of Rio Algom, established to review the transaction and the fair market value of the assets being sold, retained RBC Dominion Securities Inc. to provide independent valuation advice as to such value.

The total consideration to be received by Rio Algom for such interests (which consist of all of the common shares of Atlas Ideal and NAMD and the indebtedness of such companies and their subsidiaries to Rio Algom) is approximately US \$410 million which is within the range of fair market values as determined by RBC Dominion Securities.

Of this consideration approximately US \$350 million will be loaned by Rio Algom to another wholly-owned Canadian subsidiary of Billiton on market terms with the loan fully guaranteed, as to both principal and interest, by Billiton.

Billiton is a U.K. public company, listed on the London Stock Exchange, which indirectly owns 100% of the common shares of Rio Algom.

Student/Youth Mine Summit

Friday—Sunday, April 27-29th, 2001

Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa Community, WI

Students will observe first-hand the delicate watershed that is threatened by the proposed Crandon mine. Visits and talks from tribal elders, tribal youth and other mining experts, and workshops will follow the tour. A finalized agenda will be sent out upon completion. For more information contact Dana Churness (715) 295-9997, Debi McNutt (608) 246-2256, or for tribal students and other tribal youth contact Christine Munson (715) 675-8642.

EPA recommends using mercury in fish to set water quality standards

Odanah, Wis.—The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is recommending that government agencies responsible for setting water quality standards now base those standards on the concentrations of methylmercury in fish tissues for the purpose of protecting human health.

Water quality standards are set by tribal, state, and federal government agencies and are used to regulate the amount of pollutant to a particular water body.

Methylmercury, which is considered the most toxic form of mercury, is at very low concentrations in rivers and lakes. How low you may ask?

Well, think of it this way. If every molecule of mercury was equal to one red dot and every molecule of water was one blue dot, the concentration of mercury in the waters of northern Wisconsin generally would be about 4 red dots to every one trillion blue dots.

Because these concentrations are so low, it is very difficult and expensive to accurately measure mercury levels in water.

However, methylmercury accumulates in fish tissue to concentrations that can exceed 1,000,000 times the concentration in the water. These higher concentrations of mercury in fish tissue makes it much easier and less expensive to monitor.

The EPA defends their new approach not just based on the ease of testing but also because fish consumption is the main pathway that people are exposed to methylmercury. So using the mercury numbers from fish to set water quality standards is viewed as a logical way to meet EPA's objective of protecting human health.

Currently, it is unclear if and when this concept will be implemented. It will likely be several months until we know if this idea will become reality.

*Articles by Kory Groetsch
GLIFWC Environmental Biologist*

EPA and FDA team up to issue a national fish advisory on mercury

The EPA and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) both issued new national fish consumption advisories on January 12, 2001. The FDA's advice pertains to fish purchased at stores or restaurants while the EPA's advice pertains to freshwater fish harvested by individuals directly from local waterbodies.

Both agencies focus their advice toward women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and young children (i.e., the sensitive population).

The FDA has made their advice more stringent from past advice. The FDA now recommends women do not eat four species of ocean fish (e.g., shark, swordfish, king mackerel, and tilefish) and limit their consumption of

other purchased fish to 12 ounces per week (see FDA Advice).

Previous FDA advice allowed limited consumption of shark (7 ounces/week) and 2.2 pounds per week of other store purchased fish. FDA testing found that the average methylmercury in shark and swordfish was approximately four times greater than the average mercury found in canned tuna (Table 1). The EPA's national advice is that the sensitive population eat no more than one 8-ounce (precooked weight) meal per week of freshwater fish caught by family and friends (see EPA Advice).

The EPA emphasizes that this is general advice and that people should follow local fish consumption advisories posted by state and tribal governments.

FDA announces advisory on methylmercury in fish

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing its advice to pregnant women and women of childbearing age who may become pregnant on the hazard of consuming certain kinds of fish that may contain high levels of methylmercury.

The FDA is advising these women not to eat shark, swordfish, king mackerel, and tilefish. As a matter of prudent public health advice, the FDA is also recommending that nursing mothers and young children not eat these fish as well.

Fish such as shark, swordfish, king mackerel, and tilefish contain high levels of a form of mercury called methylmercury that may harm an unborn baby's developing nervous system. These long-lived, larger fish that feed on smaller fish accumulate the highest levels of methylmercury and therefore pose the greatest risk to the unborn child.

The FDA advisory acknowledges that seafood can be an important part of a balanced diet for pregnant women and those of childbearing age who may become pregnant.

FDA advises these women to select a variety of other kinds of fish—including shellfish, canned fish, smaller ocean fish or farm-raised fish—and that these women can safely eat 12 ounces per week of cooked fish. A typical serving size of fish is from 3 to 6 ounces.

(Reprinted from the FDA website.)

Species of Fish	Methylmercury (mg/kg)	
	Range	Average
Shark	0.30 — 3.52	0.84
Swordfish	0.36 — 1.68	0.88
Tuna (canned)	ND — 0.34	0.20
Tuna (fresh or frozen)	ND — 0.76	0.38

Table 1. Methylmercury concentrations reported by the FDA for four kinds of commercially sold fish.

Some advice from the EPA on mercury consumption

If you are pregnant or could become pregnant, are nursing a baby, or if you are feeding a young child, limit consumption of freshwater fish caught by family and friends to one meal per week.

For adults one meal is six ounces of cooked fish or eight ounces uncooked fish; for a young child one meal is two ounces cooked fish or three ounces uncooked fish. Many states collect data on mercury levels in fish from local waters. Check with your state or local health department for specific advice on waters where your family and friends are fishing.

In addition, the FDA has issued advice on mercury in fish bought from stores and restaurants, which includes ocean and coastal fish as well as other types of commercial fish.

FDA advises that women who are pregnant or could become pregnant, nursing mothers and young children not eat shark, swordfish, king mackerel, or tilefish.

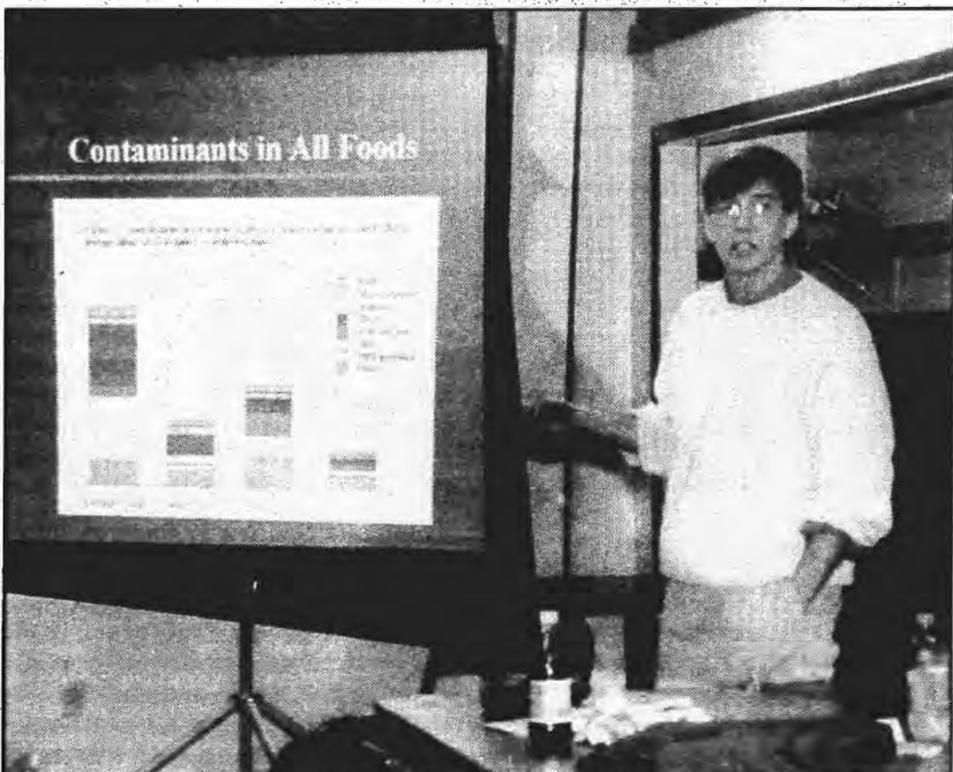
FDA also advises those women of childbearing age and pregnant women may eat an average of 12 ounces of fish purchased in stores and restaurants each week. Therefore, if in a given week you eat 12 ounces of cooked fish from a store or restaurant, then do not eat fish caught by your family or friends that week. This is important to keep the total level of methylmercury contributed by all fish at a low level in your body.

EPA recommends that women who are or could become pregnant, nursing mothers and young children follow the FDA advice for coastal and ocean fish caught by family and friends. Check with your local or state health department for specific advice.

Fish is a good source of protein and adequate protein is necessary for a baby and child's healthy development. If fish caught by family and friends is your primary source of protein, try substituting meat, poultry, eggs, or dairy products.

If you can't get these sources of protein, ask your State or local health department about other ways to meet your and your child's nutritional needs.

(Reprinted from the FDA website.)



Kory Groetsch, GLIFWC environmental biologist, gives a talk on contaminant levels in foods. Groetsch is involved in testing mercury levels in fish from lakes frequently used by GLIFWC member tribes. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

AB 95, a bill to ban cyanide in Wisconsin mines

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Madison, Wis.—AB 95, a bill to ban use of cyanide in Wisconsin mines, has been introduced by Rep. Spencer Black and is currently in the Assembly's Committee on the Environment, chaired by Rep. Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn), for review.

The bill came to the committee on February 6th, and no action has been taken, according to a spokesperson at Kedzie's office.

The legislation in its entirety simply states: "No person may conduct mining or metallic ore processing using cyanide or a cyanide compound."

Montana has already adopted similar legislation in 1999, where widespread environmental damage has re-

sulted from the use of cyanide in mining operations over the years.

This bill is very pertinent in Wisconsin as the owners of the proposed Crandon mine, Billiton, a U.K. public company, propose to transport about 200 tons of cyanide to the Crandon mine annually, if the mine is permitted.

The bill, AB936, was introduced in the last legislative session, but died in committee, so was reintroduced in January for the current legislative session.

Susan McMurray, a spokesperson in Rep. Black's office, indicated concern about getting the Assembly to act on the bill. To date, no public hearings have been scheduled on the bill.

To encourage passage of the bill, contact your state representative or senator. Call 1-800-362-9472 to vote for the Bill to Ban Cyanide in Wisconsin Mines.



Longtime environmental advocates Sandy Lyons, Hayward, and Fran Van Zile, Mole Lake, at just one of the many gatherings held over the years to oppose the Crandon Mine project. Protection of our water resources is one of their key concerns. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Recent cyanide-related mine accidents in US

Colorado

In Colorado, spills of cyanide and other contaminants from the Summitville gold mine, owned by Galactic Resources Ltd, contributed to severe environmental problems on a 17-mile stretch of the Alamosa River.

The mine was opened in 1986, and abandoned in 1992. It is now a federal Superfund site. Estimated total cleanup costs range from \$170-200 million.

Montana

Pegasus Corporation recently closed the Zortman-Landusky gold mine in Montana. Opened in 1979, it was the first large-scale cyanide heap leach mine in the United States.

The mine experienced repeated leaks and discharges of cyanide solution throughout its operating life, resulting in wildlife deaths and severe contamination of streams and groundwater.

In 1998, Montana voters passed Initiative 137, which banned cyanide heap and vat leaching of metallic ores. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality reported that between 1982 and 1998 there were 62 spills or leaks of cyanide, some of which killed fish and wildlife.

Montana voters approved the ban by a 52-48% vote. Legal challenges have failed to overturn the ban.

Nevada

Following the failure of a leach pad structure in 1997, the Gold Quarry mine in Nevada released about 245,000 gallons of cyanide-laden waste into two local creeks.

In 1989 and 1990, a series of eight cyanide leaks occurred at Echo Bay Company's McCoy/Cove gold mine in Nevada, releasing a total of almost 900 pounds of cyanide into the environment.

South Dakota

On May 29, 1998, six to seven tons of cyanide-laced tailings spilled from the Homestake Mine into Whitewood Creek in the Black Hills of South Dakota, resulting in a substantial fish kill. It is likely to be years before the stream fully recovers.

(Reprinted from Mineral Policy Center)



Cyanide proves to be poison pill for mining

By Rep. Spencer Black

Madison, Wis.—"The Blue Danube" is one of the world's best known waltzes, but the Danube was not the fabled river of song and romance earlier this year. That's because a disastrous mining accident in Romania caused extensive damage to one of the Danube's cleanest tributaries, the Tisza River, and threatened the Danube River itself.

The disaster in Romania occurred when a dam, impounding cyanide laced mining waste, failed. The cyanide waste flooded the Tisza River, which is regarded as one of Europe's cleanest and most beautiful rivers, and moved downstream to the Danube.

The cyanide waste killed all life in the Tisza River and destroyed neighboring farmland. A cyanide solution is used to separate gold ore in the mining process.

Some scientists have said that there is a possibility that this river may never recover. Weeks after the spill, disaster continued when the spring thaw washed cyanide into nearby wells and threatened local water supplies.

Experts have said that this spill could rival a similar spill that occurred in Colorado and has cost more than \$170 million to cleanup.

Wisconsin should make special note of this disaster. Here, like in Europe, a foreign-owned mining company wants to open a sulfide mine near an important natural area—the Wolf River.

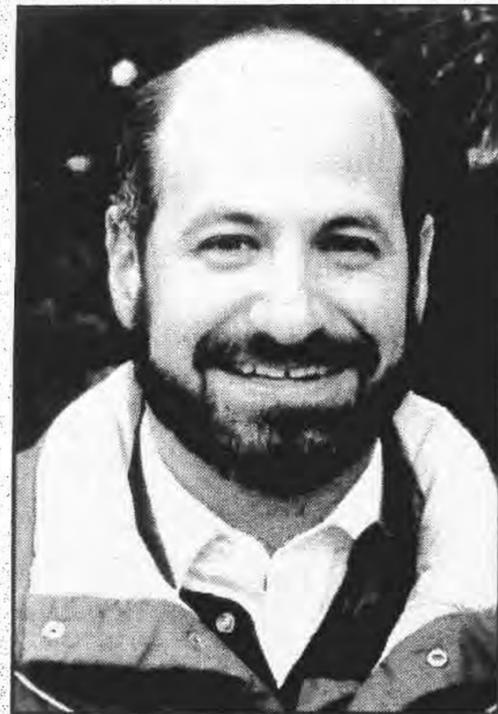
Like in Europe, the Crandon mine is also proposing to use cyanide to recover gold and silver that is contained in the ore. Here, like in Romania, the foreign owned mining company is promising that nothing will go wrong and that the environment will be protected.

Because of the dangers of cyanide, and the disasters seen across the world, I have introduced a bill in the legislature to ban the use of cyanide in mining operations in Wisconsin.

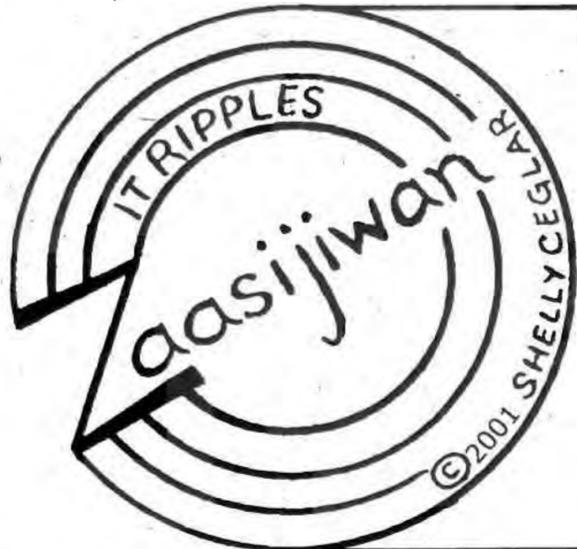
My bill would prevent a disaster such as the recent disaster in Romania and others that have been seen across the country. My goal is to seek passage of the cyanide ban in the next legislative session. The state of Montana has already adopted a similar law after suffering from widespread environmental damage from mining operations using cyanide.

The residents of Wisconsin were not convinced by mining company promises that new technology would allow them to mine safely when, two years ago they supported my efforts to pass the mining moratorium bill. Sadly, the residents of Romania, Yugoslavia and Hungary learned their lesson the hard way.

Now Wisconsin can again learn a valuable lesson from others and pass a bill to protect Wisconsin's natural resources from the use of cyanide in mining.



Representative Spencer Black.



Ziigwan — It is Spring

Ani-ziigwan, ningiizhi'aa manidoominensikaan. Ningii-mazinigwaadaan i'iw wiiwakwaan. Ningii-mazinigwaadaanan iniw makizinan. Gaye, ningii-mazinigwaanaa a'aw gashkibidaagan, idash ningii-mazinigwaanaang ingiw minjikaawanag. Noongom, ninga-izhaa agwajiing.

(When it is coming up in time—spring, I finish making him/her beaded project. I beaded/embroidered on it, that hat. I beaded on them moccasins. Also, I beaded on him/her that bandolier bag, and I beaded on them/those mittens. Now, I want to go outside.)

Bezhiig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Aaniin – as in father

Nagweyaab – as in jay

Ziigwan – as in seen

Noongom – as in moon

—Short vowels: A, I, O

Idash – as in about

Miskozi – as in tin

Ozaawaa – as in only

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

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

Pluralization

Verbs and nouns match when pluralized in a sentence. See VTI's (action transfers to nonliving noun) and VTA's (action transfers to a living noun).

aabinoojiiyens(ag)—baby(s)

jiimaan(an)—canoe(s)

Bimiwizh—Carry him/her!

Nimbimiwinaa abinoojiiyens.

I carry him/her the baby.

Nimbimiwinaag abinoojiiyensag.

I carry them the babies.

Bimiwidoon—Carry it!

Nimbimiwidoon jiimaan. I carry it a canoe.

Nimbimiwidoonan jiimaan.

I carry them the canoes.

Niizh—2

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

A. Aaniin enaanzowaad ingiw manidoominensag?

B. Miskoziwag ongow manidoominensag.

C. Aaniin enaadeg i'iw mashkimod?

D. Makadewaa o'ow mashkimod. Mazina'igani-maskimodens, ozaawaa.

E. Aaniin enaanzod a'aw memengwaa?

F. Ozaawizi dash miskozi a'aw memengwaa.

G. Inaande, naasaab nagweyaab.

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

Niswi—3

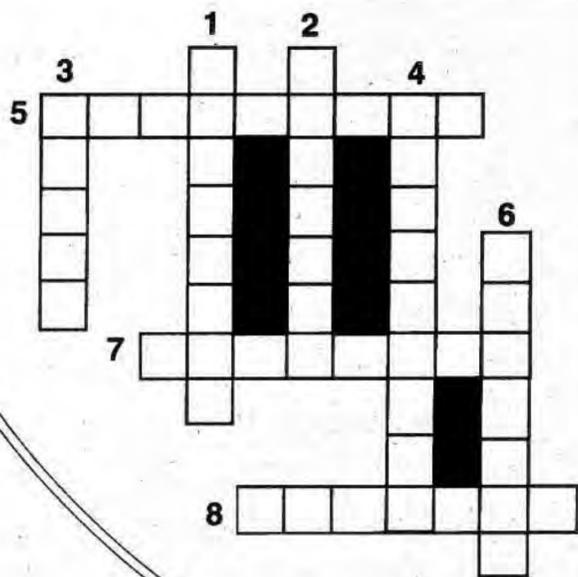
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. Carry him/her!
2. It is red.
3. Bear.
4. Outside.
6. Canoe.

Across:

5. Shoes
7. S/he is brown or yellow.
8. It is spring.



Niiwin—4

Colors and Pluralizations

Miskozi(wag)—S/he is red.(They are red.)

Miskwaa.(wan)—It is red.(they)

Makadewizi.(wag)—S/he is black.(they)

Makadewaa.(wan)—It is black.(they)

mitten(s)—minjikaawan(ag)

bear(s)—makwa(g)

hat(s)—wiiwakwaan(an)

shoe(s)—makazin(an)

Goojitoon! Try it!
Translation below.

1. Makadewizi _____, ingiw makwa _____.

2. Makadewaa _____, iniw makizin _____.

3. Miskwaa _____ iniw wiiwakwaan _____.

4. Miskozi _____ ingiw minjikaawan _____.

5. Miskozi _____ idash makadewaa _____ ingiw manidoominens _____.

wan
an
n
wag
ag
g

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. What color are they, those beads (animate)? B. They are red, these seed beads (little spirit seeds—animate). C. How is it colored that bag? D. It is black this bag. The paper-bag, it is brown/yellow. E. What color is s/he that butterfly? F. S/he is yellow and s/he is red. G. It is colored so, the same as a rainbow.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Bimiwizh. 2. Miskwaa. 3. Makwa. 4. Agwajiing. 6. Jiimaan. Across: 5. Makizinan. 7. Ozaawizi. 8. Ziigwan.

Niiwin—4 1. They are black, those bears. 2. They are black, those shoes. 3. They are red, those hats. 4. They are red, those mittens. 5. They are red and they are black, those beads.

There are various Ojibwe dialects, check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any foreign language translation

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St. Croix Youth Archery Club hosts first inter-tribal tournament

Hertel, Wis.—What happens when you combine bows, arrows, targets and awards with several youth archery teams from Wisconsin and Michigan? They have fun!

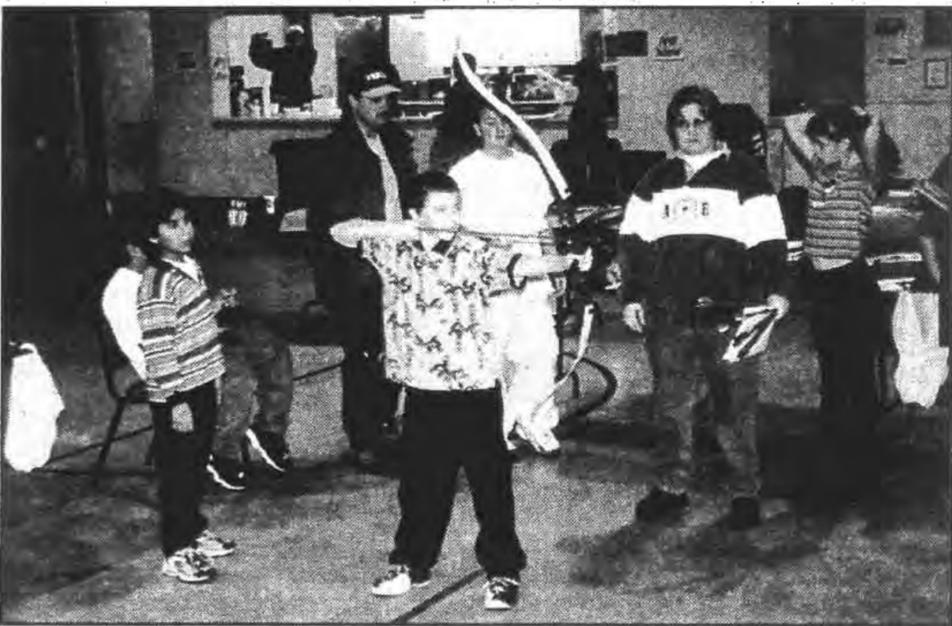
On Saturday, December 9, the St. Croix Tribal Archery Club Arrowheads hosted the first inter-tribal archery competition held at the Tribal Center in Hertel. It was held in conjunction with the 17th Annual TRAILS—Youth on the Red Road conference.

This year's conference theme was "Gang Prevention and Intervention Strategies," focusing on positive youth development. Conference coordinator and St. Croix Archery Club instructor Jeff Butler started the archery club last year as a positive youth activity through his AODA Prevention Program.

"If we are going to tell young people not to get involved with gangs, drinking and drugs, we should have them get involved with something. Archery can be that something," says Butler.

The St. Croix Archery Club meets every Wednesday night from 5:00—7:30 p.m. at the Family Resource Center or the Tribal Center.

Twenty-five young people ranging in age from 7 to 16 years old and one adult participated in the competition. One team traveled from the Lac Vieux Desert reservation in northern Michigan, bringing a team of 11 archers. The other team was from the Red Cliff reservation, north of Bayfield. The Red Cliff team brought down three members, while St. Croix had a total of 11 young archers. All were



St. Croix team member Dusty Soulier, 13 years old, takes aim while Brandon Geshick, 9 years old, checks out his teammate's form and technique. (Photo by Jeff Butler)

NAFWS Environmental Awareness Summer Youth Practicum

Broomfield, Colo.—The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) is proud to sponsor its 11th national Native American Environmental Awareness Summer Youth Practicum, scheduled for July 21-31, 2001, in Evergreen, Colorado.

The Practicum is designed to provide Native American students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the management of natural resources.

One of the goals of the NAFWS is to encourage Native American youth to see the importance of professional natural resource management, to continue their education in order to seek degrees in natural resource management, and, ultimately, to pursue careers in the natural resource fields.

The NAFWS believes in a re-awakening of the traditional values of Indian-to-environment relationships that are needed for tribes to make effective and sound natural resource management decisions.

The program provides an academic experience in a mountain youth camp environment.

During the program, students will spend their time at the Mt. Evans

Outdoor Education Lab School of the Jefferson County School District participating in classroom sessions, field education, recreational activities, field trips, traditional methods, and, most important, interaction with professional, cultural and spiritual people.

A unique aspect of the program is the use of Native American professionals who are active in the field and, even more important, the invaluable teachings from Tribal Elders.

The Youth Practicum is open to incoming 10-12th grade Native students who are interested in the preservation, protection, and enhancement of natural resources. Students must be in good physical condition as physical activities are a part of the Practicum.

For more information and/or an application, please write or call: Sally Carufel-Williams, Youth Practicum Coordinator, NAFWS, 750 Burbank Street, Broomfield, Colorado 80020. Phone: 303-466-1725 Fax: 303-466-5414

Applications must be postmarked and mailed by April 27, 2001. Only complete applications will be considered.

trying to win individual medals, team trophies and the traveling award, which would go to the team with the best sportsmanship and teamwork.

The competition was divided into age groups and distance. Competitors each shot a total of 20 arrows at targets, and judges would then count the points.

Many of the young archers showed excellent form and technique, hitting the bull's-eye for many was not just a lucky shot. If a bull's-eye was scored, they were given a 10x for the smaller circle, and a 10 for the next circle. The number of x's would be used as a tiebreaker if necessary. Several of the winners were decided upon by how many x's they had shot.

Team coaches were: St. Croix (SC) Coach Jeff Butler, Lac Vieux (LVD) Coach Blais Belousie, and Red Cliff (RC) Coach Dick Young.

Division I (7-9 year olds shooting recurves from 8 yards)

- 1st place male—Brandon Geshick, SC, 179 points
- 1st place female—Deanna Phernetton, SC, 87 points
- 2nd place male—Derek Churchill, SC, 76 points

Division II (10-12 year olds shooting recurves from 10 yards)

- 1st place male—Chris Fox, LVD, 179 points
- 1st place female—Farra Jackson, LVD, 156 points
- 2nd place male—Craig Fox, LVD, 177 points
- 2nd place female—KJ Parks, RC, 149 points
- 3rd place male—Charles DeFoe, RC, 158 points w/1-10x (tied with Shane Hartzog, LVD)
- 3rd place female—Laura Hartzog, LVD, 126 points w/1-10x (tied with Amber Merrill, SC)

Division III (13-16 year olds shooting recurves from 12 yards)

- 1st place male—Adam Leask, LVD, 146 points
- 1st place female—Lana McGeshick, LVD, 145 points
- 2nd place male—Mike Mallory, SC, 106 points
- 3rd place male—Dusty Soulier, SC, 89 points

Open Division (no age limit, compounds and recurves from 15 yards)

- 1st place, male—Raymond Haapala, LVD, 196 points
- 2nd place male—Alex Kopsi, LVD, 152 points
- 3rd place male—Tony Duclon, 73 points

Special Award

Inter-tribal traveling award for sportsmanship and teamwork was awarded to Red Cliff team coached by Dick Young.

Another inter-tribal archery competition scheduled for February 18th in Red Cliff was canceled due to weather conditions. This competition will be rescheduled to sometime in March.

(Reprinted from Vision, a publication of the St. Croix Chippewa Indians.)



The Red Cliff team displays their individual medals and the "Team Traveling Award" for sportsmanship and teamwork. Team members are, from the left, KJ Parks, Adam Leask and Charles DeFoe. (Photo by Jeff Butler)



A battle over a name in the land of the Sioux

A \$100-million donor's ultimatum

By Andrew Brownstein
Chronicle of Higher Ed.

Grand Forks, N.D.—The message came in March, when winter lingers and the frost still covers the silent prairie that surrounds the University of North Dakota.

The sender was anonymous. The recipient was Ira Taken Alive, a former student at the university who is a Lakota Sioux and the son of a tribal elder at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

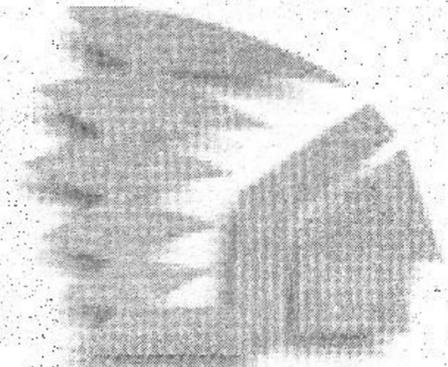
"I assume this is the guy who wants to change the Fighting Sioux name," the e-mail message began. Mr. Taken Alive, a junior in 1999, when he received the message, had challenged the name of the university's sports teams, which he felt demeaned his people and stood as a barrier to the progress of American Indians in general.

As he sat in front of his computer, he read on: "There are many people who want your head, no joking. I am not one of those people, but I have heard some nasty talk by people about doing stuff to you. So take this from me, a concerned human being, watch out for your life."

University officials were never able to trace the source. But Mr. Taken Alive says he had had enough—of the endless debates, the taunts, the vandalism to his car—that came from fighting the Fighting Sioux. In the fall, he transferred to another university; he returned quietly last summer to finish his degree.

Mascot controversies come and go in academe. But words can be costly in the ancestral home of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, on a campus where American Indians are the largest minority group.

This past December, it looked like the name debate might exact a very specific price: \$100-million. That was the amount that Ralph Engelstad, a Las Vegas casino owner, had promised to his alma mater, largely to build a luxurious new hockey arena that would bear his name. In a sharply worded letter



Fighting Sioux logo.

addressed to the university's president, he threatened to abandon the half-completed project, which he was personally overseeing, if the university dropped the Fighting Sioux name.

President Charles E. Kupchella, following protests by students and tribal leaders, had formed a commission that had been investigating the naming controversy for five months. He planned to announce his decision after New Year's. But a day after he and members of the State Board of Higher Education received the letter, the board launched a pre-emptive strike, voting 8-0 to keep the name.

It has not helped public relations at the university that its benefactor has a troubled past in the area of racial sensitivity. In 1988, Nevada authorities discovered that Mr. Engelstad had held two parties on Hitler's birthday, and kept a trove of Nazi paraphernalia at his Imperial Palace hotel and casino. He was fined \$1.5-million for damaging the reputation of the State of Nevada.

That the episode has turned surreal is a fact that not even the university's seasoned flacks try to conceal. "Oh, it's strange," says Peter B. Johnson, the college's spokesman. "It could be a movie script."

Grand Forks, population 49,000, sits where the Red Lake River meets the Red River of the North. But the university here may as well be the convergence of two worlds.

For most of the athletes and fans on this campus of 11,000, the Fighting

Sioux name is a source of pride and honor. The powerhouse men's hockey team won Division I's "Frozen Four" championship last year; over the decades, the team has sent 54 players to the National Hockey League.

The university can also lay claim to being one of the top institutions for American Indians in the country. It houses 25 American Indian programs—mostly financed with federal grants—including Native Directions, a quarterly student magazine of American Indian life and culture; an Indian studies major; and the Indians Into Medicine program, which credits itself with training a fifth of the Native American doctors in the country.

Yet, there is a disconnect. Many of the 350 American Indian students at North Dakota say that beneath the campus's Main Street friendliness lies a dark current of racism, a facet of university life that the name controversy has brought uncomfortably to the surface.

"They say they keep the name to honor and respect us, but those words have lost all meaning," says Alva Irwin, a Hidatsa Indian and senior majoring in social work and Indian studies. "How can they honor us by keeping something we clearly don't want?"

Once known as the Flickertails, the university's intercollegiate sports teams have been called the Sioux since 1930, when the name was changed to strike fear into the hearts of the Bison at rival North Dakota State University, in Fargo. There were no protests at the time, because there were virtually no American Indian students here. Native Americans didn't start attending the university in large numbers until the 1960's.

Once on campus, they saw that the use of the name extended far beyond athletics. In 1972, fraternity members at the now-defunct King Kold Karnival created a lurid sculpture of a naked Indian woman, with a sign reading "Lick 'em Sioux"; an American Indian student was briefly jailed after he got into a fight over the sculpture with fraternity members, sending three of them to the hospital.

Tensions ran high again in 1992, when onlookers at a homecoming parade performed the Atlanta Braves' "tomahawk chop" as dancing American Indian children passed on a float, and then yelled at them to "go back to the reservation."

As recently as this past fall, says one student, Michael Grant, fraternity members dressed as cowboys and Indians flashed a cap gun at his wife and infant daughter. "Do you realize what would have happened if I had been there?" says Mr. Grant, an Omaha Indian and a sophomore majoring in Indian studies. "I wouldn't be here, man. I'd be in jail."

The name always takes center stage whenever the Bison come to town. In the 1990's, North Dakota State fans started chanting "Sioux suck" during games, and, over the years, the slogan

has taken on ever more inventive permutations.

For years, it was impossible to drive down Interstate 29 from Grand Forks to Fargo without seeing the abandoned barn with the giant slogan painted on it. And then there's the T-shirt worn by North Dakota State fans. It shows a stereotypical American Indian suggestively between the legs of a bison. A caption reads, "We saw. They sucked. We came."

"It's like we're not even human," says Anjanette Parisien, a Chippewa senior majoring in biology and Indian studies.

Earl Strinden doesn't see it that way. The semi-retired chief executive officer of the university's alumni association and Mr. Engelstad's friend for 40 years, Mr. Strinden helped clinch the 1998 deal that culminated in the \$100-million pledge.

Wearing a sports coat in the school's signature green, he marches over to a framed map of the Dakota territories that graces a wall in his campus office. He points to faded print marking what was once the Great Sioux Nation. "This is Sioux territory, for crying out loud!" he says.

The point is made again and again by alumni: The Sioux are indelibly etched into the state's lore and culture. To rid the campus of the name would be to rob the state of one of its great traditions and to further isolate American Indians.

"When the hockey team plays in Boston, the people will think, 'Fighting Sioux, what's that?'" Mr. Strinden says. "They'll want to find out about the Sioux. There are those on this campus who want to make sure that Native Americans are always victims."

During the interview, two American Indian students in his office nod vigorously, as if the notion of hockey as export of Indian culture is self-evident.

"If we lose the name, it's going to help erase our culture," says Greg Holy Bull, a Lakota Sioux and a graduate student in fine arts.

At the Dakota Student, the semi-weekly student newspaper, the subject of Mr. Engelstad and the name is something of a newsroom obsession. One Sunday, staff members vowed not to talk about the issue all day. The silence lasted until 3 p.m.

When Evan Nelson, the sports editor, first came to the university, he thought "the whole issue was garbage." But after working the sports beat for a year and a half, he came to view the name as "deplorable."

"It was hearing all those ignorant bastards—the alumni, the athletes, the fans—talking about Indians that did it for me," says Mr. Nelson, a junior and a communications major from Sioux Falls, S.D.

He raised eyebrows among his sources with a recent column, in which he wrote that the state board's decision on the Fighting Sioux name was "an act of malice and contempt." The racism (See Donor clings, page 21)



Mascots using Indian characters dehumanize Indian people. (Photo by Amoose)

\$100-million donor clings to 'Fighting Sioux' name and logo

(Continued from page 20) behind the name is subtle, Mr. Nelson says. "There are no hate crimes. It's not like the Deep South in the 60's, where police were brushing crowds with fire hoses." It's the "Injun" jokes and terms like "prairie nigger." It's in the oft-repeated comments that Indians are all drunks or are going to college on the government dole. It's the person who will wear a jacket with the mascot of an Indian, but won't talk to one.

"My grandparents have been telling me since I was 2 years old that the Indians are stealing from us," he says. "This is a very white-bread part of the world."

To the majority of students—82 percent, according to a recent poll—the issue has nothing to do with racism. It's just the name of a sports team. Kim Srock, a sophomore discussing the debate in Jim McKenzie's advanced-composition class, expresses annoyance that so much is being made of a five-letter word.

"It's like, get a life," she says. "This is a game—it's not about Indians. They're like a bunch of crybabies. Get over it."

They come to see players like Jeff Panzer, the center and a Grand Forks native, who is Division I's top scorer and a leading candidate for the Hobey Baker trophy, college hockey's equivalent of the Heisman.

The new arena, now estimated at over \$85-million, promises to be an even bigger draw. Billed as one of the finest hockey stadiums in the nation, the complex will house 11,400 fans, 48 luxury skyboxes, and a second ice rink for Olympic-style play.

The man whose name the arena will bear and whose shadow looms large over the nickname debate was himself a Fighting Sioux goalie from 1948 to 1950.

Mr. Engelstad, the grandson of a Minnesota potato farmer, made it big in construction and real estate. He earned his fortune in 1967 selling 145 acres to Howard Hughes, who used it to build the North Las Vegas Airport.

Mr. Engelstad's view from the top floor of the Imperial Palace hotel and casino, looking out on the lights of the Las Vegas Strip, couldn't be farther from the snow-capped prairies he left behind. Opened in 1979, the Imperial became known for room rates geared toward the middle class, celebrity impersonators, and an antique-car collection now considered the third-largest in the world.

Included among the old Cadillacs, Duesenbergs, and cars of former U.S. presidents were a growing number of autos that once belonged to leaders of the Third Reich. The collection includes Hitler's 1939 parade car and a Mercedes

owned by Heinrich Himmler, the commander of the S.S.

Mr. Engelstad's collection of Nazi memorabilia grew in the mid-1980's, as he planned to accompany his cars with a public museum. The hotel's collection, which became known as the "war room," included Nazi knives, propaganda posters, uniforms and swastika banners.

During this period, Mr. Engelstad drew national attention when local reporters revealed that he had held two private parties in the war room on April 20—Hitler's birthday—in 1986 and 1988.

The festivities featured "a cake decorated with a swastika, German food, and German marching music," according to License to Steal: Nevada's Gaming Control System in the Megaresort Age (University of Nevada Press, 2000) by Jeff Burbank, which devotes a chapter to the controversy over Mr. Engelstad's memorabilia. "Bartenders wore T-shirts bearing the words, 'Adolph Hitler-European Tour 1939-45.'"

"A life-size portrait of Hitler, with the inscription, 'To Ralphie from Adolph, 1939,' hung on the wall," Mr. Burbank wrote. "Beside it was a second painting with a likeness of Engelstad in a Nazi uniform and with the message 'To Adolph from Ralphie.'"

Gaming Control Board agents found a plate used to print hundreds of bumper stickers with the message "Hitler was Right" that were sent out from the hotel. In the media onslaught that followed, Mr. Engelstad released a statement saying, "I despise Hitler and everything he stood for." He insisted the parties were "spoofs" designed to celebrate the purchase of several new additions to the hotel's Third Reich collection.

But the damage had been done. The board, citing harm to Nevada's national image, fined Mr. Engelstad \$1.5-million, which he paid. (Mr. Engelstad, who seldom grants interviews, declined repeated requests for comment.)

The timing could not have been worse for the university. Mr. Engelstad had pledged \$5-million for the old hockey stadium, which the university renamed in his honor. In October 1988, panicked officials sent a delegation of seven to Las Vegas on a university jet to determine if the relationship with Mr. Engelstad should continue.

Within months, the offending artifacts were removed, and the walls of the war room were painted white.

The university panel ultimately decided that Mr. Engelstad was not a Nazi sympathizer, but had merely shown "bad taste." The philanthropic courtship resumed, eventually leading to the \$100-million pledge for the arena.



Indians and non-Indians join together to protest the continued use of Indians and Indian culture for sports' names, logos and mascots. (Photo by Amoose)

A decade later, Mr. Engelstad had the chance to put the past behind him. That chance vanished when local newspapers published accounts of his recent letter to the president and the board. To many in the university, it reinforced fears that Mr. Engelstad was a ruthless businessman intent on getting his way—regardless of the impact on American Indian students.

At the time, President Kupchella's commission had finished its deliberations, and he was planning on announcing his conclusion. Months before, the president publicly declared his independence on the issue, wearing a T-shirt at a University Council meeting that said "I'll decide."

Moreover, he had appeared increasingly open to the idea of phasing out the name.

In a December 16 e-mail to William Isaacson, the board chairman, Mr. Kupchella laid out a possible statement he would make to the board, arguing that "I see no choice but to respect the request of Sioux tribes that we quit using their name, because to do otherwise would be to put the university and its president in an untenable position."

That e-mail message and Mr. Engelstad's letter were released by the university after the board's decision.

But in a recent interview, Mr. Kupchella appeared to step back from the message he sent Mr. Isaacson, saying it was one position of several he was considering at the time. "However I may have been leaning, it didn't see the light of day," he says.

In his letter to the president, Mr. Engelstad threatened to turn off the building's heat and take a \$35-million loss. In an unusual arrangement for a university, Mr. Engelstad has been paying for the arena as it is built, with a pledge to turn over the completed facility to the university.

In the letter, Mr. Engelstad also appeared to confirm what had been rumored for months—namely, that his gift was made on the condition of keeping the Fighting Sioux name alive. He attacked Mr. Kupchella as a man of "indecision." The president has refused to talk about the correspondence, saying only, "There's a lot in that letter. You should read it. Read it twice."

Mr. Engelstad gave Mr. Kupchella until December 30 to make up his mind. But the board didn't wait that long. It issued its unanimous edict the next day.

University officials insist that Mr. Engelstad was merely venting his frustration, and that no deals were made. And board members say that the timing was an unfortunate coincidence—they worried that North Dakota's Legislative Assembly might get involved, and wanted to save Mr. Kupchella the embarrassment of a public showdown.

The board's vote leaves a number of university officials in a tight spot. Mr. Kupchella has to continue dealing with tribal officials, his credibility clearly diminished, and he wants to attract more American Indian students to enroll here.

The president has pledged to make the University of North Dakota "a premier institution for Native Americans." Leigh D. Jeanotte, director of Native American programs and a Chippewa, has ambitious plans to move the programs from their current worn headquarters in a two-story frame house into a new, \$5-million center.

Even if those goals are accomplished, Mr. Jeanotte worries that he may be making a Faustian bargain: His peers may think he won the money on the backs of Indian students who fought against the name.

Many of those students say they will continue to challenge the university, and will step up protests when the new arena opens in the fall. Others feel defeated, perhaps because they hear an echo of past defeats, when choices regarding their honor were made by others, and power and money won out over doing the right thing.

"It's hard not to see history repeating itself in Ralph Engelstad's efforts," says Monique Vondall, a Chippewa and a senior majoring in English, who conveys the emotional devastation felt by some students. "People get depressed. Sometimes, I don't want to get out of bed in the morning."

Even the student-government president, it seems, faces tough choices. One recent weekend, Berly Nelson, an affable senior from Fargo and a supporter of the Fighting Sioux name, was invited to attend a speech on the controversy by the president of the National Indian Education Association. But he had other plans: He would be attending an alumni reunion—at Ralph Engelstad's Imperial Palace hotel.

"Kind of ironic, huh?" he asks. (Reprinted from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.)



(Samples of Indian logos. ©MasterClips 2001)

Superintendent of Public Instruction candidates questioned on Indian issues

Editor's note: Christine Munson, "Indian" Mascot and Logo Youth Task Force, Wisconsin Indian Education Association, questioned Elizabeth Burmaster and Linda Cross regarding their stance on the mascot issue, the American Indian Studies Program, and Act 31, requiring American Indian studies in the schools.

Munson's questions and the candidate's responses follow:

Questions:

1. Do you support the elimination of ethnic mascots and logos from Wisconsin public schools? Explain.

Plan gives Indians a voice in Legislature

Madison, Wis.—Wisconsin's Indian tribes would be granted a non-voting seat in each house of the state Legislature under a proposal due for consideration at the Legislature's Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations.

If the bill becomes law, Wisconsin would join Maine as the only states to welcome such delegates.

Although a work in progress, it should be ready for action by the full Legislature early next year according to the committee chairman Rep. Terry Musser (R-Black River Falls).

"I just think that when you look at Wisconsin, the 11 different tribes, the controversies that the state and the tribes have had over the years, most of those have been resolved by talking, communications, and I just think this would facilitate that," said Musser.

Mascots in the news

Chief Illiniwek

The Illinois chapter of the National Coalition on Racism in Sports and Media got a recent financial boost from the United Methodist Church. The church donated \$10,000 to the group to aid its fight over the University of Illinois' Chief Illiniwek mascot. The Coalition is seeking to eliminate the mascot, saying it is offensive to Native Americans.

The Methodist grant will be used to help sponsor educational forums on Chief Illiniwek. It is the largest donation the coalition has received from a religious organization. The mascot, which has been used for 75-years, is represented by a student with paint on his face, who wears a costume and headdress from the Oglala Lakota Sioux tribe, and dances at halftime shows at varsity football and basketball games.

The university's board of trustees held a public forum last spring and solicited comments from alumni and the community. A 70-page report was recently compiled by a former judge and board members are expected to respond to that report at a March 7 board meeting.

Local Redskins retired

A school board in northern New York has "honorably retired" the Redskins name from the district's sports teams. The Saranac Lake board voted 6-1 to retire the name, ending a three-month battle between those who cited the name as offensive and some of the school's alumni who said the name was a source of pride. The team's original name was Red and White.

Maryland teams

A representative of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs is asking Governor Paris Glendening (D) to direct schools to select new team names and eliminate names such as "Warriors," "Indians" and "Braves." Richard Regan stated that such team nicknames are offensive to Indians and said they were a slap in the face to the most underrepresented group in this state and in this country.

Approximately 30 schools in the state use team names or mascots with Indian themes, Regan said. Regan presented a resolution to the commission, calling for the elimination of such team names. The resolution passed by a vote of 5-0. It asks that Glendening issue an executive order directing state agencies, county agencies and county boards of education to discontinue such names by June 30, 2002.

(Reprinted from *American Indian Report*, a publication of *Business Publishers, Inc.*)

2. How will you support the Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) American Indian Studies Program?

3. What will you do to support and strengthen the American Indian Studies Statutes?

Responses:

**Elizabeth Burmaster,
Madison West High principal**

As State Supt. I would work to eliminate ethnic mascots and logos from WI public schools. I support the proposal in the legislature that allows a complaint to be made directly to the

Gaiashkibos, Chairman of the Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewa, broached the idea at a meeting of the committee in March 1999. Gaiashkibos says "we have a great vested interest in this state. We have roots that run long and deep, prior to even statehood here. I think it would be time for the native voice to be heard, especially on some of the issues."

As proposed, one tribal delegate would be seated in each house. "I feel that if we could get one tribal representative to the Assembly and one to the Senate, that may be suitable," Musser said.

"If the state allowed two delegates, one could represent the six Chippewa tribes in northern Wisconsin and the other could represent the tribes in southern Wisconsin," gaiashkibos said.

(Reprinted from the *Associated Press*.)

State Supt. I support the dept. budget proposal to restore funding and positions.

The American Indian Studies program is important because it helps ALL children to learn about the culture, heritage, history and tribal sovereignty. In addition, I support American Indian education, which should promote effective strategies, professional development for teachers of American Indian children and create liaisons between school/parent/tribe regarding student achievement.

We should explore opening an office in northern Wis. I support the current law that requires districts to have experiences in American Indian Studies at all levels. I would like to see schools develop this more fully and not just as a minimum requirement—to fully implement the spirit of the law. We can use the Wis. model academic standards to enhance American Indian studies. Thank you so much and I hope that I have your support ... and that we will be working together on these issues.

**Linda Cross,
Hortonville teacher**

1. I support local control. If a local school district found the need to eliminate an ethnic mascot and/or logo I would support that action as head of DPI.

2. I have not fully studied the program, but I believe the American Indian Studies Program is an important component of what our state's children learn in school.

3. First, I am concerned with the same amount of time afforded to educators, even though there are more and more required curriculum areas. I would support such studies, at first—to give the program full dignity, I would want to see educators afforded more classroom time—or some kind of restructuring of instructional time.

**VOTE ON
APRIL 3rd!**

Vilas County, Wisconsin may banish s-term

The Vilas County Tribal Concerns Committee received a letter from a Sawyer County woman requesting that any place with the s-term* be changed, according to committee Chairperson Al Bauman of Lac du Flambeau.

Bauman took the letter to the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Council and upon its action, the committee approved it. Bauman explained the committee acts on issues to ease tensions between the county and tribe before they accelerate.

Bauman says the matter has not yet come before the Vilas County Board; however, the committee has identified six or seven potential name changes and has received papers necessary to request name changes in the state. Bauman also notes the changes actually

impact three counties and several townships, so the process may take up to a year to complete.

Across the state movements are being made to strike the name from the maps. The Sawyer County Board decided to replace the names of all five bodies of water that include the word, in part due to a request from the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Chippewa.

Similarly the Bayfield County Board took action to support the name change of s-bay after receiving a request from the Red Cliff Band and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

Editor's note: "s" refers to the (offensive) word "squaw."

(Reprinted from *HONOR Digest* and *The Lakeland Times*.)

Crazy Horse Beer suit back in court

For the past seven years, the estate of revered Lakota warrior Crazy Horse tried to stop a company from using his name to promote and sell beer. After past attempts at litigation failed, the Crazy Horse estate filed a complaint in federal court that asks for injunctive and compensatory relief.

Named as defendants include the Hornell Brewing Co. of New York, G. Heileman Brewing Co. of Wisconsin, the individual owners; and Ferolito and Vultaggio and Sons of New York, a subsidiary of Hornell Brewing Co.

"This suit will now be tried on the merits," said Robert Gough, attorney for the Crazy Horse estate. The complaint filed in federal court reiterates the content of Crazy Horse's character, that he strongly urged his family and followers to reject the Euro-American use of alcohol.

He did not sign a treaty with the federal government and oral history says he asked that his name not be mentioned among non-Indians. The family asks that the court issue a permanent injunction to stop any further use of the name of Crazy Horse as it relates to any commercial product.

A previous attempt to stop the sale of the malt liquor failed after the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the Rosebud Tribal Court had no standing because the malt liquor was neither sold nor bottled on the reservation. The companies challenged the original suit filed in Tribal Court. However, the appellate court left the door open for the suit to be filed in federal court.

As a result of the attempt to remove Crazy Horse from the label of the malt liquor and the refusal of the companies to do so, a nationwide boycott was organized against another product of the Ferolito and Vultaggio and Sons by the Crazy Horse Defense Project. The companies distribute a tea product under the brand name of Arizona Iced Tea and the boycott against this product continues.

(Reprinted from *HONOR Digest* and *Knight Ridder News Service*.)

Tribes eye Norton appointment with mixed emotions

By Brigid Maher for Masinaigan

Washington, DC—Things have finally settled down in Washington, DC. The inaugural festivities are over and now it is time for President Bush and the 107th Congress to get to work. So, what does this new administration mean for Indian Country? At this point it is still difficult to fully answer this question.

Many in Indian Country have had grave concerns about Bush's impact on the sovereignty of tribal governments. During his campaign Bush stated that states' rights came before Indian issues. Although Bush has now distanced himself from these original statements, tribes are still skeptical.

Bush made several campaign promises to Indian Country, like increasing funding to Indian schools by \$1 billion. Bush will also greatly influence whether the Bureau of Indian Affairs' \$2.2 billion annual budget will be increased. We will have to wait until March when the detailed agency budgets will be released.

The confirmation of Gale Norton as the Secretary of the Interior has caused mixed emotions among Indian tribes. Norton does not have a very positive environmental record and has received criticism for supporting President Bush's proposal to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration.

The Arctic Refuge coastal plain is often called "America's Serengeti" because of its aggregations of caribou and other wildlife. The Gwich'in people call it the "sacred place where life begins." Their subsistence lifestyle depends on the 130,000 caribou that migrate to calf on the refuge's coastal plain. The caribou are a way of life for the Gwich'in, binding their generations.

Norton has also been questioned about her association with the controversial former Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, and the organization he founded, the Mountain States Legal Foundation. The Mountain States Legal Foundation supports private property rights and limited government.

However, other tribes support the stances that Norton took while Attorney General of Colorado. She supported two Ute tribes' fight for water rights and the construction of a reservoir that would give the tribes access to water. Norton also advocated for the inclusion of Indian tribes in tobacco settlements; rather than have the states be the only beneficiary of settlements for those harmed by the tobacco industry.



New Act will strengthen and enhance tribal justice systems

Boulder, Co.—Indian law attorneys and tribal courts say that the recently passed Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistant Act (PL 106-559) is an important step forward in the strengthening and enhancement of tribal justice systems.

The Act formally authorizes the Attorney General to award grants and provide technical assistance to Indian Tribes to support the development and continuing operation of tribal courts. National and regional tribal justice associations have been working hard, primarily on a voluntary basis, for decades to assist Tribes with the operation of their tribal court systems.

This law makes the associations and Native American legal services organizations eligible to apply for much-needed federal funding to assist them in their efforts.

An important component of the new law is the reauthorization of the 1993 Indian Tribal Justice Act.

"Our work on this front, however, is not done," says Judge Jill Shibles, Executive Director of the National Tribal Justice Resource Center. "Serious efforts must be made to impress upon Congress and the new Administration the critical need for funding of the programs contemplated by the new law and of the Indian Tribal Justice Act that is now over seven years old and has never received a penny of funding. Tribal courts have been under-funded for more than twenty years—which is a failure of the federal government to meet its trust responsibility to Indian nations. The law is a chance for the federal government to meet its obligations in the tribal justice area."

The Act, which the 106th Congress passed on December 21, 2000, specifically calls for Congressional appropriations over the next four years to support:

The last (106th) Congress passed important legislation that will be impacting Indian Country. Former President Clinton signed the Final Interior Appropriations bill on October 11, 2000. Interior Appropriations includes funding for the majority of Indian programs, including Indian Health Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Funding for Indian Affairs was increased overall by 11 percent.

The 106th Congress continued to assess trust funds management. After a hearing in March 1999, Senator Campbell (CO) declared he saw no improvements in BIA trust funds management. The cost of cleaning up the trust funds management is estimated at \$300 million. Certain reforms in the BIA trust funds management system are currently underway, including introduction of more qualified trust funds management staff.

Some members of Congress have questioned whether management should remain in the hands of the federal government. They argue that Indian trust accounts would be most safely and efficiently managed by private sector trust managers, or by individuals and tribes themselves.

The "National Energy Security Act of 2000," introduced by Senator Lott (MS) would mandate drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain. The Gwich'in people, along with environmentalists and advocates, argue that the long-term cultural survival of the Gwich'in people and the preservation of the irreplaceable biological diversity of the Arctic slope are far more important than the slight short term gain from extracting the oil and gas resources that may lie beneath the surface there. This will be a hotly contested issue now because President Bush has advocated for drilling since the early days of his campaign.

Upcoming in Congress

There are several key pieces of legislation for Indian Country that will be introduced in this Congress. Some of these include: The Native American Educational Improvement Act of 2001, the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, and two bills protecting Native languages.

The Native American Educational Improvement Act will improve standards, accreditations, and facilities of the BIA school system. The Indian Health Care Improvement Act will address the shortcomings of Indian healthcare. This includes the increase of health care professionals serving Indian communities, and allowing Indians access to Medicare, Medicaid and other federal health resources. Legislation will also be introduced to elevate the position of Director of Indian Health Service to Assistant Secretary.

In the House of Representatives there was a bill introduced entitled the English Plus Resolution. The legislation recognizes the need for English fluency across America, but it would also encourage multilingualism.

The bill stresses the importance of multilingualism by citing the Navajo "code talkers" whom in World War II developed unbreakable codes using Navajo and were responsible for saving many lives. Included in this bill is help for Native Americans, Alaskans and Hawaiians with programs for language and cultural preservation.

In the Senate, a similar bill was introduced entitled the Native American Languages Act Amendments Act for 2001. This would establish Native American Language Survival Schools and Native American Language Nests. These programs would introduce young children (under age 7) to their Native language. The children would receive a minimum of 700 hours of instruction a year.

(Brigid Maher works with the HONOR Advocacy Office, Washington, DC.)

- Tribal Justice Training and Technical Assistance Grants
- Tribal Civil Legal and Criminal Assistance Grants
- Grants to tribal courts to develop, enhance, and continue operating tribal justice systems and to develop and implement:
 - ⊙ Tribal codes and sentencing guidelines;
 - ⊙ Inter-Tribal courts and appellate systems;
 - ⊙ Tribal probation services, diversion programs, and alternative sentencing provisions
 - ⊙ Tribal juvenile services and multi-disciplinary protocols for child physical and sexual abuse; and
 - ⊙ Traditional Tribal judicial practices, traditional tribal justice systems, and traditional methods of dispute resolution

According to Steve Moore, a senior staff attorney for the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) who has worked with Indian legal services organizations for the past twenty-two years, "The enactment of the Act will enable these programs to access critical supplemental funding to assist Tribes and tribal courts in much-needed infrastructure and justice system development and enhancement. There are thirty Indian legal services programs nationwide and these programs have never received sufficient funding from the Legal Services Corporation or other sources. Given the tremendous need of individual Indians and small Tribes for access to legal counsel, the authorization to seek funding from the Department of Justice is a major step forward."

NARF was instrumental in securing the passage of the Indian Tribal Justice Act in Congress. In addition, Cindy Darcy and Eric Eberhard of the firm of Dorsey & Whitney in Washington, D.C., provided outstanding pro bono assistance to NARF.



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MASINAIGAN STAFF:
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- Susan Erickson Editor
- Lynn Plucinski Assistant Editor
- Charlie Otto Rasmussen Writer/photographer

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