MASINAIGAN

MASINAIGAN (MUZ IN I AY GIN) A publication of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission Fall 1995

Wa-Swa-Goning Village near the Lac du Flambeau reservation in Wisconsin recreates a traditional Ojibwa village. Founder Nick Hockings, Lac du Flambeau tribal member, views the village as a learning experience for those visitors interested in Ojibwa lifeways.

Built on 20 acres along the shore of beautiful Moving Cloud Lake on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation, Wa-Swa-Goning was the Ojibwa name of the whole area. The French fur traders called it Lac du Flambeau (Lake of Fire) when they saw the torches on the lakes as the Ojibwa speared fish at night.

Pictured in the "wild rice and canoe area" of the village are Celeste and Ernest Hockings, children of Estelle Hockings. (See story on back page) (Photo by Amoose)

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Passing the staff

HILARY WAUKAU, SR.

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Just weeks before his death on August 2nd Hilary (Sparky) Waukau passed on the Environmental Feather Flag, which he had held for the 1994-1995 year as Keeper of the Staff. He passed it to Billy Daniels during the Protect the Earth Rally at the Mole Lake reservation near Crandon, Wis., but it seems he really passed it to all who shared his commitment to Mother Earth.

Few people could be so deserving of the honor to keep the Eagle Staff and few will be able to hold it with the unshakable, uncompromising commitment Sparky had for protecting the Earth and the Indian people.

Sparky was a true warrior. Typically attired in his veterans' cap and beaded vest, Sparky was there when the battles raged. He was there long, loud, and clear during the treaty rights controversy that tore northern Wisconsin apart, the only member of the Wisconsin Counties Association that stood up and insisted that counties must recognize the treaty rights of the Chippewa.

"As long as there is a breath in my body, I'll dedicate my remaining years to protecting my people from the degradation of our environment." Hilary "Sparky" Waukau, Sr. Keeper of the Environmental Protection Staff passes it on during the Protect the Earth gathering at Mole Lake last month. (Photo by Amoose)

He spoke, as always, to the point and without fear. He was a total advocate of tribal sovereignty and a protector of Indian rights.

He was there at the forefront when a nuclear waste dump site was proposed for northern Wisconsin. He fought it with all his heart and power and at every level, recognizing the dire consequences for the Earth and his people should this battle be lost.

In recent years, Sparky declared his new goal-to stop the Exxon mine near Crandon, and once again, he joined the troops to fight for protection of the environment and tribal rights. His failing health did not prevent him from being there-at the forefront, on the scene leading the march. It was his place.

Sparky was there at the annual National Congress of American Indians convention in Denver, Co. last winter. Sparky was there, physically weak but strong in spirit, participating, speaking out on environmental concerns and encouraging NCAI action on environmental issues.

Sparky and NCAI Chairman gaiashkibos led the Grand Entry into the annual powwow at the conference. Sparky carried the Eagle Staff through the Grand Entry and held it during lengthy opening ceremonies. Sparky began to tire and the Staff wavered. Asked if he needed relief, Sparky said "no," and with all of his energy completed the ceremonies to carry the Eagle Staff proudly out once the invocation was completed.

Hilary carried the Staff with determination, conviction, and humility. His grip was firm and tenacious. He was a warrior, an orator, a leader, a friend. He has carried the Staff with grace and courage and now he has passed it on.

Miigwetch Sparky!!!

The Menomine Nation has experienced a tremendous loss with the passing of Hilary "Sparky" Waukau Sr. on August 2, 1995. He died of heart failure at the age of 72. His wife Edith, his children and many grandchildren were with him at Shawano Community Hospital when he passed on. His daughter, Anne Waukau said, "He told us on his deathbead that he wants his children to continue his legacy of helping our people."

Tribal Chairman John Teller said "Sparky will leave a lasting legacy for future generations in regard to service to his people through government as well as on a personal level. His leadership as a staunch advocate for the environment will be greatly missed.

His guidance and wisdom, from the many years of governmental process and decision have proved to be a valuable tool. The tribe will carry on his principal of promoting the preservation of the environment."

Since 1952, he served as tribal vice-chairman, county administrator, reservation judge and other various tribal offices. He was the first chairman of the Menominee County Democratic Party, hold the office from 1959-'64. He remained a member of the Menominee Tribal Legislature until his death.

Waukau worked with seven Wisconsin governors and traveled throughout the United States handling tribal business.

(Excerpted from a Menominee Tribal news release.)

An opportunity for the public to speak:

International Joint Commission to meet in Duluth this fall

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.-Members of the public concerned about the management of the Great Lakes are invited, in fact encouraged, to participate in the International Joint Commission (IJC) meeting slated for Sept. 22-25 at the DECC in Duluth, according to Ann McCammon-Soltis, GLIFWC policy analyst.

Because of the meeting's location, the focus will be on Lake Superior issues this year. "This is a chance for the public to tell the IJC how they think they are doing on implementing recommendations for the Great Lakes," Soltis states. There is no registration fees, time is slated for public input, and they are in our 'back yard.'

The meeting will also be a chance to learn about the sometimes complex issues regarding Great Lakes management. Educational workshops run as concurrent sessions as well as informational booths from a variety of programs will all provide an educational component.

The IJC was formed by the Boundary Waters Treaty in 1909. Three U.S. and three Canadian representatives compose the Commission and make recommendations concerning the management of shared waters to their respective governments, Soltis states.

The governments, however, must chose to act on those recommendations. For instance, the IJC recommended a ban on chlorine but no government action followed, Soltis comments.

"Zero discharge" is another recommendation from the IJC which the governments need to implement.

Plenary sessions for the IJC meeting begin on the Saturday morning, Sept. 23rd. First on the agenda will be reports from the respective governments on implementation programs.

This will be followed by an opportunity for different sectors of the public to address the Commission and a period of time for 'open mike.'

Soltis states that interested persons should register in order to obtain materials. (see registration form)

On Monday morning, September 25th, the tribes will be presenting on tribal natural resource management programs on the Great Lakes.

Although the final agenda has not been set, concurrent workshop sessions are scheduled for Sunday on a variety of topics, such as Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) and the Lake Superior Management Plan (LaMP).

Following the meeting the IJC will prepare its biennial report with its recommendations based on comments received from the public and various sectors present at the meeting.

Essentially, the biennial report makes recommendations and also evaluates how the governments are performing in relation to past recommendations and needs regarding Great Lakes management.

Editor's Note: A workshop entitled UPPER GREAT LAKES WATERSHEDS will be held immediately following (September 26th) the IJC meeting in Duluth, Minnesota. This workshop will feature a full day of speakers, panels and work groups on topics such as: non-point source pollution (NPS) prevention and control; economics of NPS prevention and control, regional consistency, etc. This workshop is sponsored by Minnesota Sea Grant Institute, please call them at 218-726-8106 for more information or to register.

Registration Form

1995 Biennial Meeting on Great Lakes Water Quality

Our Lakes, Our Health, Our Future

Note: A registration fee is not charged for the Biennial Meeting, but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by September 1, 1995 to ensure receipt of all reports prepared for the meeting, which will be sent approximately one month prior to the meeting. Preregistrants who reserve meal and tour tickets will receive them when they sign in at the meeting. Given the interest expressed for this meeting, we strongly suggest you register early.

Return registration form to:
Ms. Rita Kerner
International Joint Commission
1250 23rd Street NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20440

Name (PLEASE PRINT)

Agency/Organization (as applicable)

City, State/Province, Zip/Postal Code

Telephone_____ Fax_____

I will attend the 1995 Biennial Meeting on Great Lakes Water Quality on:

O September 22 O September 23
O September 24 O September 25

TOURS

I am registering for the following Lake Superior Youth and Community Tours on Friday, September 22 ($5 registration required for each program):

O (1) Model Youth and Community Programs Tour (9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.)
O (2) Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Tour (7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.)
O (3) St. Louis River Hydroelectric Relicensing Tour (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
O (4) North Shore Tour (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)
O (5) Pollution Prevention Tour (12:30-5 p.m.)
O (6) Park Point Tour (1-4 p.m.)
O (7) Nemadji River Watershed Tour (12:30-5 p.m.)
O (8) Lake Superior Sampler Tour (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)
O (9) Lake Superior Sampler Tour (2-4 p.m.)
O (10) St. Louis River RAP Tour (3-5 p.m.)
O (11) Lake Superior Ecosystem Protection Tour (9-11:30 a.m.)

MEALS

O (1) I would like to purchase a box lunch for the Saturday lunch ($8.50/US)
O (2) I would like to participate in the Lake Superior dinner Saturday evening ($18.75/US)
O (3) I would like to purchase a Sunday lunch ticket for the RAP Forum (All Biennial Meeting participants welcome to attend forum and its lunch) ($9.00/US)
O I would like vegetarian meals (same prices).
O Other needs:

Note: Please make all checks for tours and meals payable in U.S. dollars to IJC 1995 Biennial Meeting and enclose with your registration form. **My check in the amount of $_____ is enclosed.**

WORKSHOPS

I am interested in attending the following concurrent session on **Sunday**, September 24 (please check only **one** as initial response, to estimate space requirements):

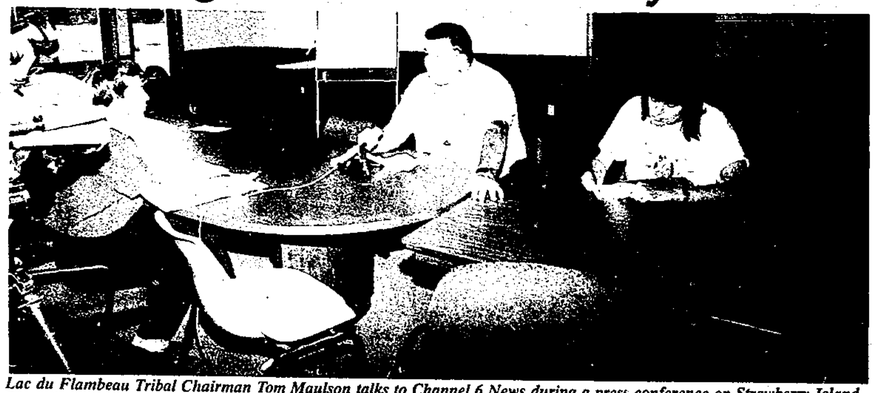
O (1) I will attend the Forum for Remedial Action Plans in the Great Lakes Basin on Sunday, September 24. Please send program information.
O (2) Youth Forum: The Role of Education to Achieve the Goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
O (3) Air Toxics in the Great Lakes Basin
O (4) The Role of Biodiversity in Sustainable Development
O (5) The Effects of Toxic Contaminants on Human Health
O (6) Status of Lake Superior Protection Programs
O (7) Pollution Prevention: The Preferred Solution

I am interested in attending the following concurrent session on **Monday**, September 25 (please check only **one** as initial response, to estimate space requirements):

O (8) Innovative Approaches to Urban and Agricultural Watershed Planning
O (9) Undesirable Invasions of Exotic Species into the Great Lakes
O (10) Tribal Natural Resource Management in Lake Superior and Beyond: Rights, Responsibilities and Roles of Tribes in Great Lakes Protection
O (11) From a Local to a Lakewide Focus: Developing and Implementing Lakewide Management Plans
O (12) Pesticide Use in the Great Lakes Basin: Opportunities for Pollution Prevention
O (13) Sustainable Business Practice
O Please send a copy of the 1995 Priorities Report, and all other premeeting materials, in the French language.

History held hostage for highest dollar:
Lac du Flambeau fights for Strawberry Island

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer



Lac du Flambeau Tribal Chairman Tom Maulson talks to Channel 6 News during a press conference on Strawberry Island. The tribe opposes a proposal to develop the island because of its cultural and historical significance to both the Ojibwa and Sioux who fought their final battle on the island. (Photo by Amoose)

Lac du Flambeau reservation, Wis.- Another historic, spiritual area is being jeopardized by a developer. Strawberry Island on the Lac du Flambeau reservation in Wisconsin can join the growing list of such sites which fall prey to the quest for dollars and development. The list creates its own "trail of tears" as bones, burial grounds, and sacred areas go on the market block for the highest dollar.

Comparable, perhaps, to putting condos on the Gettysburg battle field, developer Walter Mills, Aspen, Col. thinks he'll get his money worth out of the property he inherited. Mills intends to subdivide the 26 acre Strawberry Island into 16 lots and build luxury homes on it.

To the Lac du Flambeau and Dakota Indian people, the idea is unthinkable. Strawberry Island was the site of the last major Ojibewa-Dakota battle and is considered a sacred land which should be left undisturbed, according to Lac du Flambeau Tribal Chairman Thomas Maulson.

The Lac du Flambeau band has been interested in buying the property, Maulson states, but the price keeps going up beyond what is reasonable. "It's like a ransom, now," Maulson says. "Mills wants the tribe to pay two million dollars for the twenty-six acres that was tribal. The tribe will pay what is fair and reasonable, but this is a plain case of greed."

Maulson and leaders from the Dakota nation spoke out during ceremonies on the LdF reservation July 4-6, hoping to draw public awareness to the predicament and imminent threat to Strawberry Island.

Historically, the island was allotted to a five year old Lac du Flambeau child who passed on. His parents sold the island during the "Allotment Era"—a period notorious for Indian land swindles, Maulson notes. "It was a time when much Indian land was lost to non-Indian owners and served to 'checkerboard' our reservations," he stated.

However, the original owners, Mills' parents, respected the island and its meaning to the Indian people. They left it undeveloped.

Besides being held sacred by Ojibewa and Dakota people, the island is also an important Wisconsin archeological site and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1978.

While tribal members and environmentalists alike seek to save the island, bulldozers warm up on the mainland. According to Maulson, Mills was granted a building permit even though necessary septic tests had not been completed. The tribe raised this question at a township zoning committee meeting, Maulson says. The issued was tabled and rescheduled for October 3rd.

"The tribes have already lost so many sacred sites and burial grounds to development and entrepreneurs. So few remain, that they become extremely precious, but that does not mean they should be held for ransom-like moneys and the tribes subjected to extortion. We just can't give in to that. Right now all we can do is staunchly oppose plans to dig up our old battleground, one of our 'Gettysburg fields,' and hope potential luxury homeowners can find more appropriate locations," Maulson states.

A small dancer concentrates on footwork during a pow-wow in support of the effort to save Strawberry Island from a developer. (Photo by Amoose)

"Every part of this country is sacred to my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove has been hallowed by some fond memory or some sad experience of my tribe. Even the rocks, which seem to lie dumb as they swelter in the sun along the silent sea shore in solemn grandeur thrill with memories of past events connected with the lives of my people."

—Chief Seattle

Time out with the kids

Odanah, Wis.—GLIFWC inland fisheries staff took time out of their summer schedules to work with several Native American student programs involved in environmental/fisheries studies.

Fifteen Native American youth participated in the Institute for Environmental Studies' Precollege Program, according to Barbara Borns, senior student services coordinator, UW-Madison. Borns' group spent a week at the Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) reservation and a week at UW-Madison.

From UW-Superior sixteen Native American high school students in a five week program entitled Resource Management for Young Scholars, spent three days camping on the Lac du Flambeau reservation.

Glenn Miller, GLIFWC inland fisheries biologist, and fisheries technicians Butch Mieloszyk, Ed White, and Mitch Soulier hauled electroshocking boats to provide practical field experience for the students at both sites.

The UW-Madison group electrofished on Windigo Lake at LCO and the UW-Superior grouped electrofished Sherman Lake at LdF. They dipped for the fish, measured and took scale samples. The GLIFWC crew also demonstrated fyke netting.

UW-Madison youth also went to the Chippewa river where GLIFWC has been performing annual mussel and dragonfly surveys and let the students experience survey work there.

Both programs are designed to encourage Native American students into environmental studies or fisheries management. Extensive field experience is provided in combination with classroom activities.

According to Fred VendeVenter, UW-Superior instructor who worked with the summer program, the data collected by the students on Sherman Lake was taken back to the University laboratory for analysis.They compared their information on the lake to GLIFWC historical data and came up with very similar data.

Students try their hand at dip netting aboard one of GLIFWC's electroshocking boats as part of a pre-college environmental learning program. Butch Mieloszyk, GLIFWC inland fisheries technician, seems happy to let the students man the nets. (Photo by Glenn Miller)

Articles by Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Students with the UW-Superior summer environmental program perform water chemistry on samples taken from Sherman Lake, Vilas County, one of GLIFWC's small, long-term study lakes. (Photo by Glenn Miller)

Update report on status of walleye available

Odanah, Wis.—Fresh off the press is the 1995 ***Fishery Status Update in the Wisconsin Treaty Ceded Waters***, a report from the Joint Assessment Steering Committee. The report provides information on the walleye fishery resulting from five consecutive years of cooperative assessments.

Joint spring and fall electrofishing assessments have provided fishery managers with a more comprehensive data base on many lakes in northern Wisconsin with the number of assessments nearly doubling since 1989.

As the report relates, "For the past five years, estimating the number of adult walleye in lakes has been an objective of spring assessments. The overall goal has been to conduct at least one such estimate in every mixed fishery (tribal-state) lake. Of the 214 speared lakes where walleye have been harvested, 177 (83%) have had at least one adult population estimate."

Working together the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and the St. Croix band have gathered data which presents an emerging picture of the fishery, and much of that information is provided in the Fishery Status Update.

The report was preceded by the 1990 ***Casting Light Upon the Waters*** report and the 1992 ***Casting Light Upon the Waters Update***. Both of these publications were also prepared by the Joint Assessment Steering Committee.

Copies of these reports can be obtained by contacting GLIFWC's Public Information Office at 522 Chapple Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806 or calling (715) 682-4427.

Protestors meet at Mole Lake to gain support, build community, battle Exxon mines at Protect the Earth

By Stephanie Catlin
HONOR intern

In efforts to gather together and build support, various Indian and non-Indian people joined together at the Mole Lake Sokaogon reservation on July 21-23 for the tenth Protect the Earth (PTE) gathering, resisting Exxon's proposed mines both in the Mole Lake area and throughout northern Wisconsin.

"These are not special interests. These are the most important issues there are. If you can't breathe and drink, you're dead," said Annette Rasch, representative of the Clean Water Action Council and Wis. Greens, also Oneida nation environmental resources board coordinator.

Emcee and PTE co-founder Walter Bresette said there were less people than other years, and he was disappointed with the Indian turnout. "I think Mole Lake has made a strong commitment because they're threatened, but others who are also responsible for protecting the earth are noticeably absent."

Throughout the three-day event, along with enjoying entertainment from Skip Jones, Mitch Walking Elk, Larry Long, Frank Montano, and others, the activists held meetings to discuss ideas about gaining better communication between themselves and taking action toward political opposition.

"We must remind our legislators of who they represent, and a really good start would be if everyone collectively called for Governor Thompson's impeachment and an investigation into his internal affairs. He has become the most unrepresentative dictator this state has seen," Rasch said.

On Sunday, after the sacred medicines had been carried to waters near the proposed mine site, participants walked toward the site in protest of the proposed Crandon mine, watched by various media personnel.

The participants then stopped at the Nii-Win house where they discussed the sovereignty of the Indian nation, racial unity, and spiritual reasons for stopping the proposed mine.

"We're not just talking about what we're against, we're talking about bringing communities together," said participant Zolton Grossman, board member of the Midwest Treaty Network. He said that he believes the PTE gathering has solidified the link between Indians, environmentalists and sport fishermen.

Menominee tribal elder, Hilary Waukau leads the Protect the Earth protest march to the proposed mine site on July 23. (Photo by Amoose)

The Protect the Earth staff was equipped with new eagle feathers and passed from Menominee tribal elder Hilary Waukau, who carried it last year, to Forest County Potowatomi Billy Daniels to be carried this year.

After returning to the site, a water ceremony was held where participants gathered together water they brought from their favorite watersheds, and they prayed for the health and restoration of waters everywhere.

When the gathering had ended, Rasch said people left rejuvinated from the burnout that can come from working hard in this fight all year long.

Rasch said, "We are kind of a big family. We all go off in our different directions at the end of these gatherings and fight. We're all coming together here to stop this Exxon mine, and within this circle there is a solid understanding that we have to stop the destruction of northern Wisconsin. We're talking about many mines, not just one, she concluded." □

Billy Daniels, Forest County Potowatomi accepts the Protect the Earth staff from Hilary Waukau, Menominee. (Photo by Amoose)

Copper sulphide mining impact topic of new GLIFWC book

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.-Designed for use by policy makers, a twenty-eight page booklet on copper sulphide mining is due to be completed this fall, according Ann McCammon-Soltis, GLIFWC policy analyst.

Soltis is in the process of completing the booklet under a Joyce Foundation grant. The purpose is to provide policy makers with information necessary to make informed decisions during the permitting process for copper sulphide mines, she states.

The book will include a description of how copper sulphide mining is performed and document potential threats it may pose to the ecosystem.

Specifically, the booklet will consider how those potential effects might impact natural resources upon which the Chippewa people depend, she said.

Ann McCammon-Soltis.

Another portion of the book will look at how the state of Wisconsin has dealt with threats to the ecosystem by reviewing the changes in mining laws over time.

Soltis feels the publication is timely as the issues relating to the proposed copper sulphide mine near Crandon are currently being considered by state and federal permiters. Beyond that, she says, there have been concerns that northern Wisconsin may be targeted as a potential mining district.

"Certainly, the impact of either one or several mines needs to be a primary concern for decision-makers when permit applications are being reviewed," Soltis states.

Limited copies of the publication will be available later this fall. Interested persons should contact GLIFWC at (715) 682-6619.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS

Tribes focus on restoration & preservation

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

The following pages give descriptions of GLIFWC's member tribes' resource management programs. Because GLIFWC deals with the implementation of off-reservation treaty rights and resource management, tribal programs on the reservation are often neglected in the **MASINAIGAN**. Yet, a broad scope of activities are occurring on reservations with differences often reflecting the priorities of individual bands.

Tribal natural resources departments have been steadily expanding and diversifying over the past decade. While many on-reservation forestry programs, frequently run through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, have been in place for years, many other facets of tribal programs indicate a growing diversification and involvement in managing tribal resources. Consequently, tribal fish hatcheries and fish management have grown significantly, enhancing the resource and opportunities for both Indian and non-Indian people.

Likewise, wild rice enhancement and restoration projects administered through tribes have been at the forefront in re-seeding rice beds in areas where lush beds had all but disappeared. And many tribes have developed comprehensive data bases on their wildlife resources, both as a basis for establishing on-reservation seasons and evaluating the health of these resources.

Many tribes are involved in formulating Integrated Resource Management Plans (IRMP) to assure that resources are available to meet the varied needs of the tribal public in the future. Consideration of culturally significant plants and animals that became scarce in the wake of timbering, and fast growing forests is one area many tribal resource managers are including in long term plans. Land and resource use for recreation, development, refuges, and logging are included in plans as well.

John (Dates) Denomie, GLIFWC wildlife technician, holds a great horned owl which the Bad River Band recently had mounted. The owl was found after being struck by a car. Medical attention was sought but failed to save the bird. (Photo by Amoose)

Equally important as restoration and use is the need for tribes to protect their resources. On-reservation codes, regulations, enforcement, and planning contribute to protection. But tribal resource managers are also keenly aware that practices off-reservation can seriously impact on-reservation resources. Several bands are currently in the process of developing clean water and clean air standards which will help protect reservation resources from potential degradation from both on and off reservation sources.

Environmental staff have been assisting tribes in establishing recycling and solid waste programs on reservation as well as assessing water and air quality. They are alert to problems caused from old landfills, dump sites and other point sources of pollution on and off reservation and are providing tribes with the data necessary to address these problems.

Conservation enforcement staff and tribal courts on each reservation monitor hunting, fishing and gathering codes, and violators are taken before tribal courts. Similarly, many reservation wardens enforce environmental codes.

Because reservations and adjacent communities impact each other and because of GLIFWC's member bands' interest in off-reservation resources, tribal resource management staff often work cooperatively with state, federal, and local agencies. They are involved in joint fishery assessments on inland lakes as well as Lake Superior. Some work cooperatively on wild rice enhancement projects or fish rearing and stocking efforts. Waterfowl surveys, wildlife studies and conservation enforcement also provide arenas in which a cooperative effort saves time, money, and staff for all concerned.

Overall, tribes are taking resource management seriously and involving themselves in many of the decision-making processes which effect natural resources. Demand for representation of tribal interests at international, national, state, and county levels has been growing as tribal natural resource departments expand and provide a voice for their respective bands and for the well-being of the resources.

Bad River Band of Chippewa Indians

natural resources department

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Known for the pristine beauty and the diverse wildlife of its Kakagon Sloughs, the Bad River reservation stretches along the southern shore of the Great Lake.

The Bad River, the Kakagon Sloughs, and the surrounding forests have long provided the band with an abundance of resources which they highly value.

"The natural resources department has adopted the position that we intend to be here a long time," states Ervin Soulier, Bad River conservation department manager, "and that means we need good air, good water, and healthy land."

To assure this for the future, the Bad River band is pursuing air quality standards for the reservation, developing an Integrated Resource Management Plan, and monitoring groundwater, Soulier states.

Bad River Environmental Specialist Gerry White is working on obtaining a Class 1 air redesignation for the reservation. A Class 1 air designation would help deter airborne pollutants from impacting the reservation's water and land. "This does not mean we are 'anti' anything," Soulier states. "We are just pro clean air and water."

> "The natural resources department has adopted the position that we intend to be here a long time, and that means we need good air, good water, and healthy land."
> —Ervin Soulier, Bad River

The Bad River band is keenly aware of problems related to water quality as one area of the reservation must be served with bottled water due to elevated levels of contamination in the water supply.

To Soulier, the key to protecting the reservation's groundwater lies in regulating and cleaning-up the contaminated sources on reservation and off-reservation sources that effect the entire watershed.

"We are at the end of chain," Soulier notes, "so our efforts are for naught unless upstream also modifies." Soulier feels broad-based public education will help to effect change throughout the watershed.

Meanwhile Bad River closed its landfill in 1990 and is in the process of having it permanently capped and monitoring wells put in place. The band is also working with the Nature Conservancy in performing a groundwater survey to obtain a more comprehensive data base, and is negotiating with Prime America to develop an assessment plan for the site where the contaminated water supply has been identified.

The fact that the water which runs through the reservation also empties into Lake Superior compounds the responsibility to assure that the water is clean.

"We are sincere about our responsibility to Lake Superior," Soulier states. This is reflected in the Bad River band's efforts to improve and protect the entire watershed area.

With both commercial fishing in Lake Superior and inland fishing activity being important for tribal members, fishery management is one priority for the Bad River band's natural resources department.

While the environmental aspects are being addressed on one hand, Bad River has long been involved in more direct fish management through fishery assessments, stocking, and enforcement. These issues are all part of the band's overall management program.

Bad River has operated a hatchery for about twenty years with an emphasis on walleye reproduction. It is currently being run by Joe Dan Rose Jr., fisheries manager, and Russell Corbine, hatchery manager.

In 1995 nine million walleye fry were stocked. Soulier says most fry are stocked in the Kakagon Sloughs; however, the band has stocked in speared inland lakes and worked with local sports groups in collecting eggs and rearing fish.

The capacity to rear fingerling is one goal for the hatchery. The band owns several rearing ponds on the reservation, Soulier states, but they need to be raised and lined to reduce vegetation growth before they can effectively be used.

Monitoring the commercial fishery is another aspect of the conservation department's work, both for enforcement purposes and for gathering biological data on the fishery.

Data on the fish collected over the last eight years is shared with other tribal and state fishery managers and used to help recommend quotas and fishery management plans, Soulier states.

Bad River licenses four big boat fishermen and approximately twenty-five small boat fishermen. Commercial fishing is performed under a ten year agreement between the Bad River band, the Red Cliff band, and the state of Wisconsin. Currently, a new ten year agreement is being negotiated, Soulier says.

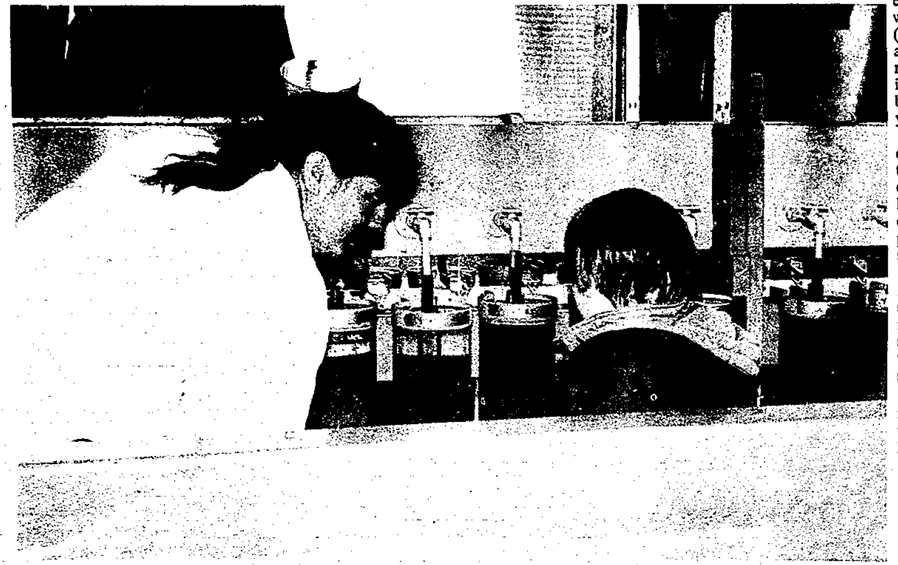
Other areas of involvement for fishery staff have been cooperatively working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in research on lamprey control and the invasion of river ruffe into the reservation's rivers. A few ruffe have been identified in the Bad River, Soulier states, but none have appeared in the Kakagon as yet.

The band's managers are currently considering the impact of a proposed treatment of the Bad River with TFM, a chemical to control lamprey. Treatment has been deferred until the impacts of the chemical on the river and on the lake trout population is better understood, Soulier states.

In regard to wild rice, which is thick in the Kakagon Sloughs, the band has not seen a need for reseeding efforts. The wild rice appears stable, Soulier says, although some purple loosestrife eradication has taken place to prevent its spread and possible take-over in the sloughs.

In regard to wildlife, the band is hiring a wildlife biologist this fall in order to upgrade the current program. The band has performed assessments on various species and worked with GLIFWC and the USFWS in developing its own management plans.

Tribal codes are set for all seasons and the band has two conservation officers, Matthew O'Claire and Anthony Butler, who routinely monitor all on-reservation seasons. ❑



Russell Corbine, Bad River hatchery manger, answers questions for a young visitor who is fascinated by the millions of eggs in the Bell jars. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Chippewa Indians

natural resources department

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Water quality tops the list of priorities for the Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) natural resource management department, according to Mic Isham, who directed the program until the July election seated him on the tribal council.

Isham views LCO as one of the forerunners in terms of environmental protection in the region. LCO has had a recycling program in effect since 1991 and the band's landfill has been closed and capped with monitoring wells in place for several years.

The band recently hired an environmental engineer, Dan Tyrolt, to develop a data base on the chemical composition of the reservation's water bodies. This, Isham says, will provide necessary information to establish water quality standards for the reservation, which the band is actively pursuing.

In addition to chemical testing of waters, the band is performing surveys to map vegetation on or in the lakes. Changes in vegetation will serve to indicate a change in composition which may alert managers to possible pollutants, Isham states. Geological Information System (GIS) mapping of groundwater flows will also be established.

A management plan for the Chippewa Flowage, developed jointly between the WI DNR, the U.S. Forest Service, and the LCO band, plots out a comprehensive management proposal specifically for the Flowage, Isham relates. The plan considers water classification and management for less development and more wilderness areas, he says.

A final draft should be ready in September, after which public hearings will be scheduled. Isham hopes the plan will be implemented early next summer.

Another significant plan is in the works—an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP), which considers the entire reservation land base and designates usage.

For instance, Isham explains that some areas in the IRMP will be set aside for wilderness, some for logging, some for cultural use, or to re-establish traditionally significant resources, such as maple, birch, and medicinal plants.

A highlight of LCO's natural resource department is the new hatchery facility which rears walleye and muskellunge for re-stocking. Co-managed by Tony Butler and Joe Grover, the facility hatched 3.8 million walleye this year.

Both walleye and muskellunge fry and fingerling are planted in reservation area lakes, Isham states. Eggs taken from speared walleye, which are fertilized and hatched, returned to the lake of origin, Isham notes.

The LCO hatchery was re-modeled and expanded in 1994. Landscaping and structural improvements to the facility and grounds are still in process.

Assisted by the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC), LCO has been working on developing data bases on many species. Bear bait counts, furbearer track counts, deer surveys, and ruffed grouse surveys are some of the annual studies performed over the last five to ten years that give the band information on population fluctuations.

Much has been done in terms of habitat restoration for many species of wildlife. Wildlife openings on the reservation for deer and grouse is one. This involves removal of non-loggable aspen, and planting sweet clover and climax grasses on old logging roads and logged areas. This provides forest openings for wildlife.

The band has also worked considerably on upland waterfowl restoration. Once again, old alder trees are removed and climax grasses planted to restore habitat for the fowl. Nesting platforms have been erected for waterfowl and osprey as have woodduck boxes.

LCO and the WI DNR have been cooperatively studying Canadian geese in the Crex Meadows. Banding the geese and recording data on age and sex classes will provide population estimates as well as help in determining if the geese are being affected by pollutants such as lead, Isham states.

Some wild rice re-seeding has also provided more native food for waterfowl as in the Chippewa Flowage.

Sadly, Isham states, there is very little wild rice on the LCO reservation. The band's valued wild rice resource was destroyed when the Flowage was dammed and the area flooded. Some re-seeding efforts have been initiated with some successes. Stands that have been re-seeded are not harvestable as yet because time is needed for them to be firmly established.

Other areas in the LCO natural resource program include studying and working with problems created by beaver dams. Isham states the band would like to develop a long-term beaver management program, as an alternative to simply blasting away beaver dams. The band also monitors moose and wolf sighted on the reservation.

Two conservation wardens, Chief Warden George Morrow and Warden Philip Martin, monitor on-reservation hunting and fishing seasons and conservation-related codes. Isham would like to see two more warden staff added in order to provide more on-water patrol capacity, particularly when regulations are adopted regarding water quality standards.

For something new in resource management, the LCO Community College is starting a farm located on-reservation near the college. Part of the farm's program will include establishing a seed bank for culturally significant plants, such as sweetgrass and sage, Isham says. ❑

Louise Chandler, LCO-WCC, hand plants wild rice as part of a wild rice re-seeding project at LCO. (Photo by Mic Isham)

Co-managers Joe Grover and Tony Butler (standing) stock a reservation lake with walleye fry. (Photo by Mic Isham)

LAC DU FLAMBEAU BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

natural resources department

By Stephanie Catlin
HONOR intern

The Lac du Flambeau natural resources department, consisting of nine different programs, is focused on the management of the natural resources on the reservation. The diverse ecosystem consists of 158 lakes, 20,000 surface acres of water, 34 miles of creeks, rivers and streams (15 lotic systems), 14,555 acres of wetlands and 55,000 acres of forested lands. These resources are used for cultural, subsistence, economic, and social purposes.

Fish and Game Director, Larry Wawronowicz, prepares to retrieve land information. (Photo by Amoose)

"It's all interrelated. It's the holistic approach to management. You can't have one without the other," said Larry Wawronowicz, Lac du Flambeau tribal fish and game director.

Fish culture program

To stock fish in reservation waters, the department raises fish native to the area, including walleye, muskellunge, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, brown trout and brook trout. Also, fathead minnows and white suckers are raised to feed larger walleye and muskellunge fingerlings. Rainbow trout are also raised for sale to the general public, wholesalers and for the tribe's pay fishing operation, Wawronowicz said.

The fish-rearing facilities include a 315 jar hatchery, Heath incubators, 11 start tank raceways, ten 200-foot concrete raceways and 21 fish culture ponds.

Fisheries management program

In order to conclude the state of the fish resource in the tribal waters, the department collects data in various ways. Each fall, electrofishing surveys are performed to determine the walleye year class strength.

Assessments involve electroshocking, counting, measuring, and removing scales for aging. With this information, biologists can approximate the total number of walleye produced by a lake. The department also takes creel surveys for harvest data. All collected information helps fisheries managers determine if a lake needs to be stocked or if natural reproduction is keeping up with total mortality, Wawronowicz said.

Wildlife management program

To monitor the condition of the wildlife resources, the Lac du Flambeau natural resources staff perform surveys, including deer pellet groups, grouse drumming transects, grouse roost counts, hare counts, bear bait station, waterfowl, osprey, eagle, northern forest furbearer track counts, and others. These surveys provide information on wildlife populations and habits.

As a part of the wildlife management program, the department detained Canada flightless goslings from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Green Bay to try to establish a breeding population on the Powel Marsh.

Conservation law enforcement program

With two wardens, the conservation law enforcement program enforces codes and ordinances and develops conservation laws to regulate tribal members on the reservation. The wardens' jobs include giving warnings and citations, testifying in tribal court, and coordinating conservation law enforcement activities with other organizations.

Forestry program

The Lac du Flambeau reservation holds 55,000 acres of forested land, and to manage it, the tribal forester and technicians work on timber stand improvement projects, timber sales, and tree planting.

Timber stand improvement projects include such activities as control burns, establishing hardwood or pine plantations and providing wildlife openings to increase edge for deer, ruffed grouse and other wildlife.

In 1990, the Integrated Resource Management Plan was launched by the forestry program to assure that all resource management ideas were incorporated into the harvesting of timber.

Water resource program

After hiring a water resource specialist/hydrologist to conduct water quality studies, much data was collected on how the waters are being effected by the surroundings. The department submitted water quality standards to the EPA to review, and hopefully, Wawronowicz said, the standards will be finalized by Dec. or Jan. of this year.

Parks and recreation and resource marketing programs

These two programs include the selling of natural resource products and providing camping facilities for Indian and non-Indian people. When the department produces excess fish, it is sold to the public, fish brokers, wholesalers, and through the pay fishing operation.

Opened in 1990, the campground provides a 72-pad RV facility located on Flambeau Lake. The campground not only provides opportunity for the tribe to capitalize on the campground, but it also boosts the tourism in the area through the bingo hall, the casino, the tribal store, the gas station, the museum, the powwows, and the other area businesses.

Multi-media program

Established in 1992, the multi-media program involves activities such as the development of a solid waste management plan, monitoring air quality in terms of sulfur dioxide, monitoring radon in tribal homes, and implementing Title III emergency response to hazardous and toxic spills and fires.

Working with the schools

Starting the second year of cooperation with the local school system, the department works with sixth, seventh, and eighth grades in various projects such as water sampling and waterfowl data gathering.

(See Lac du Flambeau, page 26)

Lac du Flambeau's fish culture program involves raising many species of native fish to the area in the hatchery facilities, including a 315-jar hatchery, Heath incubators, 11 start tank raceways, and ten 200-foot concrete raceways and 21 fish culture ponds. (Photo by Amoose)

RED CLIFF BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

natural resources department

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

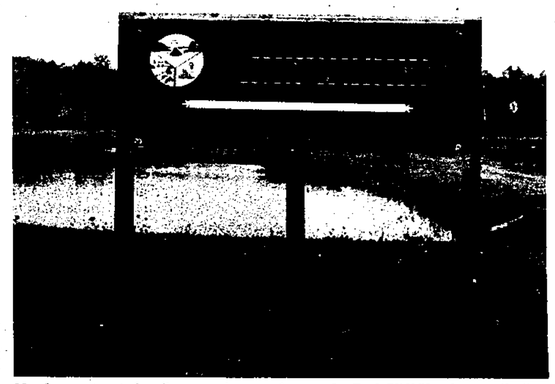
With an awesome location high on the shores of Lake Superior, it comes as no surprise that the Lake Superior fishery has long been a valuable resource for the Red Cliff Band of Chippewa as a primary source of survival.

It is particularly important to the Red Cliff band because they have a small land base and no inland lakes on reservation, notes Mike Gallinat, director of the Red Cliff fisheries department.

Gallinat and his staff have cause to celebrate this year. The long sought after fish hatchery facility was finally completed this spring, so the band will be able to produce and stock fish with state-of-the-art equipment.

This is a switch from years when the band's biologists struggled to hatch fry under make-shift conditions. Red Cliff began hatchery work in 1986, but only now do they have the necessary conditions to produce fish efficiently.

The hatchery will focus on coaster brook trout and walleye reproduction. Walleye from the hatchery will be stocked into lakes which are speared each spring which are not naturally reproducing, he states.



Newly constructed walleye rearing ponds near the Red Cliff Hatchery will allow the hatchery to produce fingerlings for stocking. Beyond the rearing ponds is the recently recreated wetlands area. The Band plans to construct nesting platforms and boxes to encourage waterfowl use. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Three new rearing ponds, funded through an Otto Bremer Foundation grant, will serve to rear the walleye fry to fingerling size.

Coaster brook trout reproduction was selected because it is an indigenous species in low abundance. Red Cliff will rear the coaster brook trout from the "Dorian" strain, or a lake species, and stock them into Lake Superior.

Red Cliff will be the only U.S. hatchery involved in the rearing of this species, Gallinat notes. Brood stock comes from the Dorian Hatchery in Canada.

Assessments

While the Red Cliff band is very concerned about native fish for the commercial market, such as lake trout and whitefish, the hatchery is not rearing these species because they are naturally reproducing in the wild. In fact, Gallinat says that there is a very poor survival rate on stocked lake trout.

Another aspect of the Red Cliff program is involved with annual assessments of commercial fish species and monitoring the commercial fishery.

Springtime brings the assessment crew aboard the 40' Queen of Bayfield for lake trout assessments. In the summer recruitment surveys on lake trout are performed, and the crew once again takes to the lake in the fall for spawning assessments on lake trout and whitefish.

Data from the assessment activities are used to make recommendations to the tribal council regarding quotas for the commercial fishery and for use in negotiations with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on the ten year commercial fishing agreement. Negotiations are currently in process between Red Cliff, Bad River, and the State, for a new ten year agreement.

Red Cliff licenses ten big boat fishermen in Wisconsin and three in Michigan. Twenty-one small boat licenses are also issued. Tribal commercial fishing is monitored by biological staff as well as the Red Cliff Conservation Department.

Red Cliff maintains a staff of three conservation wardens on reservation whose job it is to make sure tribal regulations and codes are being followed. Codes governing all on reservations seasons are enforced.

International issues

Red Cliff also has representation on the Lake Trout Subcommittee for the Great Lakes Fish Commission, so provides the tribe's perspective on fishery management issues at a national/international level.

Like other fishery managers around Lake Superior, Gallinat is concerned with the invasion of river ruffe, an exotic fish species with a rapidly expanding population.

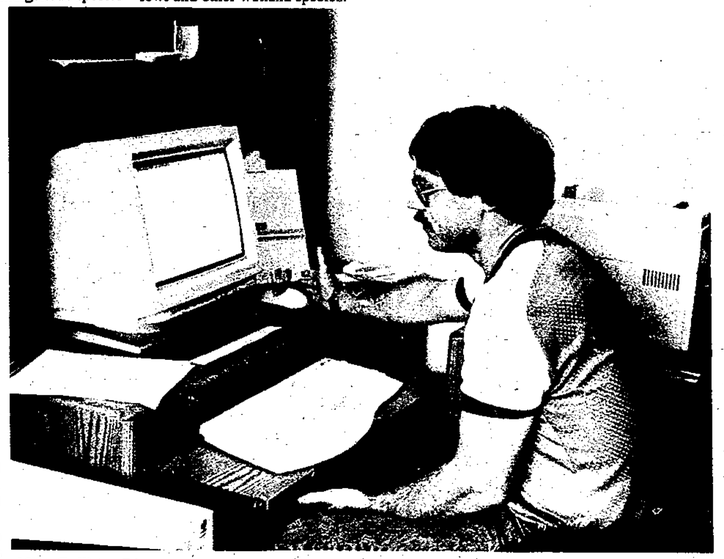
Ruffe are present in the Raspberry River, Red Creek, and Sand River. Currently, surveys for ruffe are being performed on all reservation streams, Gallinat said.

Red Cliff's natural resource program has also been active in wetlands restoration projects. In fact a wetland area was recently restored under a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Challenge Grant, Gallinat states. Located near the three stocking ponds, the wetland pond was constructed so water flow can be regulated.

Planting of native grasses and shrub around the newly constructed pond remains to complete the project, which is already attracting both waterfowl and shore birds. This will include wild rice restoration, Gallinat indicates.

Wild rice has also been seeded in the Eagle Bay area and the Raspberry River where some wild rice is still present.

Also in relation to wetlands restoration is the "noxious weed" program, which focuses on removal of exotic plant species such as purple loosestrife. These plants choke out native plants, such as wild rice, which are important to the habitat of waterfowl and other wetland species.



Mike Gallinat, Director, Red Cliff Fisheries Department, enters data in his computer. The Band has been developing a long term database on lake trout and whitefish. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

natural resources department

By Susan Erickson
Staff Writer

The walleye fishery has been the primary focus of the St. Croix band's natural resource department over the past five years. While the band is interested in many wildlife programs, the reservation's geography complicates resource management projects due to the lack of a contiguous land base, according to Beth Greif, St. Croix fisheries biologist.

Actually the reservation is composed of many scattered sites in several counties. With a total acreage of about 3,000 acres, the largest contiguous reservation land base is only about 300 acres.

However, the band has taken up the challenge in addressing fishery issues with an emphasis on walleye management.

The program began when St. Croix reared walleye fry obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in 1987. By 1990 the tribe was incubating and hatching its own eggs, and since that time the annual collection and stocking of walleye fry and fingerling has continued to expand.

The band uses Big Redd incubators and rents a rearing pond for raising fry to fingerling size before stocking. The needed eggs are procured from WDNR crews doing assessment netting and taken to the tribal incubators for hatching.

Stocking occurs on lakes which are both speared and stocking reliant, states Greif. Lakes where walleye are naturally reproducing are not considered a stocking priority even though they experience both angling and spearing pressure.

St. Croix fisheries staff seine for walleye fingerlings in the rearing pond. (Photo by Amoose)

In addition to hatchery activities, St. Croix's fishery staff cooperate with GLIFWC, WDNR, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in spring and fall electrofishing assessments. In 1995 they also performed ice fishing creel surveys. Through the annual assessment activities the band is able to measure population changes and make recommendations for both harvest figures and stocking.

St. Croix maintains and staffs one electroshocking boat and works in conjunction with the crews from the other agencies each spring and fall. Electroshocking assessment involves capturing, tagging and releasing the fish as well as recording data related to weight, size, and taking some scale samples.

A member of the St. Croix fishery crew releases fry from a transport truck into Long Lake, where the eggs were gathered. (Photo by Amoose)

Information from each crew is shared, so a comprehensive data base can be compiled and analyzed.

In other areas, the band participates in the Technical Working Group on wild rice, where tribal and state biologists develop recommendations on wild rice management issues.

Because of its importance to the band, a watchful eye is kept on the wild rice stands. The St. Croix band has surveyed for wild rice, both current stands and historical sites, in lakes and rivers as well as interviewed tribal ricers in regard to the health of the crop.

Greif feels there are indications that the wild rice is declining but the band has not yet undertaken re-seeding projects.

On-reservation compliance with environmental standards, such as the Safe Water Drinking Act and the Clean Water Act, has been the focus of St. Croix's environmental program, according to Laurie Maloney, St. Croix environmental director.

Maloney deals with eight community water systems, two for operation and maintenance and six for water testing.

Assuring compliance with current federal environmental laws and collecting data necessary for environmental planning have been some of the first priorities for the environmental department.

For instance, surveys on pesticide use have been undertaken, and underground storage tanks, on and off reservation, have been located and removed.

(See St. Croix, page 26)

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

A better tomorrow for our children and youth

Introduction

A long awaited surge of growth and economic prosperity fueled by casino profits has lifted the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians like a sudden gust of wind raises a soaring eagle.

And like an eagle waiting for that rush of wind, the Band has seized the moment to lift itself from a long history of impoverishment.

Like many bands across the nation, lack of economic development opportunities for the community left many of its people in poverty and the community reliant on scarce federal dollars for housing, schools, health facilities, and recreational facilities.

Lack of employment on reservation discouraged some members from staying in the community entirely, and those who chose to stay dealt with the limitations that were part of "life on the rez."

These people, many who have passed on, never lost the spirit of community nor the sense of pride in being Ojibwe, particularly, Mille Lacs Ojibwe. They held to their traditional ways despite the pressures of assimilation and carried with them a stubborn refusal to give up their sovereignty despite the hardships they endured.

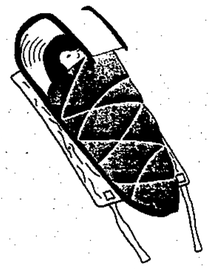
The current rebuilding of the community is a tribute to the forethought and planning of many Mille Lacs leaders who knew this day would come and the Band would have to be ready to meet the challenges presented by opportunities for growth.

With the opening of the Grand Casino Mille Lacs in 1991 and the Grand Casino Hinckley in 1992, the moment arrived and the Band was ready with firm priorities established for community redevelopment.

The first priority was providing new ceremonial buildings to accommodate the spiritual needs of community members. Then came a new clinic, schools, and public utilities.

This **MASINAIGAN** feature on Mille Lacs will look at few of diverse manifestations of the Band's climb upward—glimpse at the direction of progress as the Mille Lacs Band takes wing.

1995 Mille Lacs' "Year of the Child" challenges the community as a whole to focus on the needs of youth and provide all the opportunities they need to become leaders for the next generation. Pictured above and bursting with energy is Lacey Garbow.



"These children are not only the future of the Band, not merely hope for better days ahead. . .these children possess their own gift. The gift is power. Each child has power. . . Your children and my children and grandchildren are curious about the world. They ask questions. Sometimes it seems they ask a million questions. But that is part of their strength. . . The power of the children is the power of a million new ideas."

—Marge Anderson, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Credits:
Sue Erickson, writer
Amoose, photojournalist

1995, The Year of the Child

In her 1995 State of the Band address, Chief Executive Marge Anderson formally declared 1995 to be "The Year of the Child" for the Mille Lacs Band, deliberately placing the emphasis of the Band's planning towards the needs of its children and challenging families and government alike to focus on the needs of the youth.

Chief Anderson, a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, does not mince words when it comes to priorities for the Band and its future. Education, re-learning language, diversification, self-regulation, and rebuilding a community must merge to provide a solid base for the upcoming generations of Mille Lacs Ojibwe to stand upon. The children, she feels, must be equipped with the spiritual strength of their tribe, an understanding of traditional values, and all the skills required to cope in a modern world.

Marge Anderson, Mille Lacs chief executive.

To attain this Anderson followed up her challenge by providing a mandate for each governmental department for 1995 which would lead towards a better tomorrow for the Band's children. An excerpt from her speech follows:

"This year, I have determined that there is one priority that we must all pay more attention to. And that priority is the children and youth of our reservation.

Our willingness to provide security to our children and their families stands as a reflection of our priorities as a Tribe, and a measure of our success as a society.

We must do a better job of recognizing our children for what they are—a gift from the Great Spirit—the greatest gift that we could ever receive.

These children are not only the future of the Band, not just the hope for better days ahead. . .these children possess their own gift. The gift is power. Each child has power.

Your children and my children and grandchildren are curious about the world. They ask questions. Sometimes it seems they ask a million question. But that is part of their strength.

The power of the children is the power of a million new ideas.

We must do a better job of encouraging and harnessing that power for the betterment of all our People. But the only way to achieve that goal is for all of us to take more responsibility for what our children are learning from us as parents, as family members, as friends, as teachers. . .

And so my friends and relatives, today I am declaring by Executive Order that 1995 will be "The Year of the Child" on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

For every single Department within my Administration, I shall today provide a mandate for a "Better Tomorrow for our Children and Youth."

Education: New schools integrate language & culture

The new Nay Ah Shing schools, opened in 1993, symbolize the commitment of the Mille Lacs Band to provide the children with a positive, Ojibwe education. Children enter the school to first see a ceremonial circle and he four sacred colors—red, yellow, black, and white. Ojibwe language and decor meet your eye as you enter and follow throughout the buildings.

Monday mornings and the school week begin with a pipe ceremony led by one of the tribal elders. Ojibwe language class is mandatory and instruction in drumming and beadwork are a few of the culturally-oriented opportunities available within the curriculum.

The two new school buildings serving about 200 youth reflect the circular architecture of the Ojibwe culture and stand in stark contrast to the old community center which turned into a school following a 1975 walk-out from the nearby Onamia High School. Mille Lacs students were no longer willing to put up with harassment from teachers and students, so left. While the old facility could not adequately meet the needs, funding for expansion and improvement was not available through federal dollars.

However, once the casino provided a source of revenue, the Band was quick to act on this priority. Money was raised through the sale of tax-exempt bonds and approximately $6 million put towards the construction of the schools.

As Duane Dunkley, Commissioner of Education, explains, Nay Ah Shing schools integrate Ojibwe culture into every aspect of contemporary education. One of the goals of the school, he states, is to have total immersion into the Ojibwe language, so only Ojibwe is spoken.

Credential language teachers as well as many tribal elders participate in teaching language, and language becomes a part of every class. It is taught from Headstart through twelfth grade.

Ojibwe stories, skills, and knowledge are incorporated into all learning, Dunkley states. Even the large meeting circle, used for ceremonies and meetings, has been found effective for behavior management.

The Ojibwe perspective is incorporated into writing and computer skills classes through composition of cultural stories and expressions on the computer. Science classes include traditional use and knowledge about plants and animals as well as Ojibwe terms.

Nay Ah Shing schools also include a Headstart and day care program. Five rooms are devoted to the infants and pre-schoolers with two teachers per classroom. So the handsome facility serves the Band's youth from birth through twelfth grade.

Mandate for education in 1995

The 1995 mandate from Chief Anderson to Commissioner Dunkley was to coordinate a healthy and active youth program, with a full-time director. Anderson said that while the current service to youth is good, "it is not enough."

She mentioned several unmet needs for more creative opportunities for children after school and in the summer, more baby-sitters, and the presence of an adult role-model who is available to the children 24 hours a day.

She also said that the Band must take a more active role in the education of the children in Districts II and III and better coordinate with other schools and school districts.

So, even though the Band's educational facility and program has improved dramatically, continued improvement and growth in serving youth is still a priority item on the Administration's agenda.

For Chief Anderson, the continued emphasis on using the language is particularly important. She knows there is still much work to be done, but is brightened by progress that she sees and hears. "It's worth it. . .to hear a child speak to me in the language. . .it's worth the heartaches and headaches," she said.

Providing a positive learning environment for the reservation's youth is one of the first priorities of the Mille Lacs Band.

Department of Administration
Rebuilding a community

Schools are but one aspect community rebuilding that is in progress at the Mille Lacs reservation. It falls to the Department of Administration to plan and implement the construction of a community that not only includes public buildings, but also adequate housing, roads, adequate utilities, and the services to make them effective

The first new structure on the reservation was the District I ceremonial building. Built in 1993, it was the first building devoted exclusively to the Band's spiritual life on the reservation since the 1940's.

According to Chief Anderson, ceremonial buildings at Mille Lacs and Lake Lena districts were placed first on the building agenda because ". . .ceremonies are very important to preserving our culture and sense of community."

The ceremonial buildings incorporate traditional design into modern architecture and are a result of considerable research into Mille Lac's culture by the Minneapolis architectural firm Cuningham Hamilton Quiter, P.A. who provided the design for the ceremonial buildings and other buildings on the reservation.

More community buildings followed—two schools, a new health clinic, a new community center in the East Lake District. Construction is scheduled for the Lake Lena Community Center and a new Government Center is next on the list.

Rehabilitation of the commodities building, the elderly nutrition building and the pow-wow grounds have also taken place.

In the area of utilities, the Band leveraged a Farmer's Home Administration Loan to fund the construction of a 230,000 gallon water tower to service the growing needs on the reservation. A new water treatment plant was also constructed as was a solid waste transfer station.

Commissioner of Administration Brenda Moose Boyd is essentially in charge of day-to-day operations of the tribal government. This is broad and far-reaching, including oversight of many programs such as Education, Natural Resources, Health and Human Services, Jobs Training Partnership Act, to mention a few.

Mandate for improved safety and services for children

"If there is one area where we can no longer risk a lack of coordination, it is in the services, programs, and functions of our government which serve our children and youth," Chief Anderson stated during her 1995 State of the Band Address.

Consequently, she assigned the Commissioner of Administration the task of planning to immediately hold a Youth Conference for government officials, employees, and families on the reservation.

The purpose of the conference is to closely examine how the children are being served and how they "might be better served," Anderson said, emphasizing that the conference should be all-inclusive and open.

Secondly, she directed Commissioner of Administration Boyd to implement a "Time with Children" program, which will allow all employees of the Mille Lacs Band to spend a few hours each month at school with their children.

Be active in your child's education, and show them that you are interested in what they are doing and learning at school.

Chief Anderson directed the Assistant Commissioner of Administration "to continue to coordinate the development on the reservation in a way which keeps in mind the needs of the Seventh Generation."

By this she meant that all construction and development needs to consider the use of the land and resources for seven generations to come.

Specifically for 1995, she directed the department to "explore increasing safety for all of our children as they walk run or bike around our Reservation."

Chief Anderson also addressed the problem of speeding on Highway 169 which runs through the Mille Lacs District and the construction of a child-friendly playground on the reservation. These issues were assigned as two 1995 goals by Anderson.

Children don't always watch out for themselves. Promoting safety for kids walking, biking, and playing around the reservation is one of the 1995 challenges to the Assistant Commissioner of Administration.

The Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel adjacent to the Grand Casino is another tribal business venture of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Renovated pow-wow grounds at the Mille Lacs Reservation.

Department of Health & Human Services

Focus on prevention

The Ne ia Shing Clinic opened its doors in December, 1993, according to Dan Milbridge, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, who views the major goal of the Clinic as prevention.

The Clinic provides comprehensive health care on reservation, including medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and diagnostic services. The Band contracts with two physicians and maintains a dentist and three nurses on staff along with a full-time and a part-time laboratory technician.

In keeping with encouraging traditional, cultural practices, a native practitioner is also available on a consultant basis. His services are coordinated through the clinic. Out-patient services include social services, audiology, pharmacy, x-ray, chemical dependency, mental health, and high complexity laboratory work.

Since moving to the new facility, the clinic has tripled its volume of patients, Milbridge says. Approximately, 10,000-12,000 patients, including tribal members and non-members, are seen a year. Previously, lack of space inhibited increased services.

Milbridge would like to see the clinic include a physical therapy and fitness area in the facility. Other plans for expansion in health and human services include care for the elderly or handicapped. Feasibility studies are in process on a nursing home as well as congregate housing and a home health plan which would provide assisted home living.

The new health clinic on the reservation provides a spectrum of health-related services to the entire community.

The chemical dependency program provides assessment only. If in-patient treatment is required, the patient is referred to an appropriate treatment facility.

Currently five social workers are on staff, one licensed mental health worker, and one psychologist. Milbridge would like to see staff increased, particularly social workers, in order to better meet the need.

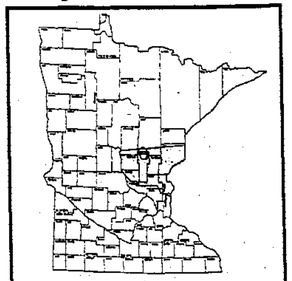
Mandate for children and family guidance

Chief Anderson targeted prevention for the 1995 priority in her mandate to Commissioner Milbridge, directing him "to ensure that the health prevention for our children and healthy family guidance on reservation be one of the key issues addressed at the Youth Conference.

In another area, Anderson also mandated Mildbridge to work with counties, the state and private providers to ensure that the network necessary to secure all the services band members need are in place.

Anderson stated that counties receive federal funding to provide social services to eligible Indian persons in the state of Minnesota. However, she said that Tribes do not see any of those funds. "And in many instances, the Indian people for whom the counties get federal money are not being served," she stated.

Standing behind their youth, many Mille Lacs elders are active in education and youth projects. Their interest and caring forms a strong support for the young.



The Mille Lacs reservation is divided into three districts. District I, Mille Lacs, lies on the south shore of Mille Lacs lake and is the site of the governmental headquarters. District II, East Lake, is about 60 miles away near McGregor and District III, Lake Lena, is near Danbury, Wis. on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix river. The total land base is 11,250 acres. The population is 2,818 with approximately 800 under eighteen years.

Department of Natural Resources

Protection of treaty rights & resources

The Mille Lacs Band's Natural Resources Department (NRD) has not only been involved in on-reservation resource management projects, but also has worked intensely on the off-reservation treaty issues which are currently in litigation.

Don Wedll, Commissioner of Natural Resources, coordinates the multi-faceted program which employees ten staff, including five biologists. Much of the program's focus has been on water quality issues, with staff developing a data base on water quality in waters on and adjacent to the reservation.

Much of the research provided information for draft Water Quality Standards which the Band has submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval.

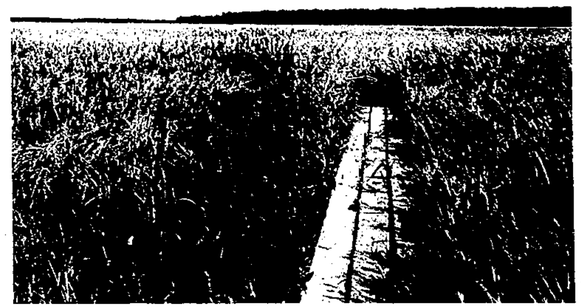
Other resource management projects include surveying and testing wild rice for restoration efforts, improving waterfowl habitat under the Circle of Flight initiative, forestry management, mercury sampling, GIS mapping, fishery assessments and archeological preservation.

In 1994 the Mille Lacs NRD was instrumental in establishing new programs to manage the Band's waste water and underground injection wells were installed.

On reservation conservation codes were established by the Band in 1979 for all seasons, including small game, migratory bird, fishing, big game hunting, timber harvest and ricing.

The Band has in place a full set of ordinances regulating on and off-reservation seasons, a licensing structure, registration stations and a system of tagging.

Conservation officers are federally certified and post-board certified. Currently, one officer enforces on-reservation seasons.



Wild rice grows thick on one of Mille Lacs inland lakes.

Conservation violations are cited into the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Court, established in 1990 following the compact for self-governance with the U.S. Department of Interior. The Court exercises jurisdiction in the areas of gaming and conservation.

The Band anticipates expansion of both enforcement and biological services in order to meet the demands of expanded seasons.

Over the past several years the Band has also increased its land-base from 2,450 acres to 11,250 acres. Re-acquisition of a tribal land base has long been a priority for Band, Wedll states.

Commissioner Wedll formerly represented Mille Lacs on GLIFWC's Voigt Inter-Tribal Task Force (VITTF) and currently sits on GLIFWC's Board of Commissioners. He has been involved with the Wisconsintreaty rights struggle since the formation of the VITTF.

The recent federal court victory which re-affirmed the treaty rights of the Mille Lacs Band under the 1837 Treaty represented years of preparation and work both on negotiations with the Minnesota and on litigation issues.

In her address to the Band, Chief Anderson commended Wedll "for the excellent leadership he has devoted to our treaty rights for a decade now. . .you will go down in Band history as one of our greatest advocates of all time."

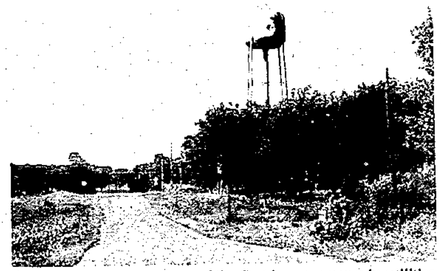
1995 mandate: Develop an historical framework, regulations & environmental protection

The mandates provided to the Commissioner of Natural Resource for 1995 are expansive, and the Department has many challenges ahead. Anderson directed Commissioner Wedll to:

✔Develop the historical framework of the Band so that our children's children will have the correct perspective, as well as correct historical and legal facts.

✔Develop a regulatory system that will allow mothers, fathers, grandparents, uncles and aunts to teach their children the cultural importance of these resources. Children must be taught how to take and harvest the resources responsibly, as well as how to use them culturally and for subsistence.

(See 1995 mandate, page 18)



A new water tower was one of the first improvements in utilities for the community.

A Mille Lacs grandmother and grandchild at the 1995 State of the Band Address in which Chief Executive Marge Anderson declared 1995 to the "The Year of the Child."

Department of Corporate Affairs

Buying the Bank

The Mille Lacs Band's purchase of the Onamia Bank is one way of achieving its ultimate goal—diversification of economic development. This does not only refer to tribal enterprises, but also private enterprise on the reservation. Mille Lacs means to encourage economic growth outside of the casinos.

Currently, the two Mille Lacs casinos and the Grand Mille Lacs Hotel which opened in 1994 are the Band's primary businesses.

However, the casinos are owned by the Corporate Commission, which is a separate entity from the Band, according to Mitchell Corbine, Director of Operations and Finance for the Corporate Commission.

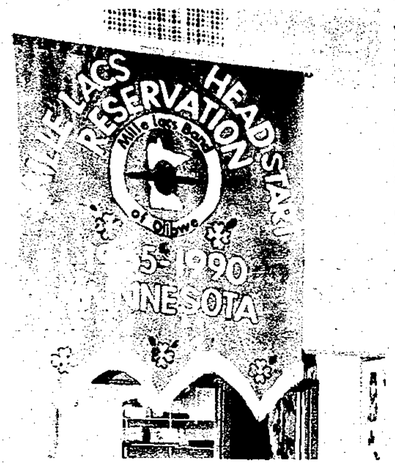
The separation from the tribal government, he says, was intended to remove politics from business.

The Board of Correctors, composed of a representative from each of Mille Lacs' three districts and appointed by the Band Assembly, makes business decisions on recommendations from the staff, Corbine explains.

However, the Band Assembly determines how to use the profits. The Band's policy has been to use profits to pay off debt and invest in reservation infrastructure, economic development, education and long-term savings. It does not make per capita payments to individual Band members.

The Grand Casinos are managed by Grand Casinos Inc., and outside management company. The Grand Casino Mille Lacs employs about 1,000 people (approximately 20% Indian) individuals and the Grand Casino employs about 1,100 (approximately 13% Indian), according to Corbine. The net effect has been the reduction of on-reservation unemployment from about 45% to nearly zero.

Providing buildings and utilities has been a priority for the use of the Band's business revenues. Above is the new Nay Ah Shing school built by the Mille Lacs Band to serve the educational needs of their children.



Headstart and pre-school are housed in the new Nay Ah Shing school.

Corbine views commercial banking as a very positive move for the community. Historically, commercial banks have not had an aggressive outreach to Indian entrepreneurs, he states.

Under Mille Lacs ownership, the bank would encourage Band members to establish enterprises and retail development, he states. It would also educate community members on services that traditionally haven't been available to them

Another goal is to establish an economic development fund for Band members who are interested in developing private businesses.

Mandate to diversify & prepare the Band for management

The challenge presented to Corporate Commissioner Doug Twait by Chief Anderson for 1995 is to diversify the economy. "Create new successful business that offer many types of jobs," Anderson stated.

"As our children see the our economy grow and thrive it will give them greater confidence in their future. It will help them to see that anything is possible," she said.

"Gaming was a stunning remedy to the age old problems of joblessness. But I want our children to have many different choices for their livelihoods. We need more successful businesses so we can have more of the resources we need to invest in our children's future.

Also, as our children see our economy continue to grow and thrive it will give them greater confidence in their future. It will help them to see that anything is possible," Anderson said.

She also challenged to Commissioner Twait to provide a plan for transition of casino management from the Grand Casinos Inc. to the Band and implement the plan over the next 4-5 years. Anderson would like to see the Band prepared to fully self-manage the two best casinos in the country. ❑

1995 mandate to the natural resources dept.

(Continued from page 17)

✔Develop regulations that will allow members to utilize our natural resources within their diets.

✔Develop strong environmental protectionprograms, including groundwater and surface water protection.

She also included a directive to maintain the role the Band has achieved as a "true player on tribal environmental issues nationally."

Anderson wants to assure that the Band will continue to influence national environmental policies that will impact the Band's resources. ❑

Mille Lacs past history

Part of present and future

To the Anishinabe or Chippewa who lived along its southwestern shores, Lake Mille Lacs and the surrounding land has a special significance.

This part of Minnesota—where the seasons of the year bring cycles of great beauty to the Lake and the land—has been the setting of their history for more than two centuries.

For miles in every direction, there is hardly a place untouched by some large or small event from their past. While the Mille Lacs Lake region is now a famed fishing and resort area, to the Anishinabe or Chippewa, it is a place where the past touches the present and connects their life with the people who came before and left a rich tribal heritage.

While they no longer live as their ancestors did, they are a people who have kept the tribal heritage at the core of their life. Their present life is a blend of their own culture and the culture of the larger society which surrounds them.

Today, they are a people well known for their understanding and use of tribal knowledge, customs, beliefs, and practices which gave meaning to the life of their ancestors and gives meaning to their own.

The ancestors of all of these people were members of Anishinabe or Chippewa bands who made their homes in Minnesota in the 18th century. At that time, each band or group carried on its own political, economic, and cultural life, although close ties existed between those living in the same general area.

In the 19th century, when white settlement and development of Minnesota threatened their existence, the Anishinabe leaders in the Mille Lacs region were pressured to cede their lands to the United States government and relocate on lands in other parts of the state, guaranteed to them through treaties and agreements as new homelands.

Some bands leaders decided to move while others refused to leave the places where their people had lived for generations.

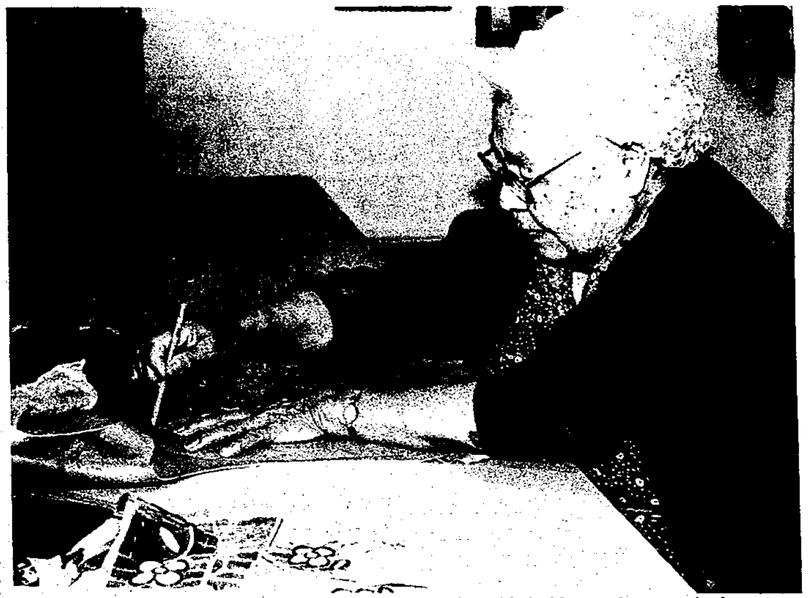
By the early years of the 20th century, federal Indian officials referred to all of these groups as the Non-Removal Mille Lacs Chippewa Band to distinguish them from band members who earlier resettled on the White Earth Reservation and other Chippewa reservations in the state.

The Non-Removal Mille Lacs band members are the descendants of people who simply loved their homelands too much to leave them behind. While their relatives might settle elsewhere, they simply could not, no matter what their future as landless people might hold.

Through their self-reliance and courage and the persistence of their leaders, they survived harsh treatment at the hands of white developers and settlers who transformed their forest lands into lumbering towns, dairy farms, and later, recreational fishing and tourist centers. They also regained a tiny portion of their homelands which now collectively makes up the Mille Lacs Reservation .

In one way or another, nearly everything about the present day life of the Mille Lacs people-their cultural life, the tiny land base on which they are building a new future for their people, their relations with outsiders and state and government officials-has been influenced by the past.

The Mille Lacs Historical Museum will soon be moving into its new building. The pattern on the outside of the building was taken from beadwork designed by Mille Lacs Elder Sam Batiste.



Sam Batiste working on traditional beadwork. She works part time with the Museum demonstrating her art.

An understanding of their history is essential to any understanding of their present life and provides a portrait of a people who stood against the currents of American history unfolding in the state of Minnesota and won a measure of justice for themselves and the generations following in their footsteps.

(Excerpted from The story of the Mille Lacs Anishinabe © 1985, The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.)

Year of the child

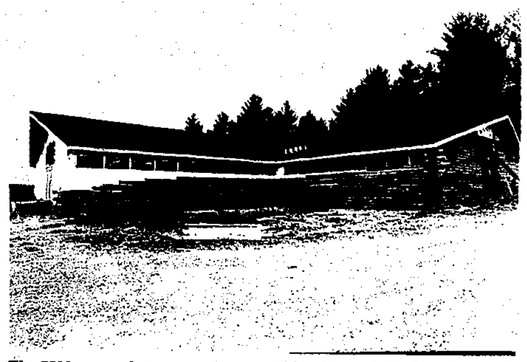
"Whatever the strength of the child—it must be nurtured"

'anji Gahbow, cultural instructor and Ojibwe teacher at the Nah Ah Shing School with a few of her students. Many lders from Mille Lacs participate actively in both formal and informal education of youth, sharing much of their me and knowledge. *(Photo by Amoose)*

lth grade students at Nah Ah Shing school practise drumming under the instruction of Pete Gahbow. Drumming is one of a variety of cultural skills taught at the school. (Photo by Amoose)

SOKAOGON CHIPPEWA COMMUNITY

natural resources department



The 7500 square foot new environmental building at Mole Lake houses the tribal court and nine full-time staff members. (Photo by Amoose)

By Stephanie Catlin
HONOR intern

Currently, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community environmental department spends much of its time on the issues pertaining to the proposed Crandon mine that will effect the resources of Mole Lake and the entire area. However, the department continues to work in other areas that are necessary to protect and manage the environment and the resources of the Sokaogon people.

Mining issues

In June, the Sokaogon became the first tribe in Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 5 (Minn., Wis., Mich., Inn., Ohio, Ill.) to receive treatment as a state for purposes of implementing water quality standards.

After submitting a completed application to the EPA in August 1994, the EPA reviewed it and then gave the state of Wis. and Forest County the chance to challenge jurisdiction of the tribal water resources. Although the state challenged the tribe's jurisdiction, the EPA decided the state's challenge was not valid.

"It was nothing more than an assault on tribal sovereignty," said John Griffin, Sokaogon environmental programs director.

"We only received negative comments on our water quality standards from two entities—the state of Wisconsin. . . George Meyer, and the Crandon Mining Company (CMC). Their comments—they're laughable."

With federal recognition, the tribe can implement water quality standards on tribal lands after completing a hearing process with the EPA. This also lifts a burden off the other Region 5 tribes, Griffin said.

"Now it should be easier for all the tribes in Minnesota., Michigan, and Wisconsin to obtain recognition of this authority," he said.

But for the Sokaogon this recognition does not clear up all of their concerns, and many of the department's activities are associated with their main concern—the proposed Crandon mine.

"This only intensifies our intent to protect our resources from the inevitable devastation from the proposed Crandon mine," Griffin said.

As the CMC continues its efforts for a mine permit, the Sokaogon environmental department is conducting numerous studies on the effects of the proposed mine.

"Logic tells you that you can't have this mine without harming the resources," Griffin said. However, he said, they must identify the resources that will be effected and demonstrate harm of those resources from the proposed mine, in order to assure the tribe that no federal trust resources will be violated.

Griffin said, "We have the largest, densest, single stand of naturally-viable inland lake rice in Wis., in the ceded territory, and possibly in the country. Is that not worthy of the greatest protection?"

Fish hatchery plans

In the spring of 1996, the natural resources department hopes to begin use of new rearing ponds and a new hatchery building that will be built this fall.

The new concrete shelter will accommodate ex-tended-length (three to five inch) walleye along with the approximately 3.2 million fry hatched and released each year.

Wild rice re-seeding

In the fall, the department will re-establish several thousand pounds of wild rice on various wetlands, including Bishop Lake, Swamp Creek, Rolling Stone Lake, and Pickeral Lake, where it once grew. Development and water control appears to be the major caurse of the decline of wild rice in the historical range of the Sokaogon.

> "We have the largest, densest, single stand of naturally-viable inland lake rice in Wisconsin, in the ceded territory, and possibly in the country. Is that not worthy of the greatest protection?"
>
> **-John Griffin**
> **Sokaogon Chippewa Community**

Local lake associations and friends of the tribe recognize the importance of re-establishing wild rice and assist the tribe in these efforts, Griffin said.

New environmental facility

Since the first week of April, the department has been working in a new environmental building. The 7500 square foot building holds office and conference space and also a water quality lab.

It houses the tribal court and nine full time staff members, including environmental attorneys, scientists, field technicians, two Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission wardens and various interns and consultants, who work on such projects as resource surveys, productivity analysis, and testing.

Fish analysis

Currently, the department is conducting mercury analysis of fish on off-reservation lakes where spearfishing takes place, such as Roberts Lake, Butternut Lake, Pine Lake, Lake Metonga, and Lake Lucerne. Also, fry and extended-length walleye will be released in those lakes.

Information from the analysis will show trends in the degredation of the fishery due to mercury accumulation in the tribe's fishery resources.

Griffin said this information will be used to assess impacts to tribal members health as well as impacts to the food web due to bioaccumulation of heavy metals.

Through all of these activities, the Sokaogon natural resources department is working to protect and manage the environment for the people.

Native and non-native participants at the Protect the Earth rally indicate a resistance to the destruction of northern Wisconsin by mines by walking in protest to the proposed Crandon mine near Mole Lake. (Photo by Amoose)

FOND DU LAC CHIPPEWA TRIBE

natural resources department

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

The disappearance of manomin, or wild rice, on and near many reservations has been a concern to the Ojibwe for decades. This is because manomin has always been highly regarded as a "gift" to the people from the Great Spirit and used as staple in the people's diet.

Therefore, it is no surprise that a highlight of the Fond du Lac (FdL) reservation's natural resource program involves wild rice restoration both on and off-reservation. As a result of efforts over the past several years and continuing support from the Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee (RBC), new stands of manomin once again flourish in several traditional ricing beds on the reservation.

As Larry Schwarzkopf, FdL natural resource program manager, explains, manipulation of water levels through man-made drainage or dams drastically changed the water tables and water flow over the years in many lakes and rivers where manomin flourished.

In the early 1900s, for instance, efforts were afoot to drain wetlands to make them accessible for development or farming, he states. A result has been the destruction of rice beds, either due to drainage or flooding from dams for hydroelectric companies.

He points to FdL's Rice Portage Lake as an example of a water body that has shrunk nearly half its original size. It is Fond du Lac's aim to restore the lake to near its original size and the wild rice stand with it, Schwarzkopf says.

The protection, maintenance, and enhancement of both currently and historically harvested rice lakes is the primary objective of the Wild Rice Management Plan prepared in 1994.

Primary lakes which are being harvested today for rice include: Perch, Rice Portage, Mud, Deadfish, and Jaskari lakes. Traditionally used sites targeted for restoration include Wild Rice, Hardwood, and Cedar lakes. The goals also include Kettle Lake and the Lower St. Louis river, ricing areas near the reservation.

Wild rice restoration is a complex project, requiring research and continuous monitoring, according to Schwarzkopf. Water needs to be monitored particularly for water table fluctuations and flow. Three seasons of data have been collected on water fluctuations, providing the staff with a significant data base.

Other problems plague the reestablishment of manomin as well as maintenance of current stands, particularly the intrusion of other plant species.

The FdL natural resource program employs the "Cookie Cutter," a unique boat equipped with large blades to remove masses of floating bog which choke out the rice or the rapidly expanding pickerel weed (moose ear) which flourishes in the rice beds.

FdL's RBC purchased the Cookie Cutter for the program to use in areas such as Rice Portage Lake where the band has been raising the lake level 30-50 acres a year, covering dense wetland vegetation.

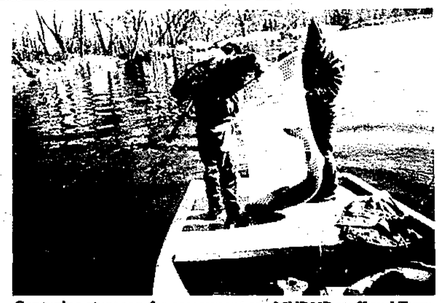
Last year, the program purchased two tons of hand-harvested rice for reseeding, he states. Most of it was reseeded in Wild Rice Lake, which has been devoid of rice until the last several years when reseeding took hold. Removal of a log jam prior to reseeding helped restore the natural water flow to the lake.

In 1993, 900 lbs. of rice were reseeded into the lake. In 1994 another 1700 lbs. were used to reseed. Today, only patches of blue water glisten through green, dancing heads of rice stalks that cover the lake.

While the rice is flourishing once again in its old bed, the band will not open it to harvest for several years, allowing the newly re-established bed the opportunity to gain a firm hold.

In addition to on-reservation wild rice re-seeding, the band has been working in the lower St. Louis river and Wild Rice Lake "Reservoir" north of Duluth. The St. Louis river project is funded through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and involves studying the factors that have caused the deterioration of the rice stands.

Currently, a cooperative study with the UM-Duluth is mapping an inventory of wild rice stands on the St. Louis river watershed.



Capturing sturgeon for assessment are MNDNR staff and Terry Perrault, FdL fisheries technician. (Photo courtesy of FdL)

Fishery projects emphasize rehabilitation

The thrust in the fisheries program also targets re-establishing traditionally prevalent species and the protection of the existing fishery.

Sturgeon, once abundant in the St. Louis Watershed's lakes and rivers, is one species of concern to FdL, according to Schwarzkopf. No native sturgeon can be found in the upper St. Louis river, he says.

The problem has been of concern to the state of Minnesota as well, and the MN DNR radio-tagged eight sturgeon last year in order to gain more insight into the habits of existing sturgeon.

FdL fishery crew has collected spawn from the sturgeon in the Kettle river, which currently maintains a small population; however, they were unable to obtain milt from male sturgeon for fertilization.

Schwarzkopf says he feels an effective stocking program must take place in order to restore the sturgeon population both on and off reservation; however, stocking must reflect the differing habits of the lake and river sturgeon in order to be effective and build a naturally-reproducing stock.

FdL staff also participated in studies on river ruffe that have invaded the St. Louis river. While ruffe have not been detected in on reservation waters, the threat remains very near and is closely watched.

FdL cooperates with the National Biological Services (NBS) office in Ashland, Wis. on various ruffe studies. Currently, Schwarzkopf says the NBS is looking at the use of a new technology which would employ phermones. Phermones, natural chemicals related to reproductive hormones, can be used to attract species into traps.

Wildlife projects

FdL is also developing a data base on the deer herd on and adjacent to the reservation. Resource managers will employ radio-collars for the four-year study, and they will also track deerherds by air, Schwarzkopf said.

They will be looking at population numbers, habitat, mortality ratios, reproduction, predator ratios, and causes of mortality. The study will run four years.

The Band has gathered information on the moose herd in previous years and that information is now being analyzed. The results for both deer and moose will be used to assist in determining hunting quotas as well as make recommendations on management.

Furbearers are also being surveyed on the reservation in a project which uses scent posts to attract the animals. The study is being done cooperatively with the MN DNR and will provide an indication of number fluctuations in various species.

Fond du Lac's Natural Resource Department: Front row: Larry Schwarzkopf, manager; Terry Perrault, fishery technician; Randy Hedin, aquatic specialist; Russ Rule, wildlife technician. Middle: Brian Burkholder, ceded territory fishery biologist. Back row: John Henry McMillen, wildlife technician; Reggie DeFoe, wildlife technician; and Mike Schrage, ceded territory wildlife biologist. Not pictured are: fishery technicians Mark Zacher and Bruce Savage. (Photo by Amoose)

MILLE LACS BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

natural resources department

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Department of Natural Resources, directed by Commissioner Don Wedll, addresses a wide range of resource management activities on and off reservation. Developing a sound database on which to base management decisions regarding the Band's many resources has been a primary focus for the last several years.

Cultural resources

A unique program within the Mille Lacs Natural Resources Department (NRD) is the "Cultural Resources and Archaeological Management Program," coordinated by Elisse Aune.

Funded by the Band, the goal of the program is to identify and record significant cultural sites within the community, including all three districts, so that these sites can be monitored and preserved.

With sites identified and described in a database, the Band is able to evaluate any proposed developments on or near them and issue an Historical Band Permit for any work which may impact a specific site.

Essentially the program assures that cultural decision-making is a part of overall management planning to protect and preserve cultural resources as well as natural resources.

Water quality

Protection of the reservation's water quality has been a priority goal of the Mille Lacs NRD. The Band maintains its own on-reservation water quality laboratory to accommodate the extensive water testing that is part of developing an adequate database on reservation water. The Band has 142 lakes, rivers and streams on reservation. About 50 of these have been worked on by biological staff.

Accurately describing the current composition of the water will provide the Band a means to detect changes in water quality and alert them to possible sources of degradation. This will provide an informed basis for important resource management decisions.

The water quality database has been developed through comprehensive sampling and testing of on-reservation ecosystems as well as many of the tributaries into Mille Lacs lake.

Analysis provides a description of the chemical composition of the water, but the overall database also contains information regarding the biological and physical make-ups of ecosystems. Analysis of nutrients in sediment, quantities of phytoplankton and zooplankton and analysis of plant tissue are included in the inventory.

Mille Lacs is also developing a program to gain primacy from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for control of underground injection wells (UGIW). This would apply to wells that meet the definition of injection wells within tribal jurisdiction. The Band seeks to have the federal authority brought to tribal level.

This is important to the band in protecting its aquifer, which was designated as a sole source aquifer for drinking about five years ago. Only about 50 sole source aquifers exist in the nation.

Wild rice enhancement

The Mille Lacs band is well-known for its wild rice, a culturally significant food for the Ojibwe. Protecting the existing rice beds from adverse conditions is an important part of the DNR's program.

Monitoring wild rice ecosystems used by Mille Lacs tribal members is the goal of the Circle of Flight, a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) administered program that targets wetland enhancement and preservation.

Thirty-nine lakes and rivers used by Band members are the focus of the program at Mille Lacs. Problems related to waterflow into these areas were identified and addressed.

For instance, staff removed fallen trees and logs across rivers which held up water on the outlet rivers and streams. Since water level greatly impacts the health of rice beds, log jams and beaver dams constricting waterflow can adversely impact existing rice and so are important to eliminate.

Don Wedll, Commissioner of Natural Resources, talks to visitors from the Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Saskatchewan, interested in on and off-reservation resource management programs in the United States. (Photo by Amoose)

Feasibility studies are also being performed on several lakes which had produced rice in the past. Onamia Lake and Ogechie Lake are being tested to assess for potential reseeding.

Common tern project

In an effort to protect the common tern the Mille Lacs Band is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in research on Hennepin and Spirit Islands on Mille Lacs Lake.

A grid composed of lines about two feet apart was installed on sand and gravel areas used for nesting by the tern. The grid served to discourage larger gulls from using the area as their wings would hit the lines; but, the spacing accommodated the terns.

By taking data on reproduction rates, which is based on the number of nests that produced chicks in comparison to the number of nests constructed, the project recorded an increased reproduction rate from 1993 to 1994. However, biologists are still concerned because the figures still do not indicate that the bird would be able to maintain a stable population in the future.

Treaty rights protection

An important segment of the Band's NRD addresses the off-reservation issue of the 1837 Treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather on ceded lands. The Band has been litigating in Federal Court since 1990.

The Band was successful in achieving a favorable decision in 1994 which affirmed the 1837 Treaty right; however, the litigation is ongoing. The scope and regulation of the rights will be determined in Phase II of the litigation scheduled for 1996.

Consequently, the Mille Lacs NRD must continue to address the issues to be considered in court regarding the various resources which tribal members will harvest off-reservation.

During the past several years, a GLIFWC fisheries biologist has maintained a satellite station on the Mille Lacs reservation. He has been assessing off-reservation lakes in the 1837 ceded territories in order to establish a database on the resources.

FOND DU LAC CHIPPEWA TRIBE

natural resources department

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

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In the early 1900s, for instance, efforts were afoot to drain wetlands to make them accessible for development or farming, he states. A result has been the destruction of rice beds, either due to drainage or flooding from dams for hydroelectric companies.

He points to FdL's Rice Portage Lake as an example of a water body that has shrunk nearly half its original size. It is Fond du Lac's aim to restore the lake to near its original size and the wild rice stand with it, Schwarzkopf says.

The protection, maintenance, and enhancement of both currently and historically harvested rice lakes is the primary objective of the Wild Rice Management Plan prepared in 1994.

Primary lakes which are being harvested today for rice include: Perch, Rice Portage, Mud, Deadfish, and Jaskari lakes. Traditionally used sites targeted for restoration include Wild Rice, Hardwood, and Cedar lakes. The goals also include Kettle Lake and the Lower St. Louis river, ricing areas near the reservation.

Wild rice restoration is a complex project, requiring research and continuous monitoring, according to Schwarzkopf. Water needs to be monitored particularly for water table fluctuations and flow. Three seasons of data have been collected on water fluctuations, providing the staff with a significant data base.

Other problems plague the reestablishment of manomin as well as maintenance of current stands, particularly the intrusion of other plant species.

The FdL natural resource program employs the "Cookie Cutter," a unique boat equipped with large blades to remove masses of floating bog which choke out the rice or the rapidly expanding pickerel weed (moose ear) which flourishes in the rice beds.

FdL's RBC purchased the Cookie Cutter for the program to use in areas such as Rice Portage Lake where the band has been raising the lake level 30-50 acres a year, covering dense wetland vegetation.

Last year, the program purchased two tons of hand-harvested rice for reseeding, he states. Most of it was reseeded in Wild Rice Lake, which has been devoid of rice until the last several years when reseeding took hold. Removal of a log jam prior to reseeding helped restore the natural water flow to the lake.

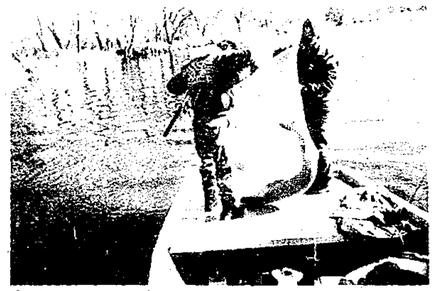
In 1993, 900 lbs. of rice were reseeded into the lake. In 1994 another 1700 lbs. were used to reseed. Today, only patches of blue water glisten through green, dancing heads of rice stalks that cover the lake.

While the rice is flourishing once again in its old bed, the band will not open it to harvest for several years, allowing the newly re-established bed the opportunity to gain a firm hold.

In addition to on-reservation wild rice re-seeding, the band has been working in the lower St. Louis river and Wild Rice Lake "Reservoir" north of Duluth. The St. Louis river project is funded through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and involves studying the factors that have caused the deterioration of the rice stands.

Currently, a cooperative study with the UM-Duluth is mapping an inventory of wild rice stands on the St. Louis river watershed.

Fond du Lac's Natural Resource Department: Front row: Larry Schwarzkopf, manager; Terry Perrault, fishery technician; Randy Hedin, aquatic specialist; Russ Rule, wildlife technician. Middle: Brian Burkholder, ceded territory fishery biologist. Back row: John Henry McMillen, wildlife technician; Reggie DeFoe, wildlife technician; and Mike Schrage, ceded territory wildlife biologist. Not pictured are: fishery technicians Mark Zacher and Bruce Savage. (Photo by Amoose)



Capturing sturgeon for assessment are MNDNR staff and Terry Perrault, FdL fisheries technician. (Photo courtesy of FdL)

Fishery projects emphasize rehabilitation

The thrust in the fisheries program also targets re-establishing traditionally prevalent species and the protection of the existing fishery.

Sturgeon, once abundant in the St. Louis Watershed's lakes and rivers, is one species of concern to FdL, according to Schwarzkopf. No native sturgeon can be found in the upper St. Louis river, he says.

The problem has been of concern to the state of Minnesota as well, and the MN DNR radio-tagged eight sturgeon last year in order to gain more insight into the habits of existing sturgeon.

FdL fishery crew has collected spawn from the sturgeon in the Kettle river, which currently maintains a small population; however, they were unable to obtain milt from male sturgeon for fertilization.

Schwarzkopf says he feels an effective stocking program must take place in order to restore the sturgeon population both on and off reservation; however, stocking must reflect the differing habits of the lake and river sturgeon in order to be effective and build a naturally-reproducing stock.

FdL staff also participated in studies on river ruffe that have invaded the St. Louis river. While ruffe have not been detected in on reservation waters, the threat remains very near and is closely watched.

FdL cooperates with the National Biological Services (NBS) office in Ashland, Wis. on various ruffe studies. Currently, Schwarzkopf says the NBS is looking at the use of a new technology which would employ phermones. Phermones, natural chemicals related to reproductive hormones, can be used to attract species into traps.

Wildlife projects

FdL is also developing a data base on the deer herd on and adjacent to the reservation. Resource managers will employ radio-collars for the four-year study, and they will also track deerherds by air, Schwarzkopf said.

They will be looking at population numbers, habitat, mortality ratios, reproduction, predator ratios, and causes of mortality. The study will run four years.

The Band has gathered information on the moose herd in previous years and that information is now being analyzed. The results for both deer and moose will be used to assist in determining hunting quotas as well as make recommendations on management.

Furbearers are also being surveyed on the reservation in a project which uses scent posts to attract the animals. The study is being done cooperatively with the MN DNR and will provide an indication of number fluctuations in various species.

MILLE LACS BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

natural resources department

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Department of Natural Resources, directed by Commissioner Don Wedll, addresses a wide range of resource management activities on and off reservation. Developing a sound database on which to base management decisions regarding the Band's many resources has been a primary focus for the last several years.

Cultural resources

A unique program within the Mille Lacs Natural Resources Department (NRD) is the "Cultural Resources and Archaeological Management Program," coordinated by Elisse Aune.

Funded by the Band, the goal of the program is to identify and record significant cultural sites within the community, including all three districts, so that these sites can be monitored and preserved.

With sites identified and described in a database, the Band is able to evaluate any proposed developments on or near them and issue an Historical Band Permit for any work which may impact a specific site.

Essentially the program assures that cultural decision-making is a part of overall management planning to protect and preserve cultural resources as well as natural resources.

Water quality

Protection of the reservation's water quality has been a priority goal of the Mille Lacs NRD. The Band maintains its own on-reservation water quality laboratory to accommodate the extensive water testing that is part of developing an adequate database on reservation water. The Band has 142 lakes, rivers and streams on reservation. About 50 of these have been worked on by biological staff.

Accurately describing the current composition of the water will provide the Band a means to detect changes in water quality and alert them to possible sources of degradation. This will provide an informed basis for important resource management decisions.

The water quality database has been developed through comprehensive sampling and testing of on-reservation ecosystems as well as many of the tributaries into Mille Lacs lake.

Analysis provides a description of the chemical composition of the water, but the overall database also contains information regarding the biological and physical make-ups of ecosystems. Analysis of nutrients in sediment, quantities of phytoplankton and zooplankton and analysis of plant tissue are included in the inventory.

Mille Lacs is also developing a program to gain primacy from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for control of underground injection wells (UGIW). This would apply to wells that meet the definition of injection wells within tribal jurisdiction. The Band seeks to have the federal authority brought to tribal level.

This is important to the band in protecting its aquifer, which was designated as a sole source aquifer for drinking about five years ago. Only about 50 sole source aquifers exist in the nation.

Wild rice enhancement

The Mille Lacs band is well-known for its wild rice, a culturally significant food for the Ojibwe. Protecting the existing rice beds from adverse conditions is an important part of the DNR's program.

Monitoring wild rice ecosystems used by Mille Lacs tribal members is the goal of the Circle of Flight, a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) administered program that targets wetland enhancement and preservation.

Thirty-nine lakes and rivers used by Band members are the focus of the program at Mille Lacs. Problems related to waterflow into these areas were identified and addressed.

For instance, staff removed fallen trees and logs across rivers which held up water on the outlet rivers and streams. Since water level greatly impacts the health of rice beds, log jams and beaver dams constricting waterflow can adversely impact existing rice and so are important to eliminate.

Don Wedll, Commissioner of Natural Resources, talks to visitors from the Montreal Lake Cree Nation, Saskatchewan, interested in on and off-reservation resource management programs in the United States. (Photo by Amoose)

Feasibility studies are also being performed on several lakes which had produced rice in the past. Onamia Lake and Ogechie Lake are being tested to assess for potential reseeding.

Common tern project

In an effort to protect the common tern the Mille Lacs Band is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in research on Hennepin and Spirit Islands on Mille Lacs Lake.

A grid composed of lines about two feet apart was installed on sand and gravel areas used for nesting by the tern. The grid served to discourage larger gulls from using the area as their wings would hit the lines; but, the spacing accommodated the terns.

By taking data on reproduction rates, which is based on the number of nests that produced chicks in comparison to the number of nests constructed, the project recorded an increased reproduction rate from 1993 to 1994. However, biologists are still concerned because the figures still do not indicate that the bird would be able to maintain a stable population in the future.

Treaty rights protection

An important segment of the Band's NRD addresses the off-reservation issue of the 1837 Treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather on ceded lands. The Band has been litigating in Federal Court since 1990.

The Band was successful in achieving a favorable decision in 1994 which affirmed the 1837 Treaty right; however, the litigation is ongoing. The scope and regulation of the rights will be determined in Phase II of the litigation scheduled for 1996.

Consequently, the Mille Lacs NRD must continue to address the issues to be considered in court regarding the various resources which tribal members will harvest off-reservation.

During the past several years, a GLIFWC fisheries biologist has maintained a satellite station on the Mille Lacs reservation. He has been assessing off-reservation lakes in the 1837 ceded territories in order to establish a database on the resources.

BAY MILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY

natural resources department

By Stephanie Catlin
HONOR intern

The Bay Mills Indian Community's (BMIC) natural resources department is currently trying to protect and enhance the diverse resources of the reservation through many actions, such as the restoration of the wild rice beds in Spectacle Lake where historical rice once grew.

Grazing Study

After noticing a regular disappearance of newly planted wild rice in Spectacle Lake over a five-month period in 1994, the natural resources department decided to conduct a study to investigate the cause.

The department has placed three test plots that are completely enclosed and three control plots that have open tops and sides in the rice beds to determine whether or not animal grazing is the cause of the disappearance. Another cause could be from the plants not taking root deeply enough to keep from being washed away by wind and waves.

Once the department has determined the cause, restoration efforts will be initiated to restore the wild rice beds that were once there.

Waterfowl monitoring

Last winter, the department placed 20 wood duck boxes and three Canada geese and mallard floating nesting platforms in seven wetlands on the reservation. The BMIC wildlife technician conducted morning and afternoon surveys by visiting each location for two hours to record all birds and waterfowl near, on, or flying over the wetland, along with the wildlife and songbird use of each area.

Tribal fisheries biologist, Ken Gebhardt said he would like to put up ten more nesting structures, but he said this may only be a one-year project. The tribe will continue to monitor the use of the wetlands, because they are an important area for wildlife.

Ann Gebhardt, wildlife technician, prepares a wood duck box for a wetland on the Bay Mills reservation. (Photo courtesy of BMIC)

Cranberry assessment

To assess the cranberry production of the BMIC wild cranberry bogs in the wetlands, the BMIC conducted random transect and sample plot stem inventories. The method involves counting the number of stems within a one-meter square plot, determining the average number of berries per stem, and measuring the total area of the bog.

So far, the plots have been measured and the stems have been counted. Gebhardt said the number of berries will be assessed later by counting the number of flowers or young berries.

With this information, the department will be able to determine the approximate number of stems for the entire wetland and the number of berries per wetland, finally determining the average total berry production for each area.

Frog and toad inventory

With assistance from GLIFWC, the BMIC conducted its first frog and toad inventory in 1995. Three times per year, the department takes inventory of local frogs and toads both on and off the reservation. One night in the early spring, late spring, and summer, department staff listen to the individual calls and determine the kinds and approximate numbers of frogs and toads existing in each wetland area.

Amphibians are good indicators of wetland health and by continuing the survey on a yearly basis, the information can provide an index of frog and toad populations and help identify long-term trends in the health of area wetlands.

Harvest observation

Throughout the year, the department monitors commercial fishing harvest. Tribal fishermen are met on shore or are assisted by biological staff while on the water. Following a standard fishing trip, Gebhardt and his technicians collect fish samples, record length, weight, and sex information, and collect scales for aging.

Fishermen are also asked about gear used, depths fished, and number of nights nets were fished.

The information is collected to determine the status of each fish population. Lengths and weights are important for determining growth, and age information is important for determining both growth and mortality rates.

Spring herring sampling

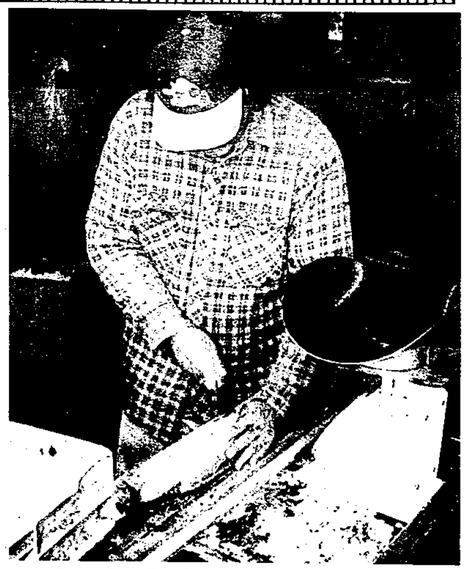
For the last two years, the department has collected information on lake herring stocks in eastern Lake Superior.

Because herring changed from being an important commercial species to an incidental or seasonal catch to most fishermen, Gebhardt said it is an interesting time to get information.

"During a time of low commercial exploitation, it's important to determine the status of the herring population and to estimate population characteristics," he said.

The department collects information during a six-week period each spring. Samples are collected from gill nets in open water or from fishermen who fish under the ice. The same information is collected from these fish as for all other commercial species.

Gebhardt believes that the lake herring will once again become a popular commercial fish species and that the best way to help manage a fish population is to learn about its characteristics before the fishery begins.



Robert Bowen, Jr. collects biological information for use in various studies and surveys at Bay Mills. (Photo by Amoose)

Whitefish studies

During the spring, the department conducts a whitefish trap net recruitment project in cooperation with the Chippewa/Ottawa Treaty Fishery Management Authority. By recording numbers of juvenile whitefish in each trapnet, biologists are able to determine the strength of year classes. Gebhardt said, "Basically, it's a way to predict the future."

In the fall, the department also conducts with Chippewa/Ottawa Treaty Fishery Management Authority a white fish spawning condition project in lakes Huron, Michigan, and Superior.

"We're just determining the differences in spawning conditions of lake white fish between the three great lakes. At the same time, we're collecting biological information," Gebhardt said.

The information gathered will show the differences in water temperature, fish biological make-up, and life cycle, and it will attribute the differences in the spawning time variations The information is being collected to evaluate the seasonal closure of the whitefish fishery in the Great Lakes.

Gebhardt said, "If there are real differences in times of spawning, the fishery regulations should reflect this difference."

Other activities

In August, along with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, the department will set variable-mesh gill nets on the upper St. Mary's river to determine the abundance of commercial and sport fish species.

This project is being conducted as part of a long-term study where fish species abundance is recorded for several years to determine population trends. Also, biological information is collected from all fish.

The department, along with many state and federal agencies, will also be assisting with a coaster brook trout project in Lake Superior.

Coaster brook trout will be collected by the agencies around Lake Superior to determine if there are distinct genetic differences among populations.

Gebhardt said, "This is the first step in a restoration project for this species. We need to determine if distinct populations occur. If so, we may want to restore and manage each population differently."

The department now operates with three staff members and volunteers. "Although the program just celebrated its second anniversary, it seems we've been running for several years," Gebhardt said.

"We're involved in many different projects that are not only great for the tribe, but also benefit the natural resources that everyone shares."

KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY

natural resources department

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Traditional reliance on Lake Superior for both commercial and subsistence fishing has placed Lake Superior fishery issues as a long-time priority for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. The two communities which compose the reservation lie on opposite sides of Keweenaw Bay near L'Anse, Mich.

The opening of a new hatchery in March 1993, with over $250,000 from the Band, marked the achievement of a major goal. The hatchery was started in 1989 but had been housed in temporary facilities.

The hatchery primarily produces lake trout, according to Mike Donofrio, director of the natural resource program. In fact the department only works with native species, he said.

Inside raceways allow for rearing fry to yearling size in order to improve the survival rate of stocked fish. The capacity for the hatchery is 150,000 yearling trout.

Eggs and brood stock are collected from lake trout native to the area, so no foreign strains are being introduced.

The tribe has expressed interest in brook trout as well, Donofrio said. Last year a brook trout assessment on Silver River was initiated. Fisheries crew use a backpack electroshocker to survey brook trout in the river. They are also looking for other species present as well as invertebrates, water flow, and water temperature.

The information, Donofrio said, will be the basis for management decisions on brook trout. Recommendations within in next year could be to develop a stocking program for brook trout and habitat improvement. The brook trout being assessed by Keweenaw Bay are stream dwelling brook trout only, Donofrio said.

Keweenaw Bay fishery biologist Mike Donofrio provides a tour of the fish hatchery for students from Michigan Technical College. (Photo by Amoose)

Keweenaw Bay's natural resource staff, including Donofrio, two technicians, Evelyn Ravindran and Neil Malmgren, actually spend much time on the lake, both monitoring commercial fishing activity and performing annual whitefish and lake trout assessments.

Spring assessment involve monitoring lake trout populations in unit MI-4 each May. Donofrio said this is an annual check on the population which Keweenaw Bay has done since 1990. Data collected includes length, weight, age, and stomach contents.

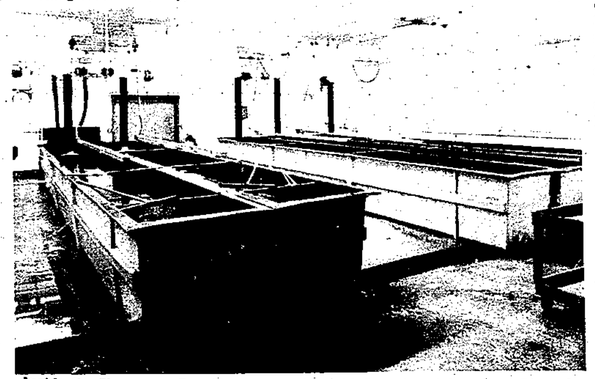
Spring assessments are actually done cooperatively with all management agencies assessing specific units each year. Gathered information is shared among the agencies and is used to establish the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the commercial fisheries.

Summer juvenile lake trout (2-5 yrs.) assessments are performed throughout the lake in July and August.

Juvenile assessments are used to monitor the contribution of the hatchery to the Keweenaw Bay population. Lake trout are slow growing, so Donofrio hopes to see increased numbers in about five years.

It also serves to develop a database on the population of the commercial species. This information is also shared with other agencies working in Lake Superior.

Fall spawning assessments on lake trout and whitefish in Mich. waters are done jointly with GLIFWC fisheries crew. Assessment crews also visit spawning reefs and document activity. Information is entered into GLIFWC's data base.



Inside the Keweenaw Bay Hatchery tanks hold fingerling lake trout. (Photo by Amoose)

Another cooperative project involves sturgeon assessments. Donofrio is working with Jeff Slade, USFWS; Nancy Auer, Mich. Technical College; and the MI DNR. Using trap nets and gill nets, the crew is recording juvenile sturgeon found in Keweenaw Bay and Portage Lake.

Waterfowl enhancement

Keweenaw Bay has participated in Circle of Flight projects for several years, establishing wild rice in suitable habitats on reservation and improving waterfowl habitat, Donofrio said.

This will be the fifth year for planting in two sites and the second year for a third site. One of the five year sites is doing well, he said, but the seed is not taking in the other so it may be abandoned.

Nesting structures have also been erected to encourage waterfowl use and the program plans to increase the number of structures next year.

Ravindran also began fall waterfowl surveys last year. With "index sites" established as observation points, she records counts during the fall migration.

Ravindran also surveyed frogs and toads for the past two years as part of study on amphibian life in ecosystems. Any decline in population could serve as an indication that adverse changes have taken place in the ecosystem.

LAC VIEUX DESERT BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

natural resources department

By Stephanie Catlin
HONOR intern

The Lac Vieux Desert (LVD) natural resources department is working on many projects to help the management and protection of the tribe's resources.

Wild rice

One project that the department is working on is the restoration of wild rice beds at LVD. They are working cooperatively with various organizations to create enough habitat to grow wild rice.

"The tribe wants to re-establish some of the rice so there will always be a source," said George Beck, tribal planner.

With the assistance of GLIFWC and the United States Forest Service, the tribe continues to seed wild rice in potential rice-producing locations.

In July, tribal, state, federal, and local lake organizations discussed a lake level that would create better growing conditions for the wild rice in Lac Vieux Desert Lake, once a tribal staple. Re-seeding will continue in the fall of each year.

New hatchery

By the end of the summer, the department hopes to have started building a new hatchery near the lake funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) with plans of moving out of the educational building where the hatchery is being run currently.

Beck said the designs and funding are available, but a land trust issue is keeping the department from beginning work.

"Hopefully, by the end of the summer we will have broken ground and have the foundation work done," Beck said.

The hatchery will begin by hatching fry, but Beck said that in the future they hope to rent rearing ponds from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Meeting at the Lac Vieux Desert reservation this summer, elders from Wisconsin tribes discussed off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering rights and the ability of the elderly to access those resources. The meeting was coordinated by the Wisconsin Inter-Tribal Council's program for the elderly. (Photo by Amoose)

Up-graded water system

Because the reservation is split between tribal and public water systems, the natural resources department is currently working on designs and specifications for upgrading the reservation water system to reach the entire reservation.

The dual water systems cannot meet current demands for firefighting, business and housing expansion. They have also caused a loss of control over water quality, which causes concern because the public waters have no treatment facilities.

Although the reservation water system is in the initial bidding state, Beck said it will be in place by next year at this time.

"We would like to see this in operation by fall, but in reality, it probably won't be on-line until next spring."

Recycling program

Although it is only in the planning stages, there will soon be a recycling program at LVD.

The natural resources department is currently trying to organize the program by determining the volumes of recycled materials on the reservation, choosing a company to haul the materials, and finding a place where they will be accepted.

"There's just such a small amount (of garbage), relatively speaking, that it's just not cost effective for the tribe to do it alone," Beck said. So the department is trying to get the township and area agencies to be involved.

Education will be the next concern, Beck said. The department has spoken with recycling firms that have been involved with demonstrating the importance of recycling, and Beck said it will begin with the administration of the tribe.

"The thought is, if we can get people at the administration level to recycle, it will be easier to get people to recycle in their homes. Then we'll try to get schools and children involved," he said.

Technician position

A new position has been created in the LVD natural resources department for a technician to conduct fieldwork to fishing issues such as off-reservation treaty fishing,, Circle of Flight projects, water resource management, and solid waste management.

These projects together help the natural resources department to preserve the resources and environmental diversity so important to the people of Lac Vieux Desert.

St. Croix natural resources department

(Continued from page12)

While information necessary to analyze water quality is being gathered, preventative programs, like on reservation recycling and waste management, have also been launched, Maloney says.

In compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the St. Croix Band closed several large dumps and is clearing out small dump sites on reservation.

Maloney says that the next step will be establishing a solid waste management plan for the band and analyzing much of the data collected in order to get a better measure of water quality issues in the various communities.

The environmental department also checks for material spills, has been involved in asbestos removal in homes, and is planning to test for carbon monoxide in homes in order to monitor air quality.

Maloney states that the environmental department assisted with the writing of the codes, including solid waste and recycling ordinances, and are in the process of developing water quality standards for the St. Croix reservation.

Both environmental and natural resource codes are enforced by St. Croix's conservation enforcement officer, who monitors for adherence to tribal codes that govern hunt, fishing, gathering, and conservation standards.

Lac du Flambeau natural resources department

(Continued from page 10)

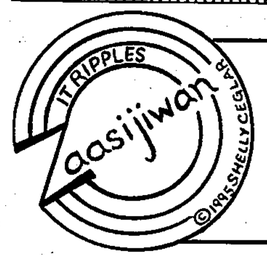
Recently, the department installed a 650 gallon aquaculture facility in the school building where the children will be raising and possibly selling 200 pounds of fish.

"It's a good on-hand tool for learning. We're looking to intice the young right away at a young age to come back to the reservation," Wawronowicz said.

The program also includes educating K-8 students about environmental issues and solutions by developing environmental education curriculum.

With these nine programs working together, the Lac du Flambeau natural resources department has developed a plan for managing the tribe's natural resources to protect the diverse ecosystem of the Lac du Flambeau reservation.

Wawronowicz said, "If we start losing our diversity, we start losingour soul."



Dagwaagin — it is fall

Manoominike-Giizis, Binaakwe-Giizis, Gashkidino-Giizis, Agidamoo, Mitigominag, Jiimaan, Zhiishiibag, Bine, Waawaashkeshi, Ayaabe

(Wild Rice-Moon, Raking-Moon, Freezing Over-Moon, Squirrel, Acorns, Canoe/Boat, Ducks, Partridge, Deer, Buck)

Bezhig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin

Alphabet vowels: A, AA, E, I, II, O, OO

Consonants: B, C, D, G, H, J, K, M, N, P, S, T, W, Y, Z, glottal stop.

Double Consonants: CH, SH, ZH

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

—Generally the long vowels carry the accent.

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

DOUBLE VOWEL PRONUNCIATIONS

Short vowels: A, I, O

Dash — as in about

Bine — as in tin

Niizho — as in only

Long Vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Jiimaan — as in father

Bezhig — as in jay

Niiyo — as in seen

Agidamoo — as in moon

Niizh—2

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

A. Wewiib, inashke! Niwaabamaa a'aw ayaabe.

B. Awibaa. Inini dash ikwe aazhawa'owag.

C. Akiing, megwayaak, agidamoo omikawaan mitigominan.

D. Bezhig bine bimise. Niizho binewag bimisewag.

E. Ani-dagwaaging nimanoominike.

F. Waazhing, Makwa ayekozi. Ayaapii, naanibaayawe.

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

Niswi—3

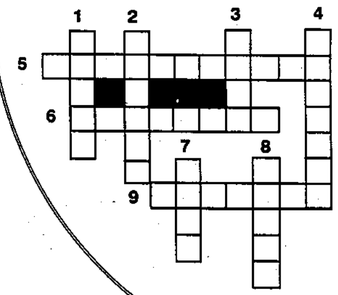
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. Geese
2. S/he flies
3. Three
4. Count it!
7. Partridge
8. Bear

Across:

5. Acorns
6. Squirrel
9. Canoe/boat

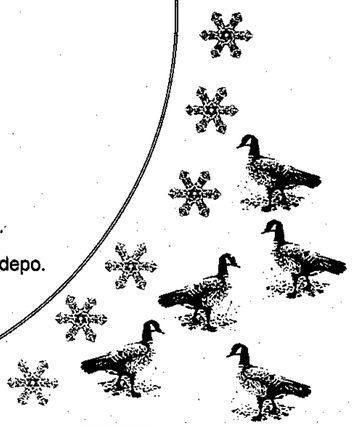


Niiwin—4

Ojibwemowin

1. Agim bezhig nika.
2. Agimag niizho nikag.
3. Agimag niso nikag.
4. Agimag niiyo nikag.
5. Agamag naano nikag.
6. Ningodwaaso mangadepo.

Agindan! Mangadepo.



Translations:

Niizh—2 ***A.*** *Hurry, Look! I see that buck.* ***B.*** *It is calm. A man and woman cross the water by canoe.* ***C.*** *On the earth, in the woods, squirrel finds acorns.* ***D.*** *One partridge flies. Two partridge they fly.* ***E.*** *As fall approaches, I harvest wild rice.* ***F.*** *In the cave, a bear is tired. Every once in a while, he yawns.*

Niswi—3 ***Down:*** ***1.*** *Nikag.* ***2.*** *Bimise.* ***3.*** *Niso.* ***4.*** *Agindan.* ***7.*** *Bine.* ***8.*** *Makwa.* ***Across:*** ***5.*** *Mitigominag.* ***6.*** *Agidamoo.* ***9.*** *Jiimaan.*

Niiwin—4 ***1.*** *Count him, one Canadian goose.* ***2.*** *Count those two geese.* ***3.*** *Count those three geese.* ***4.*** *Count those four geese.* ***5.*** *Count those five geese.* ***6.*** *There are six snowflakes falling. Count! It is snowing large snowflakes.*

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

Red Cliff/GLIFWC oppose turtle farm permit

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Washburn, Wis.-The permit for a turtle farm in Bayfield County will be re-considered at the September meeting of the Bayfield County Zoning Committee.

However, at its August meeting the Committee added to a list of over thirty questions to be answered by Joseph Chaudin before either a requested zoning change or permit be granted.

Chaudin, who already has constructed ponds on his property and gathered about 400 wild western painted turtles, plans to raise turtles for foreign export. Chaudin needs a special land-use permit for the turtle farm and to reclassify his land from residential to agricultural.

Testifying on behalf of its member Ojibwa bands, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) opposed the request for a zoning change and issuance of the permit at the August 8th public hearing before the Committee.

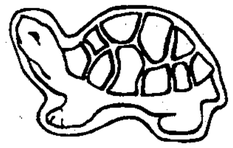
The Red Cliff band has also expressed opposition and requested The GLIFWC's involvement in investigating the potential impact of the commercial venture on resources in the treaty-ceded lands.

Protection of the species, the western painted turtle, from over-exploitation and potential depletion is one major concern. The lack of information on numbers that can safely be harvested are unclear, according to GLIFWC Policy Analyst Ann McCammon-Soltis, who provided comments at the hearing.

The issuance of one permit could lead to more if the business becomes popular, McCammon-Soltis said. The lack of information on the species and the potential impact of commercializing the sale of the wild turtle would make it unwise to permit without further investigation, she said.

Potential health problems related to turtle farming are also an issue. Crowded conditions can lead to salmonella. It is also illegal to sell turtles less than four inches long in United States pet shops.

While Chaudin plans to sell the turtles overseas



McCammon-Soltis asked the Zoning Committee if it wants to condone an activity that is illegal in the United States.

GLIFWC requested that the turtle farm operator, Joseph Chaudin, be required to submit a plan for the turtle farm's operation that would detail how ponds would be cleaned, fecal matter handled and how releasing diseased animals back into the wild would be prevented.

Rules which are currently being proposed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regulating the possession and sale of live wild animals would make Chaudin's turtle farm illegal, McCammon-Soltis pointed out. If the rule passes, Chaudin could posses up to five painted turtles, but could not sell them.

While all species are important to the Ojibwa bands, the turtle has a special place in Ojibwa culture.

Within the traditional clan system, the turtle is king of the Fish Clan, also known as the Water Clan. The Fish Clan is composed of intellectuals, such as teachers, counselors, mediators.

According to Ojibwa stories, the turtle played a primary role in the creation of a second Earth following the great flood. The turtle literally carried the Earth on its back.

The Creator placed a piece of Earth on the turtle's back following the flood, and the turtle carried the Earth until it grew into a great island in the water, forming a new Earth for the people. Hence, Earth is sometimes called Turtle Island.

> "Waynaboozhoo took the peice of Earth from the Muskrat's paw. At that moment, Mi-zhee-kay' (the turtle) swam forward and said, "Use my back to bear the weight of this peace of Earth. With the help of the Creator, we can make a new Earth."
>
> Waynaboozhoo put the piece of Earth on the Turtle's back. All of a sudden the noo-di-noon' (winds) began to blow. The wind blew from each of the Four Directions. The tiny piece of Earth on the turtle's back began to grow. Larger and larger it became, until it formed a mi-ni-si' (island) in the water. Still the Earth grew but still the turtle bore its weight on its back.
>
> Waynaboozhoo began to sing a song. All the animals began to dance in a circle on the growing island. As he sang, they danced in an ever-widening circle. Finally, the winds ceased to blow and the waters became very still. A huge island sat in the middle of the great water."
>
> **—Excerpted from The Mishomis Book, The Voice of the Ojibway By Edward Benton-Banai**

The Manitous

The Spiritual World of the Ojibway

by Basil Johnston
Illustrations by David Johnson

In his latest book, **The Manitous: The Spiritual Life of the Ojibway**, renowned Chippewa ethnologist and native scholar Basil Johnston records, for the first time, the comprehensive and sacred oral stories which comprise the complex, beautiful, spiritual teachings of the Ojibway people (known also as the Chippewa Indians and the Anishinaabe, or "the good people").

The word "manitou," loosely interpreted as "spirit" or "presence," and a term with endless nuances and use-specific meanings, refers to the spirits that infuse and safeguard the species of plants and animals, including humans, that occupy the earth as cotenants.

For the Ojibway, who live in Minnesota, Wisconsin, northern Michigan, and central Canada, the cultural traditions imported by Western Europeans and institutionalized by the education system have eroded and overshadowed the traditional, orally-based history and culture passed down through the years by selected elders and learned members of the tribe.

The Manitous captures, in graceful, elegant prose, the oral legacy of the Ojibway people, revealing a profound and sophisticated respect for animals, nature, and fellow humans and a fluidity not often found in more rigid, written folkloric histories.

The Manitous introduces Kitchi-Manitou, the benevolent, all-seeing creator of the world, Winonah, the beautiful Ojibway maiden who bore the manitou Aepungishimook four children over as many generationswho became legend among the Ojibway for their talents, for defending their people and promoting the cause of justice, and for the tools they introduced into daily life. There are the Weendigoes, massive giants whose hunger for human flesh can never be sated, and whose indulgent excesses represent the worst qualities of human nature. And the selfless fox, whos good deeds lead to his demise, and whose plight recalls the treatment of Native Americans at the hands of land-hungry whites.

(Published by Harper Collins Publishers; $24.00 cloth; ISBN: 0-06-017199-5; 15 line drawings)

The endangered west

A sample of recent bulletins from the Old West: Montana rewrites some of the country's strongest water pollution laws as a favor to the mining industry. Idaho lawmakers award potential polluters a major voice in setting clean water standards. Utah's Governor rebuffs the stated wishes of Utah's citizens to set aside 6.7 million acres of state land as protected wilderness.

Washington State's Legislature passes the nation's most far-reaching "takings" law, weakening essential land-use controls. Wyoming's Legislature authorizes a bounty on wolves recently re-introduced into Yellowstone National Park and protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Clearly, the United States Congress is not the only place where laws protecting the environment are under siege. Throughout the West, particularly in the Rocky Mountains state legislators and governors, egged on by commercial interests and by small but noisy groups of property rights advocates, are engaged in full-scale mutiny against Federal and state regulations meant to protect what is left of America's natural resources.

What we are seeing is an updated but more ominous version of the Sagebrush Rebellion of the early Reagan years. That revolt was dominated by ranching interests protesting Federal regulation of public lands.

The present explosion embraces not only those familiar despoilers but mining companies, timber barons, developers, big commercial farmers and virtually anyone else who stands to profit from relaxation of environmental controls.

The war in the West and the war in Congress on basic environmental protections have much in common.

First, both are being driven and in some cases underwritten by big business.

Second, both are being waged to save the "little guy" from Federal tyranny.

Third, this alleged little guy is nowhere to be found when the time comes to draft crippling legislation. Indeed, his wishes have been largely ignored.

Poll after poll suggests that what ordinary citizens want is more environmental protection if it means a cleaner environment and a healthier society. But that is not what this Congress and its Western allies want to give them.

Montana and Idaho are particularly sad cases, despite citizen complaints, and nearly unanimous editorial opposition, two bills whistled through the Montana Legislature that would in effect permit higher levels of toxic wastes to reach the state's streams and lakes.

They were signed, with some reluctance, by the Governor. Mining lobbyists were conspicuous during the parliamentary maneuvering-including representatives from Crown Butte and its Canadian parent, Noranda Inc.

These companies are working relentlessly for permission to build in geologically precarious terrain a gold mine that would leave a permanent reservoir of pollutants in the watershed of one of Montana's most important wilderness streams.

Idaho's people-not to mention its endangered Snake River salmon-face a double threat. Under a new statute, acceptable water quality levels will be set by watershed advisory groups. These groups representatives from timber, mining and agribusiness companies who are almost certain to write new and more permissive regulations.

Meanwhile, back in Washington, an Idaho Republican, Dirk Kempthorne, is leading the Senate charge to cripple the Endangered Species Act, which provides what little protection the salmon have.

If Senator Kempthorne succeeds in transferring protection of endangered species from Washington to Boise, it will be good-bye salmon, with grizzlies and wolves to follow.

There are, of course, honorable exceptions. In Colorado, for example, ranchers, environmentalists and sate offi-cials were able to agree on less destructive grazing practices-although it took a half dozen or so exhausting visits from Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to get the agreement. But nearly everywhere one turns the anti-Washington ideologues seem to have the upper hand.

The most conspicuous example is Nevada, where officials in Nye County passed a series of ordinances claiming ownership of Federal lands and then set about physically intimidating employees from the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The Justice Department has now sued to reaffirm Federal jurisdiction, but Nye County's rebels have inspired imitators: More than 70 rural Western counties have passed or proposed laws to "take back" the public lands.

Lost in all the rhetoric about individualism and states' rights is one basic legal fact: At no time have the Western public lands belonged to the states. They were acquired by treaty, conquest or purchase by the Federal Government acting on behalf of all the citizens of the United States.

Lost, too, is a colossal irony. Western ranchers have traditionally fed well at the trough of Federal beneficence. In their war against Washington, they are biting the hand that has fed them lavish subsidies and protected them against the disasters of nature and the vagaries of the marketplace.

But all of this escapes the Sons-of-Sagebrushers. The fact that there might be an overriding national interest in preserving the public lands and forests from exploitation is not something that quickly pops into their minds.

Nor does this fact seem to register with the newer breed of rebels in the statehouses and sate legislatures who would nullify more than two decades of struggle to clean America's waterways, preserve its wetlands and otherwise protect its dwindling natural heritage.

There can be no satisfaction in any of this-except perhaps to the enemies of the environment in a Congress that is well on its way to abandoning any pretense to national stewardship.

(Reprinted from *The New York Times*)

The Voigt Inter-Tribal Task Force convened a the Lac du Flambeau reservation in July. The VITFF addresses off reservation inland hunting, fishing and gathering issues of importance to GLIFWC member bands (Photo by Amoose)

Local impacts, local action

Red flag at Red Mountain Pass

The 1872 Mining Law and other 19th century pro-development laws left maps of the West looking like a crazy quilt. Parcels of private land, including patented mining claims, lie next to unpatented land managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, or owned by a state government. Private land owners can use Federal administrative procedures to exchange and consolidate their scattered holdings.

In southwestern Colorado, the Ouray County Alliance, Western Mining Action Project, Mineral Policy Center, and other groups recently convinced the U.S. Forest Service to delay one proposed land exchange at Red Mountain Pass (altitude 11,000 feet) in the San Juan Mountains. The Summitville Mine is nearby and local groups are committed to preventing another such disaster.

The deal was proposed by Frank Baumgartner, a former oil man who owns 200 mining claims near Ouray. His scheme calls for operating an open-pit cyanide heap- or vat-leach gold mine at the site for seven or eight years then converting the land to recreational use as part of the nearby Telluride ski area.

The planned mine site includes about 1,900 acres in a checkerboard with some 1,700 acres owned by Baumgartner and the balance by the Forest Service.

Baumgartner wants to swap 215 acres of his land along a major highway for equal acreage deep in the Uncompaghre National Forest.

Forest Service officials have been quoted as saying that the swap would save in maintenance costs and give them acreage for visitor parking and services. Activists contend it would also give the Forest Service and U.S. taxpayers responsibility for about a dozen abandoned mine sites that are likely leaking acid mine drainage into Red Mountain Creek and the Uncompaghre River. The exchange would also allow Baumgartner's mine to avoid the thorough environmental review required for operations on Forest Service land.

The Forest Service has agreed to delay the exchange until the Spring of 1995 to further study the acid mine drainage issue.

"Land exchanges are becoming more common now that there is a moratorium on patenting public lands," said Jim Lyon, Mineral Policy Center's Vice President for Policy. "Local groups need to monitor such proposals to ensure that Federal agencies don't trade prime public property for someone's problems."

Tailings to tees (and greens)

David faces Goliath in Arizona as Save Our Lovely Verde Valley (SOLVE), a local citizens group, goes toe-to-toe with the real estate development subsidiary of mining giant Phelps-Dodge.

Phelps-Dodge wants to convert 975 acres of land including an abandoned tailings pond into a planned residential community. The site is near the Tuzigoot National Monument and the town of Clarkdale.

The tailings pond covers approximately 116 acres and holds some 4 million tons of silt and sands loaded with cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, selenium, and zinc. Because these heavy metals are moving into nearby Pecks Lake and the Verde River, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been looking at cleanup options. The area is a potential Superfund site but the agency has been working with the company on a voluntary plan that would avoid listing. EPA wants the company to cap the tailings, install underground barriers, and build a 300-foot wetlands buffer zone to protect Pecks Lake from the impacts of the 1,600 unit development and its 164-acre golf course. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service originally had asked for an 800-foot buffer to protect bald eagle habitat.

Phelps-Dodge agreed to most of EPA's plan but balked at the buffer zone. The development's neighbors and SOLVE are encouraging the agency to hold firm.

"Mineral Policy Center's Southwest Circuit Rider helped us organize the local community to get EPA's attention," said Curtis Lindner of SOLVE. Negotiations continue with the latest proposal from Phelps-Dodge calling for an even smaller buffer zone.

Poisoning Pony

In 1989, the residents of Pony, Montana (pop. 150), learned of a proposal to build a gold processing mill on a mountain above their picturesque town in southwestern Montana. The mill's owners, planned to process tailings from abandoned mines, and then expand the operation. People in Pony realized that any spills or leaks would flow into their drinking water.

In January 1995, even though the mill had been closed for months, the threat became reality. Dave and Janet Zimmerman were told that the drinking water from their well is so contaminated with cyanide that it is unfit to drink.

The Zimmermans, founders of Concerned Citizens of Pony, were among the first to raise an alarm about the mill. They argued that the mill was a disaster waiting to happen since everyone in Pony drinks untreated water from individual wells. The Zimmermans repeatedly pointed out to the Montana Division of Water Quality that the mill's owner, Chicago Mining Company, could not be trusted with the health of the community because the mill was not operating in compliance with state law.

The sole response of the Division's then Acting Director, Steve Pitcher, was to label the Zimmermans and their concerns as "emotional" at a public meeting.

Only weeks before the discovery of the cyanide, the state finally acted on the mill owners' blatant and continual violations of the state law requiring groundwater monitoring, and revoked their water discharge permit.

The state reportedly had been dragging its feet on the revocation to accommodate the owner's contention that the facility could not be sold without the permit. Not surprisingly, the sale had already taken place when the permit was finally canceled. The state is now trying to find an accountable party to be financially responsible for the cleanup of the mill.

"Maybe we are emotional," said Janet Zimmerman. "Discovering that cyanide is poisoning your water can do that to a person. It's time our state agencies put Montanans and our health ahead of the interests of the mining industry." Pony's concerned citizens are asking Governor Mark Racicot for help with their drinking water emergency.

Roll, Columbia, roll

The Columbia River is an important part of the life of the several thousand people who live on Washington's Colville Indian Reservation.

Concern for the Columbia has led members of the tribes to question proposals from Battle Mountain Gold and Santa Fe Pacific to begin intensive exploration for gold and other hardrock minerals on the reservation. Community apprehension has led the Tribal Council to hold a special referendum in the Spring of 1995.

"Water is our lifeblood," says Steve Iukes, Sr., a tribal elder. "With it, we are rich. Without it, we have nothing." Iukes has been active in organizing the Colville Indian Environmental Protection Council.

BMG and Santa Fe Pacific are rumored to be promising that their efforts will generate jobs and riches for the tribes.

Mineral Policy Center's Circuit Riders work with groups such as the Ouray Alliance and SOLVE. The Circuit Riders' presence in communities is made possible by grants from the Northwest Area Foundation, the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, the Harder Foundation, Ruth Mott Fund, and the contributions of Mineral Policy Center's members.

(Reprinted from Clementine, a publication by the Mineral Policy Center.

Lt. Vernon Stone, GLIFWC, holds an eagle which the Bad River band mounted and will have on display. (Photo by Amoose)

Legislative Update

House Committees: APR=Appropriations; COM=Commerce; EE=Economics & Education; JUD=Judiciary; RES=Resources; SB=Small Business
Senate Committees: ENV=Environment & Public Works; FIN=Finance; SCIA=Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; +=Multiple Committee

Bill No.	Title	House Committee	House Hearing	House Passed	Senate Committee	Senate Hearing	Senate Passed	P.L. Date	P.L. Number
H.R. 4	Personal Responsibility Act of 1995	+		3/24/95	FIN				
H.R. 111	Minority Enterprise development Act of 1995	SB							
H.R. 226	Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1994	COM							
H.R. 462	National Policies Toward Gambling Review Act of 1995	+							
H.R. 497	National Gambling Impact & Policy Commission Act	JUD							
S. 113	Bill to allow Indian tribes to receive contributions of inventory				FIN				
S. 285	Bill to provide social service block grants directly to Indian tribes				FIN				
S. 286	A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to grant state status to Indian tribes				SCIA				
S. 311	Bill to elevate the director of IHS to assist secretary of Health & Human Services				SCIA				
S. 441	Reauthorizing appropriations under Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act	RES			SCIA	3/22/95	4/26/95	6/21/95	104-16
S. 479	Indian Federal Recognition Administrative Procedures Act of 1995				SCIA	7/13/95			
S. 487	Indian Gaming Regulatory Act Amendments of 1995				SCIA	6/22/95			
S. 510	Bill to extend authorization for certain programs under the Native American Programs Act of 1974	EE			SCIA	3/7/95	5/11/95		

Tribal recognition bill doesn't go far enough

A bill designed to speed the federal recognition process for "lost tribes" doesn't go far enough, according to some who testified at Senate committee hearings on the proposed legislation.

Almost all who testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs said the government's process for recognizing Indian tribes is inconsistent, expensive and slow, sometimes taking an entire generation to render a decision.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has introduced legislation, S. 479, which would establish deadlines for deciding cases and create a commission devoted solely to the recognition of Indian tribes.

But some, like Arlinda Locklear, an attorney who frequently represents unrecognized tribes, say the present system is so inefficient it cannot be salvaged.

Locklear urged the committee to change the criteria, which she said were too costly and difficult for petitioners to meet.

Gaiashkibos, president of the National Congress of American Indians, called on Congress to make the process less costly, faster and provide a guaranteed procedure to current and future petitioners.

Under criteria written by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1978, tribes seeking federal recognition must prove that they are distinct communities and document their existence since their first contact with non-Indians.

Some 165 tribes have applied for federal recognition since the criteria were established. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has ruled on only 34 of the applications, accepting 10 for federal recognition and rejecting 13. The other 11 cases were handled by Congress.

Unrecognized tribes are sometimes referred to as lost tribes because there are so few records remaining that would prove their existence as a tribe to the government.

Without federal recognition, tribes are denied the right to govern themselves or receive federal funds for programs.

Articles have been reprinted from American Indian Report, August 1995

Stephanie Catlin, Valpariso University student and HONOR summer intern, assisted the Public Information Office with the past two issues of MASINAIGAN. She helped in lay-out as well as writing and darkroom. PIO staff would like to thank her for her patience and perserverance.

Wa-Swa-Goning Village a teaching experience

By Stephanie Catlin, HONOR intern

Although the spearfishing controversy caused anguish and anxiety, it also brought an idea into Nick Hocking's mind for Wa-Swa-Goning, a traditional Ojibwe village on the Lac du Flambeau reservation.

"During the spearfishing controversy, I realized many people didn't understand what our culture is really about," Hockings said.

Then, after many years of delays and challenges, on May 1, 1994, Hockings, along with many volunteers, began building the village. After only six weeks, the village opened and has since had approximately 5,000 visitors from all over the United States and throughout the world.

The volunteers give tours through the village, explaining the history of the various lodges, and articles in and around them depict the traditional way of life for the Ojibwe people.

Melanie Reding, village manager, who has been a volunteer since Wa-Swa-Goning's opening said she has not heard a negative comment about the village, but people react to it in various ways.

"I've received a range of emotion. I've had people get angry because of the truth, and I've had men cry on me at the teaching lodge," she said.

Wa-Swa-Goning, meaning the place where they spear fish by torchlight features seasonal villages, traditional lodges made of birchbark, a maple sugar camp, baskets, traps, and two birch bark canoes built by Ferdy Goode and his students.

Hockings said his main goal is to teach the public about Indian culture. "I wanted people to see the whole spectrum of the Ojibwe culture. I wanted people to get a sense of how our ancestors lived years ago, and in that, it is a teaching experience," he said.

Reding agreed. "I think that it builds an understanding between Indians and non—Indians, and that it teaches a lot about respect-not just for white and red, but for black and yellow also. . . for all peoples," she said.

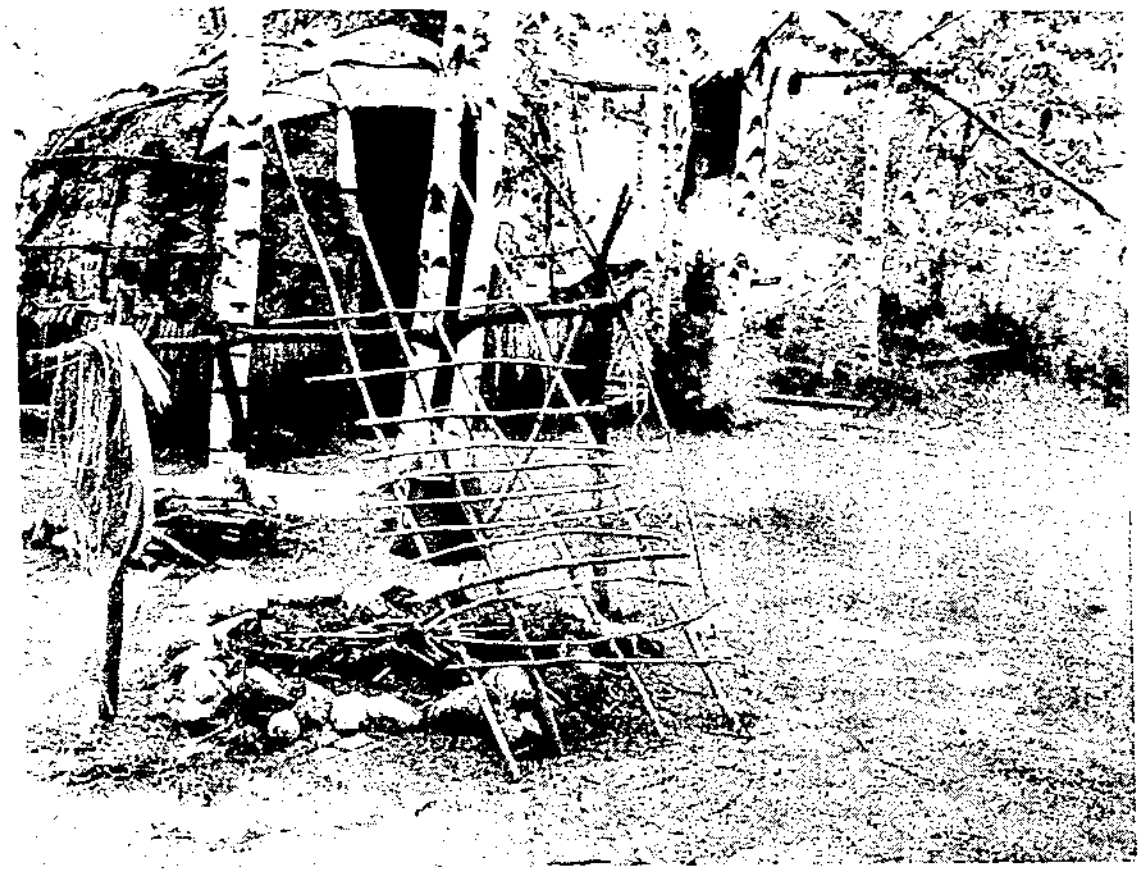
The village is staffed completely by volunteers who both study on their own and are trained by Hockings to be well-informed and to lead tours. Hockings said the volunteers have been from all over the world and therefore not all Indian. He said he worried about that at first, but it hasn't been a problem.

"I've always been able to maintain a volunteer staff, but they have not all been Native American. That has never been a problem because people have been very accepting of that," he said.

The village does offer challenges, though. Besides the challenge of getting money for promoting Wa-Swa-Goning, maintaining the condition of the village keeps Hockings and his volunteers working.

"The biggest challenge we've had to overcome was the upkeep of the village, and of course, the monumental task of running a touring operation," he said.

For the future, Hockings said he hopes to expand the features of the village by perhaps bringing in speakers to teach who are well-versed in many areas. Also, he said he hopes to add cross-cultural events and other educational opportunities to help teach the public about the Ojibwe culture.



Wa-Swa-Goning Village allows visitors to walk into the past and experience the lifestyle of the Ojibwe before European settlement. (Photo by Amoose)

Hockings said he is overall pleased with the village. "We tried to make it as authentic as possible, and I think we've achieved that. It's been a learning experience. We're very happy with the way things are."

Tours run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with each tour lasting approximately one and a half hours, and the village is also open at 12 p.m. on Sunday and Monday.

Admission is $7 for adults, $5 for children under 12 years and seniors 65-79 years, people 80 years and older are admitted free.

"We've had six or seven people who have been eighty plus, and we're proud of that," Hockings said.

MASINAIGAN STAFF:
(Pronounced MUZ IN I AY GIN)

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MASINAIGAN (Talking Paper) is a quarterly publication of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, which represents eleven Chippewa tribes in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. GLIFWC's member tribes are listed to the right.

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Letters to the editor and guest editorials are welcomed by **MASINAIGAN**. We like to hear from our readership. The right to edit or refuse to print, however, is maintained. All letters to the editor should be within a 300 word limit.

Letters to the editor or submitted editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

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