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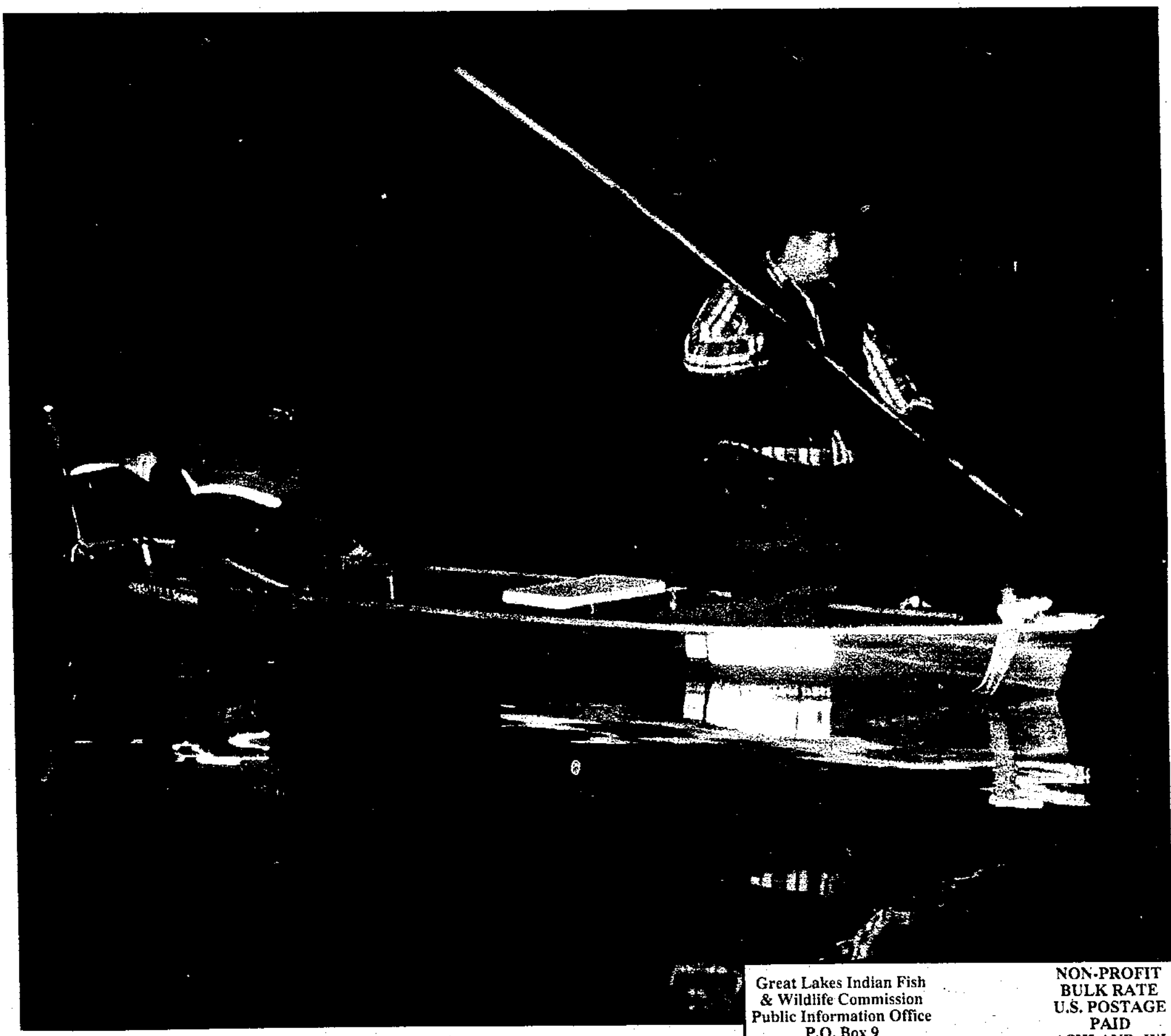

Bruce Sonnenberg and John Bearhart Sr., St. Croix Chippewa, search for walleye in McKenzie lake during the 1996 spring spearfishing season. Bruce and John have been spearing partners for some time and enjoy using a canoe because it is easy to maneuver. Both men learned how to spear from their grandfathers and uncles and enjoy the opportunity to carry on a tradition. *(see story page 20)*

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Bad River questions safety of toxic substance transportation across reservation

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—The Bad River band of Chippewa are deadlocked in a disagreement over the safety of rail tracks and trestle on the reservation being used to transport hundreds of thousands of pounds of sulfuric acid.

Wisconsin Central Railway Ltd. declares the track and trestle safe, if the train does not exceed ten miles an hour. Bad River insists on having an independent inspector from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) provide an independent opinion. Meanwhile all agree that training for Bad River personnel in emergency response is a priority.

Knowledge that Wisconsin Central Railway Ltd. intended to transport multiple carloads of sulfuric acid across the Bad River reservation en route from Arizona to the White Pine Mine in Michigan came late in the day for the tribe. Actually, the tribe became alerted to the transport a few days prior to the first scheduled haul across the reservation by coincidence rather than any official notification.

Bad River Natural Resources Department (BRNRD) staff were alarmed because of the apparent poor condition of the tracks and old rail trestle over the Bad River in an isolated area which is key fisheries and wildlife habitat.

With no emergency response capability on the reservation, a large spill of a toxic substance could be catastrophic to the river, the wildlife, and the community beyond, says BRNRD Manager Erv Soulier. It's remote location would make it difficult to access for any team.

Concern led the tribe to contact Wisconsin Central Railway Ltd. and request an inspection prior to any transport across the reservation in order to satisfy the tribe's concerns.

A meeting on June 12th at the tribal administration building resulted, bringing officials from Wisconsin Central Railway, Ashland County emergency response staff, Representative Barbara Linton, the FRA, and Bad River representatives together around the table following inspections of the tracks and trestle.

While Wisconsin Central Ltd. stressed emergency response and cleanup capabilities and training, Bad River's priorities were prevention of a catastrophic spill in the first place and need for notification of communities.

Tom Doolittle, Bad River biologist, showed videotape from a BRNRD inspection of the track leading to the bridge and trestle and the trestle itself. Problems pointed out on the video tape included severely corroding metal supports, cracked and deteriorating concrete piling, loosened bolts, broken support beams, and obvious evidence of debris from the recent flood.

The tracks on and off the bridge were bowed and bent with obvious dips and divots. They appeared poorly maintained and as though the irregularities could lead to derailment.

Gary Knuth, Wisconsin Central inspector, however, found the tracks and trestle to be "very good" with the exception of some cracked timbers which were being replaced as the meeting proceeded. The railway also stated they inspect all bridges three times a year.

According to Bob Jones, a Wisconsin Central vice-president, the ten mile per hour speed limit is maintained because the company does not consider the track safe for greater speeds on a branch line such as this. Mainline tracks are maintained to accommodate about 80 mph, he said, but it is not economically feasible to maintain a track in an area like this.

Wisconsin Central spokesperson noted that Wisconsin Central was being very nice in response to the tribe's concerns. The railway had inspected the tracks as requested, had reduced the number of cars hauling acid at one time from ten to three, and had brought in emergency response experts to assist Bad River staff.

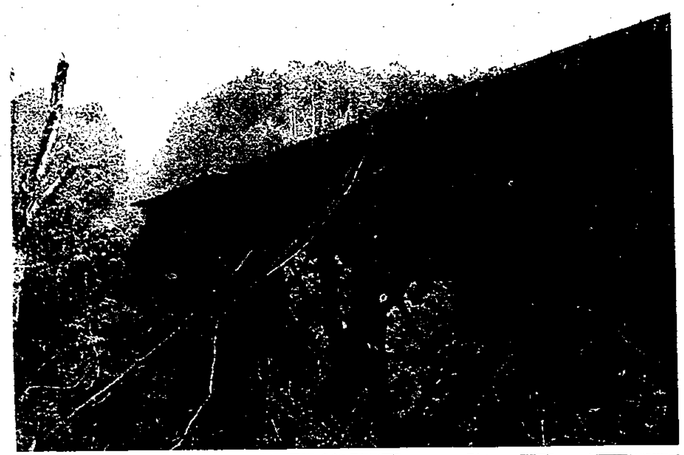
Actually, the tribe had been told at one time that plans were to ship ten cars on the first run, 35 cars on the second, and up to one hundred cars on a subsequent run, according to Bad River Tribal Chairman John Wilmer.

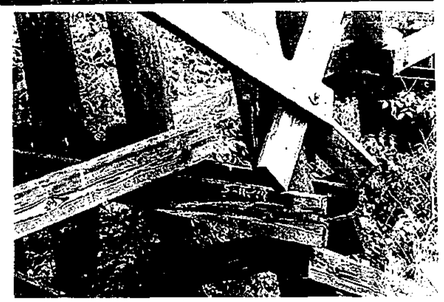
Doolittle noted that none of these changes would have occurred had not Bad River questioned the transport in the first place. Rather the transport of the sulfuric acid would have gone on over an unrepaired track and trestle with no notification to any of the communities, and without the added precautionary measure.

As Representative Barb Linton stated, "Communities want assurances that its (a toxic spill) not going to happen, not just a response capability."

Terry Corson, Wisconsin Central emergency response team, had provided an explanation of the railway's response plan as well as described the safety features of cars hauling toxic substances which adhere to federal regulations.

The railway had also gone an extra step and included a car carrying 400 bags of agricultural lime which could be used to neutralize spilled acid immediately on the site.





The train trestle that cuts through the Bad River reservation is remotely located. Any toxic spill, such as the sulfuric acid being transported to the White Pine Mine in Michigan, could be catastrophic to the fisheries and wildlife habitat and the community beyond. To the right are broken beams marked for repair several years ago. (Photos by Dave Parisien)

The problem with sulfuric acid is that it mixes with water almost immediately. It can't be sucked up or skimmed off the top, but rather must be neutralized in a timely way, he explained.

The amount of lime accompanying a load would not, however, be sufficient to neutralize one spilled carload of sulfuric acid. It would be effective in neutralizing a leak in case of a car tipping over causing only seepage.

Staff on the train are also trained in emergency response so are knowledgeable in how to respond quickly and effectively to the extent they can, which is primarily alerting outlying emergency teams.

Three mobile trailers equipped to respond to toxic spills are available to come to a site. They are located in Fond du Lac and Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and Gladstone, Michigan. Bad River questioned the effectiveness of mobile units located hundreds of miles from the site.

Joe Dan Rose, Bad River fisheries manager, noted that no amount of money can replace the resources which could possibly be damaged by a large scale spill of sulfuric acid on the reservation.

Wilmer made it clear that the tribe would request an independent inspection of the trestle and track before they would consider the concept of transporting any toxic substance across the reservation safe.

Jones, Wisconsin Central Chicago Office, accused the tribe of trying to make the railroad company go out of business. "This is how we feed our families," he said. "This is how we operate. This is America."

Rose responded, "This is the Bad River reservation."

A representative from the U.S. Department of Transportation and FRA Bruce Mibeck told Jones that there is "no reason why you can't operate." Mibeck also acknowledged that the tribe could call for an independent investigator.

The meeting was redirected to emergency response training for the tribe. Wisconsin Central Railway is working with the tribe in setting up and providing necessary training, according to Wilmer.

Winterkill on lakes noticed by spring assessment crews

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—The long hard winter and reluctant spring thaw posed problems for people and wildlife alike. While many were concerned over the deer population during the 1996 winter season, winterkill of fish on some lakes in the ceded territory may also be significant, according to Glenn Miller, GLIFWC inland lakes biologist.

Miller, who recently completed spring electroshocking assessments of twenty-four lakes in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, says that shocking crews noticed a lot of dead fish, particularly in Kentuck lake, Ballard lake, and the Chippewa flowage in Wisconsin and Lac Vieux Desert in Michigan.

Winterkill results from the lack of dissolved oxygen in the water and is related to the thickness and duration of the ice cover on lakes. Snow cover also factors in as does the amount of vegetation in the water, Miller states.

He feels that winterkill may be substantial enough to significantly impact fish populations in some lakes. Winterkill affects all species including panfish, walleye, northern and musky.

The late thaw kept electroshocking boats and crews landlocked until well into April this year. With twenty-four lakes scheduled for spring assessments, shocking crews were anxious to get started, but the ice-covered lakes kept them dry-docked until April 19 when they were able to launch boats on the Yellow river, Burnett County.

Despite the late start Miller says that all scheduled lakes were completed. However, he was not pleased with the results on a few, including Langford and Marion lakes in Gogebic County, Michigan; and Squaw and Annabel, Vilas County, Wisconsin.

Miller feels that because of the ice conditions, assessment crews may have missed the spawning season on these lakes. Since spring assessments target adult spawning walleye for population estimates, some of the figures may not accurately reflect these lakes' populations.

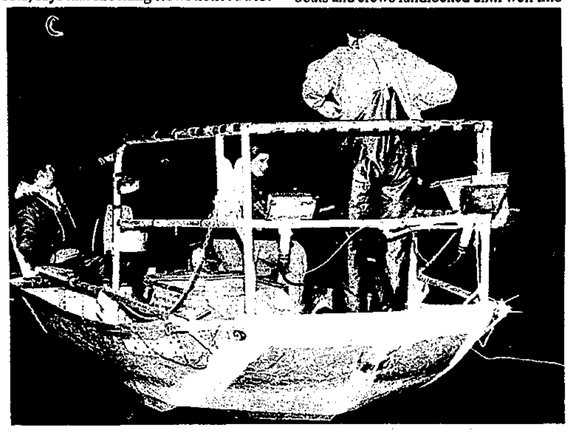
Assessment crews completed their spring rounds May 20th on Lac Vieux Desert. In addition, GLIFWC's electroshocking crews assisted in collecting fish samples for mercury level testing.

Fyke-netting assessments were performed on Yellow and Nelson lakes. Data collected is also for use in population estimates.

A total of ten boats were on inland lakes this spring for assessments, including three from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, one from the Mille Lacs band in Minnesota, one from the St. Croix band in Wisconsin, and three from the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission. In addition, two work-up, fyke net boats were also used.

1996 provided the latest start and latest finish for assessment crews to date. "It just never really warmed up," Miller comments.

Despite the frustrations provided by nature, the season went relatively smoothly, according to Miller. A few incidents of rock throwing at Pelican lake and Lac Vieux Desert were reported. A United States Fish & Wildlife Service vehicle had a tire slashed at Roberts lake in Forest County, Wisconsin.



Getting ready to head out for a long, cold night of electrofishing is one of GLIFWC's electrofishing crews with Mitch Soulier, GLIFWC fisheries aide, at the helm. Center is Joe Livingston, GLIFWC fisheries aide and forward is Ed Whitebird, GLIFWC fisheries aide. (Photo by Amoose)

Putting the finishing touches to St. Croix's new electrofishing boat are, left, Mitch Soulier, GLIFWC fisheries aide and Don Taylor, St. Croix. (Photo by Lynn Plucinski)

GLIFWC adds more data to walleye fishery studies

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—GLIFWC inland fisheries biologists added several new dimensions to the study of the walleye fishery this spring in conjunction with the annual electrofishing assessments. These included collection of information on water temperature fluctuations and egg deposition and fry emergence rates.

As Terry Donaldson, GLIFWC inland fisheries section leader states, the influence of water temperature on walleye populations are not well known. With sufficient data, biologists may be able to determine and predict walleye population health using water temperature as a factor.

Like the electrofishing assessments, collection of temperature fluctuation information is part of a long-term study. Information on population can be correlated with data on temperature changes in specific lakes and biologists may be able to better understand the various impacts on the walleye population as a whole. However, patterns only emerge after years of collecting data.

This spring Donaldson installed two submersible automatic temperature loggers in five long term study lakes, including two large lakes, Butternut, Forest County and Squirrel, Oneida County; and two small lakes, Siskiwit, Bayfield County and Bass-Patterson, Washburn County. A fifth logger was set in Kentuck lake, Vilas County, due to biologist's concern over its declining walleye population.

The temperature loggers are capable of taking 48 readings a day from ice-out through mid-November. They are equipped with a computer interface system which facilitates data downloading in the field.

Data which is downloaded is stored in a data base and will then be available for analysis in relation to other factors.

Donaldson reports that one probe set in Butternut lake is missing. The probes do have a telephone number on them, so if found the number can be called for information on how to return the probe.

Concern over the lack of recruitment in Kentuck lake, Vilas County, has led biologists to do some further research on the walleye population there. Information from assessments showed the population density had dropped from 1989-90 when there were about 7.7 adult walleye per acre to 0.9 adult walleye per acre in 1995. Fall recruitment surveys of young-of-the-year walleye have failed to detect a year class since 1987, Donaldson says.

With the apparent lack of reproductive success, Donaldson decided to collect information on the rate of egg deposition and fry emergence this spring.

Eggs were collected by placing traps in spawning beds. He discovered that egg deposition was low, but most significantly very few eggs were fertile. While the eggs were deposited, they were not being fertilized. Consequently, the number of fry produced was also very low.

Sharp-tails, salamanders & silence

A day in the life of a wildlife technician

Odanah, Wis.—During the hour when dawn struggles to push its light through the dark sky and announce another day, at an hour way before most alarm clocks are set to release their rude awakening buzz, John "Dates" Denomie, GLIFWC wildlife technician, finds his way to a small blind in the Moquah barrens, the uphill path barely visible in the dim light.

The terrain is rough, so he must carefully, quietly wend his way up the slope until the ground evens on a circular plateau, a round grassy circle resembling a pow-wow ground in the middle of nowhere.

Barely distinguishable in the dim, not quite morning light is the blind, draped in camouflage material. There is no sound other than the soft, careful step of Dates feet as he enters the blind and crouches under its protection. It's about 5:30 a.m. The Moquah barrens are misty and still under a pre-dawn hush.

The front of the blind is draped to allow for a small, unnoticeable peep hole. Kneeling on the blanketed ground, Dates carefully looks out and listens. No sound. He sits back and waits, enjoying the solitude and peace. The spring chill makes him shiver slightly. Five, ten, fifteen minutes pass.

The first morning chatter of a nearby songbird breaks the total quiet. There is answer, and then another bird, awakened by the small fuss, adds its voice. The fading black of night slowly turns a slightly lighter shade of grey. More twitters and chirps from awakening birds signal the creatures of the barrens that another day has arrived.

Dates sits in the blind, motionless, alone, listening and waiting. Then, without warning, the throaty call of a grouse momentarily precedes a drumming beat of wing that starts up like a mini-motorcycle engine just to the right of the blind. Moments later the same drumming begins in the middle of the seemingly vacant circle. Then another starts to the right and another far out to the left. The sharp-tailed grouse have begun their dawn dance, part of the spring mating ritual.

John "Dates" Denomie, GLIFWC wildlife technician, emerged from one of his blinds high up in the Moquah barrens. Set on the perimeters of a sharp-tailed grouse dancing ground, Dates does early morning spring surveys from inside the blind.

Slowly, carefully Dates peeks out from the blind, only slightly moving the soft fabric which conceals him. The vague shapes of a dancing pair directly in front of the blind catch eye. The camouflage of the birds is excellent, blending their brown bodies into the tall grass which is barely illuminated by the grey dawn. He listens. The drumming wells up here and there around the dance circle and subsides, then wells up again mixed with the throaty calls. He counts the pairs more by sound than vision.

Cans set into the earth served as pitfalls for small amphibians in GLIFWC live traps. The tin divider serves to guide the creatures towards the sunken cans.

Any movement, a crackle of grass, a cough or sniffle could startle the birds. He sits back and enjoys the sounds of grouses' drumming, which lasts up to an hour, keeping count of the numbers and locations.

As more light seeps through, he looks out again and spots several pairs drumming, dancing, with feathers spread like mini-bustles on a dance outfit. The males' throats puff as they stamp their feet and beat their wings so fast they blur and create the motor-like sound.

Dates counts five pair as he listens and looks, patient and respectful of the birds' ritual. There is no need to interrupt. He is the silent intruder into the privacy of their home and dance ground. Forty-five minutes pass and the drumming continues to well and fade on the dancing ground of the grouse. And then as suddenly as it started, it ends. A pair takes flight, perhaps startled by some warning sound. The others follow. One by one he watches them lift off the dance ground and disappear into neighboring bush, with the unique whirring motion of grouse wings. He waits. One pair has not left, but there is no sound, no motion. He waits. Peeking out, the great grassy circle seems vacated and still except for the bustle and song of bird in nearby bushes.

He backs out of the blind, with the morning light having dawned and steps out to leave. The sound flushes the last couple into fast flight out of a distant spot in the dance circle. In minutes they are gone, and Dates begins the quarter mile walk back to his truck to record his count.

This was one of three dance grounds he surveys several times a week during the spring. The dance grounds are spread out in distant parts of the barrens, usually high up and remote.

It's going on 7 a.m. He winds his way down the slope following a rough, grass covered road. The barrens' bird community is definitely out and about by now, and the barrens are no longer silent. The calls of birds already busy with their day's duties fill the area. He sees finch, brown thrush, red-winged black bird, catbirds, and swallows sit atop a row of ten bluebird houses set out along the rough roadway to attract bluebirds.

(See A day in the life continued, page 32)

Written and photographed by Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Sulfide mine threatens cultural integrity of tribes

Odanah, Wis.—The cultural integrity of several tribes in the Crandon area is directly threatened by the proposed hardrock sulfide mine development there, concludes a recently released report by anthropologist Dr. Charles E. Cleland.

The preliminary report was commissioned by a number of Wisconsin tribes concerned about the potential impact of the proposed Crandon Mine in their communities and the environment.

The study, which Cleland undertook in conjunction with Dr. Larry Nesper, Laboratory School, University of Chicago, and Joshua Cleland, Scenic Hudson Inc., considers the potential cultural risks associated with the mine proposal by evaluating estimates of how much environmental disturbance the mine may cause.

Because tribal culture and subsistence harvest depend upon a balanced relationship with the environment, the proposed mine would pose a serious risk to the tribes' cultural integrity, the report concludes. This is particularly true for the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa, whose reservation lies less than two miles downstream from the mine site.

Despite assurances from the mining company that environmental impacts would be minimal, the researchers have determined that current information indicates otherwise. A review of mining ventures in the United States reveals that mines, by their nature, substantially disrupt the natural and social environments of the areas in which they are developed.

"Given the history of mining, the nature of mining and the limited ability of humans to control complex processes with perfection, it is folly to assume that the environmental and cultural impact of the Crandon Mine will be minor." The report also concludes that the mine poses a risk to the rural landscape, and could damage the tourism and recreation economy of northern Wisconsin.

Findings also show that the information currently available to thoroughly assess the overall impact of the mining operation is inadequate. Additional data must be collected so that an accurate determination of the environmental, socio/economic, and cultural consequences of the mine can be made. However, based on information currently available, the proposed mine would bring disaster to tribal communities and cultures, Cleland states.

A total of eleven recommendations are made at the conclusion of the study which address the need for more complete documentation and data-collection prior to any permit decision on the proposed mine. The report and the recommendations are being provided to appropriate federal and state officials as well.

Dr. Cleland is the senior associate at Aurora Associates, Williamston, Michigan, which specializes in ethnohistorical and cultural studies and planning. He also is professor of anthropology at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.

The report, entitled "The Potential Cultural Impact of the Development of the Crandon Mine on the Indian Communities of Northeastern Wisconsin," is available on request from the Intergovernmental Affairs Division at the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, phone (715) 682-6619 and ask for Gigi Cloud.

These two young ladies were among the crowd of citizens opposing Crandon Mining Company's proposed copper sulfide mine at Hat Rapids Dam on the Wisconsin river, this spring. (Photo by Amoose)

Many supporters arrived at the State Capitol on May 7 when Rep. Spencer Black, right, brought his mining moratorium bill to both the House and the Senate in order to get it approved for a debate and vote before the full Assembly. While this succeeded, the legislature was adjourned early, one day prior to the scheduled vote on May 14th. Center is Sandy Lyons, W.A.T.E.R., who was active in coordinating support for the bill. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Political maneuver kills mining moratorium bill

Black ready to re-introduce next session

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Madison, Wis.—May 7 was the big day for the AB 758, Mining Moratorium Bill proposed by Representative Spencer Black.

Overwhelmingly favorable votes in both the House and the Senate approved it to be scheduled for debate and a vote in the full Assembly on May 14. The House voted 95 in favor and 4 opposed. The Senate voted 30 in favor and 2 opposed. This seemed too good to be true, and it was.

The Republican leadership adjourned the legislature on May 13, one day before the scheduled vote. According to Representative Black, "the Republican leadership took the unprecedented step of adjourning the Assembly three days early so that there could not be an open debate and a public vote on the Mining Moratorium Bill." This essentially killed the bill, since the legislature will not reconvene until January and a new session begins.

The legislation received widespread support from environmental organizations, tribes, and citizens concerned about the impact of mining. The bill simply stated that no new mines would be permitted until it can be proven the mine will not contaminate drinking water supplies or rivers and lakes.

It would also prohibit the permitting of a copper sulfide mine, such as proposed by EXXON, unless a similar mine had operated at least ten years without polluting surface or ground water.

Bill proponents plan to keep the initiative alive by forcing candidates to express an opinion on the legislation during the fall campaigns and to sign a pledge to support it.

Bill supporters hope to keep those who voted in favor to their word when the bill is introduced next year as well as force candidates to keep campaign promises.

Gathering draws 1,000 in opposition to proposed Crandon mine

Crandon, Wis.—A statewide gathering against Exxon's proposed Crandon mine drew 1,000 people to a rally and parade in Rhinelander on Saturday, May 4, according to an estimate by the Oneida County Sheriff's Department. The gathering was held at Hat Rapids Dam on the Wisconsin River, where Crandon Mining Co.—owned by Exxon and Toronto-based Rio Algom—proposes to dump wastewater piped from the mine.

A parade followed past Crandon Mining Co. headquarters in downtown Rhinelander, taking up half of the street for two blocks. The event ended with a family picnic at a local park. The sponsor of the event was the Wolf Watershed Educational Project, a joint effort of grassroots environmental groups, sportsmens' groups, and Native American nations.

"The May 4 gathering was historic for Northern Wisconsin," said George Rock, a Wolf River sportfisherman and engineer representing the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, "not only as a milestone in the long fight against Exxon, but as an example of different communities working together for the common goal of protecting our natural resources." As emcee for the Hat Rapids gathering, Rock asked the audience which counties they were from, and found the crowd overwhelmingly from Northern counties concentrated along the Wolf and Wisconsin riverways.

The project included a 12-day Upriver Speaking Tour leading up to the Rhinelander gathering, drawing an estimated 1,100 people in 22 cities and towns. The tour brought the issue of sulfide mining to the public that would be directly affected by the Crandon zinc-copper sulfide mine either environmentally, economically, or culturally. Two speaking tours simultaneously traveled up the Wolf-Fox rivers and Wisconsin River, starting on April 22 (Earth Day), and ending with the fishing season opener on May 4.

The tour presented one representative each from environmental, sportfishing, and Native American groups, and drew sportfishers, chambers of commerce officials, students and teachers, media, town and county officials, tribal officials, resort and cottage owners, environmental group representatives, environmental scientists, former mining employees, and many others.

Along the Wolf-Fox waterway, the tour stopped in Green Bay, Menasha, Oshkosh, Fremont, New London, Shiocton, Shawano, Keshena, White Lake, Antigo, Mole Lake, and Crandon. The Wisconsin River tour stopped in Madison, Sauk City, Portage, Wisconsin Dells, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, Wausau, Merrill, Tomahawk, and Rhinelander. The proposed 38-mile waste water pipeline from the mine to the Wisconsin River has created new opposition groups in that area, including Protect Our Wisconsin River (POWR). A spokesperson for the group, Jim Wise, termed the proposed pipeline a "sewer."

A drum song opened the rally at Hat Rapids in opposition to permitting the Crandon Mining Company's proposed copper mine. (Photo by Amoose)

The speaking tour and gathering brought an unprecedented response from the company and the pro-mining Wisconsin Mining Association. They initiated a public relations blitz throughout Northern Wisconsin, including full-page ads in towns along the speaking tour, and numerous radio spots defending the controversial practice of sulfide mining.

"Exxon's response shows it is definitely worried," said Zoltan Grossman, spokesperson for the Wolf Watershed Educational Project, "Mining officials are finding they can influence the state government, but can't control public opinion, especially among the local people who aren't easily bought or fooled. Such a huge corporation can't be outspent, but it can be outsmarted. While Exxon is playing checkers, we're playing chess, and we're in it for the long haul."

(Press release by the Wolf Watershed Eudcational Project.)

CMC must supply more data

May delay permit

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Crandon, Wis.—In recent developments regarding the permit for the proposed copper sulfide mine near Crandon, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has asked the Crandon Mining Company to provide more information regarding waste characterization.

According to Ann McCammon Soltis, GLIFWC policy analyst, the WDNR sent a letter to the mining company outlining serious concerns about some of CMC's work to date.

The WDNR specifically is concerned over the ability of the models provided by CMC to extrapolate the "limited existing information to make predictions with a high degree of certainty." Therefore, they ask the company to provide more data.

Collecting the data necessary for credible models could involve several months of time, so will delay the permit process to some degree, Soltis says.

On the down side, the WDNR has decided not to hold more meetings to discuss the groundwater model that CMC developed, Soltis says. This is unfortunate because significant issues remain unresolved for GLIFWC. GLIFWC staff will continue working with DNR and USGS modelers as they run the model and will also work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they prepare a model.

In another area, the Army Corps of Engineers has informed the company that their wetland mitigation plan may not be adequate if the Corps determines that additional wetlands will be impacted by groundwater drawdown.

Soltis says that this has been a major concern expressed by GLIFWC, so she is pleased that the Army Corps is giving due attention to a potentially serious problem.

A gathering at Hat Rapids, Wisconsin, opposing the proposed copper sulfide mine near Crandon, brought over a thousand people representing environmentalists, sports groups, tribes, and concerned homeowners. (Photo by Amoose)

Exxon's credibility questioned

By Al Gedicks
Wisconsin Resources Protection Council

LaCrosse, Wis.—In May, Exxon/Rio Algom's Crandon Mining Company (CMC) had taken out full-page newspaper ads and radio spots in many of the cities and towns along the Wolf and Wisconsin rivers where the Wolf Watershed Education Project organized public forums on the proposed Crandon/Mole Lake mine.

The 12 day Upriver Speaking Tour drew over 1,000 people in 22 cities and towns and was a joint effort of grassroots environmental groups, sportsmens' groups and Native American nations. The tour culminated in a rally and parade in Rhinelander on May 4 which drew 1,000 people, according to a Sheriff's Department estimate.

Exxon has accused mine opponents of spreading misinformation and half-truths about the project without specifically identifying a single example. "All you need are facts!" proclaim the ads. The only relevant facts, if you believe the ads, are Exxon's "internationally respected experts" who have concluded that "the Crandon mine will not threaten public safety, harm the environment, or be bad for the local economy."

Unfortunately for Exxon, not all experts agree. In fact, last week, independent experts released technical reports which raised serious concerns about the testing and computer modeling methods used by CMC.

The reports cover two critically important areas of study: acid and heavy metals production by waste left at the site; and lake, stream and wetland impacts caused by pumping groundwater from the mine. Despite Exxon's repeated claims that no environmental harm will come from its proposed mine and toxic waste dump, the independent reviewers concluded that Exxon failed to use rigorous testing methods necessary to prove that the proposal is safe.

Comments by Dr. David Blowes, a mine waste expert with the Waterloo Center for Groundwater Research in Ontario, Canada, and Kim Lapakko of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources raise serious concerns about virtually every aspect of Exxon's waste analysis. Both experts have been retained by the Wisconsin DNR.

The second report, by John Coleman, an environmental analyst with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), is extremely critical of the methods used to predict mine-related impacts to lakes adjacent to the proposed mine. According to Coleman, "The data used by CMC in these models is sparse, of uncertain quality and origin. CMC has eliminated data inconsistent with preconceptions, used data of low quality without qualification, and used inappropriate data sets."

This data was used by Crandon Mining Company to predict that lakes and other surface waters near the proposed mine will be largely unaffected by the pumping of up to one million gallons per day of groundwater from the mine. The GLIFWC report strongly recommends that new data be collected and that review and analysis be done by independent experts, rather than experts hired by the company.

At the same time that Exxon was accusing mine opponents of misleading the public, independent experts were saying that the company's claims of an environmentally safe mine were without scientific foundation.

This is not the first time Exxon's "scientific" studies have been challenged. In the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, a researcher for the environmental group Greenpeace found that Exxon's studies were consistently biased in that they underestimated the extent of biological injury and overstated the prospects for recovery. Some of Exxon's studies were so seriously flawed that they produced data completely at odds with all other known reports.

The speakers from the grassroots environmental groups, the sportsmens' groups and the Native American nations on the Wolf-Wisconsin speaking tour subjected themselves to the public's questions about the environmental, social, cultured and economic impacts of the proposed mine.

The Crandon chapter of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council has invited CMC President Jerry Goodrich to do the same, but Mr. Goodrich has declined. It is time for Exxon to stop hiding behind its paid experts and allow the public to examine the accuracy of its claims in the same way that the mine opponents have invited such examination.

(Al Gedicks is the executive secretary of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council and was a speaker on the Wolf-Wisconsin Speaking Tour.)

The rally and march at Hat Rapids brought over a thousand people concerned about copper sulfide mining in the north and the impact of mine wastewater proposed to be piped into the Wisconsin river. Among those present were: Sharon Metz, HONOR executive director; Walter Bresette, Lake Superior Alliance coordinator; Sandy Lyons, W.A.T.E.R.; (sitting) Jude Delihant, former HONOR intern; and Sandy's two daughters, Sage and Bonnie. (Photo by Amoose)

State appeals court says DNR can't ban mining in Wisconsin

Wausau, Wis. (AP)—In a setback for environmental activists, a state appeals court recently ruled the Department of Natural Resources does not have power to ban sulfide mineral mining in Wisconsin.

The decision overturned a Rusk County judge's ruling in the matter.

"It is a significant ruling to the extent that it affirms that it is the Legislature that sets the ground rules for mining in the state," Assistant Attorney General John Greene said. "The Legislature did not give the DNR open-ended, sweeping power to regulate mining. That is what this case is about."

In August 1994, Rusk County Citizen Action Group Inc. headquartered in Ladysmith presented petitions to the Natural Resources Board asking that the DNR develop an administrative rule banning sulfide mineral mining in the state.

The Citizen Action Group contended it was impossible to operate such a mine without causing serious environmental harm.

The board unanimously rejected the request.

The Citizen Action Group went to court, and Rusk County Circuit Judge Frederick Henderson ruled in October 1995 that the DNR had authority to ban sulfide mining under its broad powers to protect the state's water.

In unanimously overturning that decision, the 3rd District Court of Appeals said state law authorizes metallic mining within certain limitations and sulfide mineral mining is one such type.

"If the legislature had concluded that the DNR should have the authority to ban mining, it could have specifically authorized such a ban," the three-judge panel said. "However, the Mining Act envisions a case-by-case analysis of each mining permit application."

The appeals court also said other laws that give the DNR responsibility for water quality in the state are "not so sweeping as to authorize the DNR to ban all activities that might adversely affect water quality."

11th Annual Protect the Earth Community Gathering

July 26, 27, 28, 1996
Mole Lake Sokaogon Reservation

A gathering of Native and non-Native people supporting resistance to Exxon's proposed metallic sulfide mine at the headwaters of the Wolf River and resistance to development of a mining district across Wisconsin.

"Building Community for the 7th Generation"

Free Concert Saturday Night

Mitch Walking Elk and the Wolf River Band, Bobby Bullet St. Germaine, Frank Montano, Skip Jones, Peaceful Women, Way Cool, Al Hunter and Horse of Many Colors. PTE Host/Emcee Walt Bresette

Friday, July 26

The gathering will begin with a 37 mile relay run that will follow Exxon's proposed sewer line route for disposal of mine wastes in the Wisconsin River. The run begins at 7 a.m. at Hat Rapids Dam south of Rhinelander and continues to Mole Lake. Details available at 715-766-3408.

Also a Caravan to Protect the Water will be traveling up Hwy. 55 following the Wolf river coming from the Menominee Reservation and points south. To participate call 715-799-5620 at Keshena; 608-251-7020 in Madison. Friday night on the Protect the Earth (PTE) stage will be a talent show, bring your own and join the fun, (remember it is not a contest).

Saturday, July 27

Beginning at 9 a.m. there will be organizing and networking meetings throughout the day about the metallic sulfide mining issue and related issues. All people of good heart are invited to participate. Organizations are invited to send representatives. Saturday night, a free concert by some of the finest Anishinaabe and non Indian musician men and women from the region (see above).

Sunday, July 28

A sunrise spirit run from the shores of Rice Lake up to Little Sand Lake (approx. 12K), will be followed at 9 a.m. by a walk through Mole Lake and up Spirit Hill by the proposed mine site. All PTE participants are invited to join in walking, biking and riding. Bring water to drink. After returning to the pow wow grounds, ceremonies will take place in which the Protect the Earth Eagle Feather Staff will be passed on to its new carrier by this years carrier Mike Chosa.

Gathering of the Waters Celebration on Sunday, Bring a cup of water from your watershed for a ceremony recognizing the importance of water and how all the water is connected.

Food venders and traditional arts and craft booths invited, must register in advance. 715-766-3408. Child Care available. Volunteers and donations needed.

Protect the Earth is a rough camping event held outdoors, located eight miles south of Crandon on Hwy. 55 in N.E. Wisconsin. Immediately downstream from Exxon's proposed metallic sulfide mine in the tall pines of Mole Lake's beautiful Pow wow grounds. Turn West on Sokaogon Drive just south of the Royale Casino on Hwy. 55. In the event of rain, events will be held under cover on site or in the Environment Building east of the highway. Bring no drugs, alcohol or pets to the gathering. Motels are available in Mole Lake, Crandon and Rhinelander.

Evelyn Churchill, respected elder of the anti-mining movement, passes on

Evelyn Churchill passed into the spirit world on June 6 after having open heart surgery. Evelyn had been living with heart disease for many years. Before she went into the operation to have two valves replaced she was with her entire family. She went knowing that she might not come back. She went with great peace of spirit and gave her love to all. Her heart took its rest after 78 years and never returned. Evelyn was loved dearly by those who knew her.

Evelyn and her loving and devoted husband of 59 years, Roscoe Churchill together were the heart and soul and center of the anti-mining movement. Evelyn was the careful researcher and Roscoe the spokesman. Over the years they gained the great admiration and fond affection of the ever growing environmental movement.

A diligent, humble and honest worker Evelyn dedicated the last breathes of her life to the mining issue, researching hard to protect this earth for all our grandchildren. Evelyn and Roscoe began fighting metallic sulfide mining back in 1975 when they first discovered that Kennecott Copper had bought up 11 neighboring farms.

Their initial and ceaseless work has grown an awareness of the grave hazards of metallic sulfide mining that continues to spread throughout the region. Their work has become recognized internationally. The movement they began has become so strong that soon Evelyn's and Roscoe's seed planted years ago will bear fruit and the mining district will be stopped.

To help further the work Evelyn began, an environmental trust fund has been set up in her name. Memorials can be sent to: The Evelyn Churchill Memorial Environmental Trust, Mid-America Bank, 100 E. Miner Ave., Ladysmith, Wisconsin 54848.

In remembrance of this kind and loving woman, the 11th annual Protect the Earth gathering will be dedicated to Evelyn Churchill held at the Mole Lake Reservation on July 26, 27 and 28. On Sunday, July 28, an Eagle feather, the highest honor that one can receive in the Native American community, will be placed on the Protect the Waters Women's Staff and an honoring ceremony will be held. Roscoe Churchill's 80th Birthday will be celebrated that day at the Community Gathering, all friends are invited. (For more details call, 715-766-2725.)

Evelyn's work will continue through her friends and family. They will begin the work of translating Evelyn's research to print and in the future will print the book that will tell the story of Roscoe and his Evelyn and their life and work together. Anyone wishing to help, or anyone with writings, photos, or articles may contact the WATER Campaign, Box 31, Springbrook, WI 54875.

(WATER stands for We All Trust Evelyn and Roscoe...or...Watershed Alliance Toward Environmental Responsibility...or Watershed Alliance To End Environmental Racism...or just WATER, pure and simple)

Over a thousand people from all walks of life joined the walk and demonstration in opposition to Exxon's proposed mine in Wisconsin. (Photo by Amoose)

Tribes participate in forest planning

By Veronica Sullivan
GLIFWC Forest Ecologist

Veronica Sullivan, GLIFWC forest ecologist. (Photo by Amoose)

Odanah, Wis.—Many GLIFWC staff are involved in a large effort to improve the opportunity to exercise treaty hunting, fishing and gathering rights in the ceded territories on national forests. Under the direction of the GLIFWC Board of Commissioners and the Voigt Intertribal Task Force, projects underway include negotiations for a Memorandum of Understanding for Gathering on National Forests and presentations on tribal culture and treaty rights to Forest Service staff.

Recommendations for tribal self-governance of the gathering of wild plants and identification of issues for input into forest plan revisions are also being developed. GLIFWC biologists and technicians conduct many research and monitoring projects as well.

Why spend so much time and effort on national forests? Tribal members exercise their treaty rights by hunting, fishing and gathering wild plants in ceded territories on public lands These activities are integral to tribal spirituality and culture as well as providing food and shelter.

Public lands include federal, state and county land. Of the federal lands, the five Lakes States national forests, Huron-Manistee, Hiawatha, Ottawa, Nicolet and Chequamegon, and Superior National Forests, together cover over 6,445,043 acres, most of which is on ceded territories of GLIFWC member tribes. National forest management of this huge acreage greatly affects the habitats of animals and plants of interest to tribal people. So management of these forests has a large impact on tribes and tribal people.

The upcoming forest plan revisions provide the opportunity for input to national forest management. All the national forests in the ceded territories of GLIFWC-member tribes have begun or will begin revising their Land and Resource Management Plans in the next year. These Management Plans guide all Forest Service resource activities for ten to fifteen years. Only the parts of current Management Plans which are identified as needing revision will be changed. Existing Management Plans barely mention the exercise of treaty rights, if at all.

Data showing the effects of forest management practices on plants and animals of interest to GLIFWC member tribes are woefully lacking. Also, the federal government, including the Forest Service, has a trust responsibility to the tribes to make management decisions which are the most favorable and least harmful to tribal interests. So involvement in the Management Plan revisions and research on national forests may be seen as vital to the interest of the tribes.

Tribal representatives, biologists and policy analysts met with Forest Service officials for more than two years to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding for Off-Reservation National Forest Gathering (M.O.U.).

The purpose of the M.O.U. is to reach an agreement between GLIFWC member tribes and the Forest Service on how tribal members will exercise and self-regulate the treaty right of gathering wild plants on national forests. Mechanisms for tribal input to the national forest planning process were also discussed during M.O.U. negotiations.

Although talks have been on hold since last fall, a Model Resolution for National Forest Gathering was approved in September, paving the way for tribal self-regulation of wild plant gathering in the ceded territories on national forest land. Tribal representatives expect the Forest Service to respond to their proposals regarding harvest of standing live trees and gathering wild plants in federally-designated wilderness areas sometime this summer.

Once a tribe adopts a resolution similar to the Model Resolution for National Forest Gathering, tribal members can obtain permits for gathering on national forests from their tribal offices rather than from the Forest Service.

Red Cliff, Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Vieux Desert, Lac Courte Oreilles, and Mole Lake bands have adopted resolutions so their members may gather with tribal permits. A tribal commercial permit is required only for gathering ginseng, conifer boughs or princess pine (greens) for sale.

Tribes designate the nature of personal use permits. They may be the tribal identification card or included as a check-off-box on the hunting permit. No permit is required for gathering of wild plants for medicinal or ceremonial use.

Last winter and spring, GLIFWC ANA Director, Jim St. Arnold, spoke to Forest Service staff at most Forest Service offices in the Lake States about treaty rights and tribal culture. His presentations included greetings in the Ojibwa language, personal stories of his family life, descriptions of the significance of traditional crafts and discussions of the meaning of treaty rights.

The goal of the presentations was to raise the awareness of many Forest Service employees who have little contact with tribal members in their day-to-day lives. As a result, it is hoped the Forest Service employees will have a better understanding of and respect for treaty rights during their planning and management activities.

Wild plant gathering informational meetings were held last fall to begin to assess what tribal members gather for resale on national forests. During these meetings many tribal members generously shared their knowledge of gathering and its cultural significance. It is important to get a handle on this to protect tribal sovereignty.

The tribes retain the right to regulate commercial wild plant gathering as long as they have a system in place which protects the resources involved. If such a system is not in place, then the Forest Service may step in and attempt to regulate commercial gathering again. In order to show that the tribal system is working, assessment of current gathering is needed.

The wild plant gathering informational meetings also began an assessment of what plants and plant products tribal members want to gather in the future. This is to ensure that the current tribal regulatory system will handle expected demand and to be sure future tribal needs are incorporated into the revised Management Plans.

Closely related is another goal of the national forest initiative—identification of the issues which are important to tribal members in national forest planning. GLIFWC staff met with interested tribal staff this spring to discuss Forest Service planning. Also, each Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission member tribe approved a survey which will be mailed soon to randomly-selected tribal members who obtained off-reservation hunting, fishing or gathering permits last year.

The survey asks about off-reservation plant gathering needs and what issues are important to tribal members in national forest planning. Results of these fact-finding efforts will be compiled into a final report at the end of the summer and summarized for publication in the Masinaigan.

(See National forest planning, page 27)

GLIFWC studies effects of logging on understory plants

By Beth Lynch
GLIFWC Botanist

Odanah, Wis.—Much of the original forest cover of the territories ceded in the Chippewa treaties of the mid-19th century was old-growth northern hardwood forests. In addition to important tree species such as sugar maple, hemlock, and yellow birch, this plant community type includes 35 herb and shrub species traditionally and presently used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa (Meeker et al. 1993), and many other species with no recorded uses.

Plants such as trillium, spring beauty, wild leek, ginseng, as well as ferns and club mosses grow in the cool, dark habitat underneath the shade of hardwoods. These understory species evolved in a shady, moist environment where large-scale disturbances were rare except for occasional blowdowns.

Extensive logging activity in the ceded territories has altered this disturbance regime. Increased light and temperature on the forest floor, compaction or erosion of soils, loss of pit and mound topography (created by large trees blowing over in old growth stands), and the introduction of non-native invasive species may be changing the distribution and abundance of plants in the understory of northern hardwood forests.

While small-scale logging operations using horses and small machinery in the winter months may have caused some changes in the understory of northern hardwood forests, largescale operations using larger machinery and year-round logging may be having more dramatic effects.

The best way to find out if modern logging activity is causing changes in the understory of northern hardwood forests is to do an experiment where the distribution and abundance of plants before a forest stand is logged are compared to the distribution and abundance of plants after logging.

Because forests recover slowly from logging, the real test is to see how the understory responds over tens of years. Does it ever return to its pre-logging condition, or are there permanent changes in the composition of the understory? Are species lost? Or new species added?

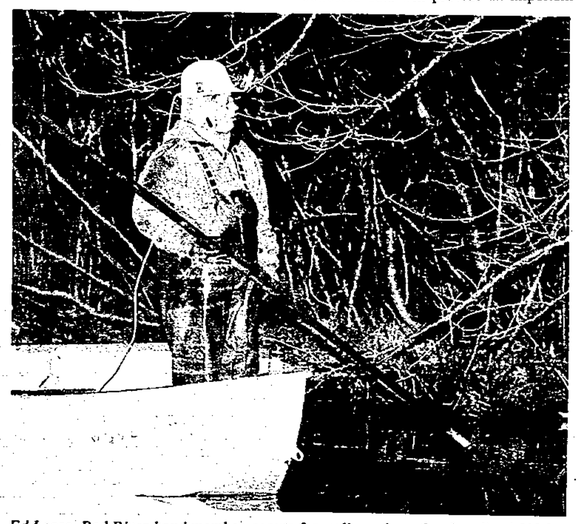
So far, 17 forest stands in the Chequamegon, Nicolet, and Ottawa National Forests have been surveyed for understory plants. It takes two people about two days to setup permanent plot locations and inventory the understory plants as well as take measurements on the tree canopy.

Understory surveys must be done twice a year because some species are only visible in the early spring before the trees leaf out and others don't show up until later in the summer.

The information collected to this point provides us with a good picture of what species grow in northern hardwood forests and how common they are. These carefully collected data will provide an important baseline for comparison after the stands are cut in the coming years.

If the results of the experiment indicate that there are some logging techniques that appear to be less damaging to plants than others (for examples only logging while the ground is frozen) this information can be used to make recommendations about timber management throughout the ceded territories.

Beth Lynch, left, GLIFWC botanist and John Heim, GLIFWC wildlife/wild plant technician. (Photo by Amoose)



Ed Leoso, Bad River band member, scouts for walleye along the shoreline of Nelson Lake. (Photo by Amoose)

Daily walleye bag limits increase on 52 lakes

Madison, Wis.—The walleye bag limit on 52 northern Wisconsin lakes has increased to between three and five fish per day after two bands of Wisconsin Chippewa Indians released a portion of their tribal spearfishing declarations.

Chairman Arlyn Ackley notified the Department of Natural Resources that the Sokaogon Chippewa band was releasing part of its quota on 36 north central Wisconsin lakes. Michael Isham, Jr., speaking for his tribal council, notified the department that the Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewa band was releasing part of its quota on 16 northwestern Wisconsin lakes. As a result, the department is increasing bag limits on those lakes. The revised bag limits will be posted at the affected lakes and are effective immediately.

"This is very welcome news for the bands' northern neighbors, anglers, and people who rely on tourism in the north," said DNR Secretary George Meyer. "We would like to extend our very sincere thanks and appreciation to the Sokaogon and Lac Courte Oreilles bands."

In March, the six Wisconsin Chippewa bands declared a harvest of 50,897 walleyes on 248 lakes for the 1996 spring spearfishing season. The Chippewa speared a total of 28,316 walleyes during the spring spearfishing season. Biologists determined that a total safe harvest of 90,083 walleyes were available this year on 692 ceded territory lakes.

As part of a federal court decision affirming Chippewa Indian off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering rights, the six Chippewa bands set annual harvest quotas for off-reservation lakes in the ceded territory. To assure the combined Indian and sport angler harvests do not exceed safe levels, the state sets special bag limits based on the harvest quotas the Chippewa bands declare for specific lakes.

A third Chippewa band, the Lac du Flambeau, is expected to release quotas on a number of north central Wisconsin lakes at a later date.

Region's plants are valuable resources
Uses are being forgotten

MASINAIGAN will be featuring plants that have been traditionally used by the Ojibwe in each issue. The value of many such plants has been lost over time and lack of use.

Common milkweed is known as ininiwainzh (man-like) in Ojibwe:

A plant that has a variety of traditional uses for the Ojibwe is the common milkweed. The plant was used as a food, a charm, and as a medicine for the treatment of female diseases.

Milkweed is found along dry, open roadsides and in old fields away from the edge of the woods and is probably most noted for its large seed pods that split open in late summer releasing fuzzy, airborn seeds. The plant grows to about five feet tall. The leaves and stem are covered with a fine, soft hair, and the large flower is a rose to brown color.

The used of milkweed have been varied and most parts of the plant used. In the early spring the young sprouts were eaten and prepared similar to asparagus. The pod was also boiled when young and green and eaten. The flowers were cut up, stewed, and eaten like a preserve. Milkweed was also eaten like an appetite stimulator before a feast. Other uses were to aid in producing post-birth milk flow in mothers. The root was combined with root fibers of boneset and applied to a whistle for calling deer. Finally, the stems were used like a peashooter by children.

Wild bergamot known as bibgwunukuk wabino wuck (resembling a flute, eastern medicine) in Ojibwe

Wild bergamot is a member of the horsemint family. Like other mint plants, it has a square stem. Growing up to 2 to 3 feet tall, it is found growing in clearings, thickets, prairies, fields, and along edges of dry fields. The lance-shaped leaves are toothed and aromatic when crushed. Blooming in July and August, wild bergamot produces pinkish or pale lilac, lipped flowers which bloom in large terminal clusters.

Wild bergamot had numerous medicinal uses for the Ojbwe as well as prairie tribes, such as the Pawnee. Chewed leaves were placed in the nostrils to relieve headaches. A decoction of the root and flower were administered for worms, a poultice of moisten dried flowers and leaves was used to dress burns. An infusion of flowers and leaves was also used as a skin wash.. A steam from the boiled plant was inhaled to treat respiratory ailments. A very tasty tea can also be made from the leaves.

While the European classification of the bergamot has only one classification, the Pawnee have four classifications of the plant, based on its fragrance as well as differences in roots and stems. The most undesirable of plants named for being ill smelling.

M. fistulosa

Milkweed Soup

By Faith and Jim Matter, Ho-Chunk Nation

6-8 Milkweed pods
6 cups water
1 pound ham or beef, cut into chunks
2 cups sliced carrots
2 cups peas

Milkweed pods, green to light green in color, are only available in July. Pick 6-8 milkweed pods from stems, depending on size.

Bring a large pot of water to a boil, add milkweed pods. Boil until milky in color.

Add ham or beef, carrots and peas. Boil until vegetables are done and pods fall apart.

HINT: Milkweed pods can be picked in large amounts and frozen to use in soup during other seasons.

Editor's Note: This recipe is one of many to appear in the soon-to-be-published Minwanjiziwn Nutrition Project Cookbook being compiled by the Grea Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc. The cookbook will feature recipes using a variety of traditional foods.

Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa

The book, "**Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa,**" is available in abridged and unabridged versions through the Biological Services Division of GLIFWC.

The unabridged version includes a brief description of the plant and it's use, a reproduced line drawing, and a map showing approximately where each plant is distributed within the ceded territories. The abridged version is much the same but without the drawings, maps, and descriptions. The unabridged version is $20.00 and the abridged is $6.25, these prices include postage. Mail check, money order or purchase order to GLIFWC, Biological Services Division, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

Sonny Smart, sociologist from the Bad River reservation, received a blanket during the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council's Gathering at Lac du Flambeau. Presenting the blanket is Naomi Russell, Wisconsin Rapids. The gathering provided the elders with an all day workshop on dealing with grief and loss. The day concluded with distribution of sweetgrass by John Heim, GLIFWC wildlife/wild plant technician. (Photo by Amoose)

Ojibwe tribes sponsor environmental database project with UW-Madison

By Jon Coleman, Jon Gilbert and Susan Klugman

Odanah, Wis.—To meet the social and ecological challenges faced by the Great Lakes Chippewa (Ojibwa), the tribes are cooperating with other governments, agencies and institutions to ensure the continued health of the region's environment.

As an agency of the Ojibwa tribes, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) is charged with protecting and enhancing ecosystems that support tribal harvests in the Ceded Territories. The Ceded Territories are off-reservation lands ceded by treaty to the U.S. Government in the early 1800s, and encompass portions of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Under the treaties, the tribes retain the rights to harvest and gather resources on these lands. GLIFWC gives technical advice to 11 member tribes on the harvest and management of natural resources in the Ceded Territories.

As part of a recent agreement between UW-Madison's School of Natural Resources and GLIFWC, a cooperative project was established at the Land Information and Computer Graphics Facility (LICGF) to pursue natural resource information acquisition and computerized modeling.

GLIFWC, through its Environmental Modeling Unit at LICGF, has been developing "spatially referenced" databases since 1993. To spatially reference databases, GLIFWC staff extract "layers" of information and key the layers to maps that can be viewed and manipulated on a computer screen. We use this spatially referenced information to model natural resource distributions in the Ceded Territories.

Current human activities are having a great effect on the distribution and quality of resources traditionally important to the Ojibwa. In order to monitor the availability and quality of these resources, we are developing and maintaining long-term, broad-scale data. With such data, the tribes can make better decisions about sustainable use and care of these resources. In addition, they can detect or anticipate and possibly avoid areas of conflict between users. Because the Ceded Territories cover a large area, the spatial distribution of resources is an important factor in determining resource availability to the tribes.

We are working with LICGF to develop or acquire a wide variety of spatial databases, including land use, hydrology, geology, mineral exploration, mercury contamination, human population density, road distribution, forest cover type, deer density, predator and prey density, weather patterns, and tribal and non-tribal harvest of several important plants and game species.

As we develop and acquire natural resource data, we are documenting and standardizing the data layers so that they can be made available on CD-ROM to GLIFWC biologists, member tribes and cooperators.

We are adapting spatial databases primarily from existing GIS coverages obtained from state and federal agencies and from digital and hard copy records of natural resource surveys. With LICGF, GLIFWC is cooperating with staff from the U.S. Forest Service and UW-Madison's Department of Forestry to acquire and develop data layers.

Using GIS software, natural resource data is linked to existing or newly-created GIS base layers. By intersecting these layers, we are determining the spatial relationships among the resources and the resource users.

Two of our current GIS projects are mapping the distribution of mineral deposits in relation to surface resources and modeling the distribution of fisher habitat. The tribes have a keen interest in subsurface minerals because the lands on which the Ojibwa have harvest rights are underlain with extractable minerals. There is concern that extraction of these minerals will cause damage to tribal treaty-reserved resources.

In order to predict areas of potential conflict between mineral extraction and maintenance of surface resource health, we are collecting data on mineral exploration as an indicator of the presence of deposits. Records of exploratory borings, in combination with state geologic maps, help us to predict where minerals occur in Wisconsin. Through the use of GIS, we are able to look at the spatial relationship between sites of potential mineral development and surface resources.

Because many of the surface resources important to the Ojibwa are tied to water, we have chosen to analyze data on a watershed basis. Two resources of immediate concern are wild rice and walleye populations. Wild rice beds are much diminished from earlier times and many walleye populations already have contaminant problems. Mineral extraction may affect these resources through hydrological change or contamination. By looking at the extent of mineral deposits in a watershed, we can make predictions as to which waters are most threatened. This will help us plan research to acquire the baseline data necessary in monitoring resource change.

In another project, we are developing distribution maps for several species of Wisconsin wildlife. Many of these animals are harvested by tribal members and play an important role in the Ojibwa culture. Initially, we have modeled the distribution of fisher habitat in northern Wisconsin. Fishers are native predators related to mink that eat a wide variety of foods.

By using descriptions of fisher habitat found in the scientific literature, we have projected the distribution of potential fisher habitat across the state. We have then compared this projected distribution with the distribution observed when trapping and tracking the animals.

Through this comparison, we have been able to identify additional landscape variables that are correlated with fisher distribution. The final results are an improved map of fisher distribution and a map of potential fisher habitat in the state. Such information is key in developing management and harvest strategies for this important species.

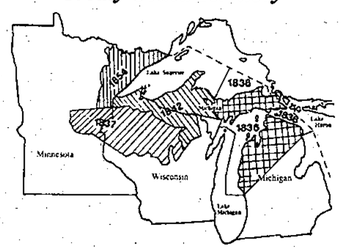
In addition to these and other projects, we anticipate continued research on mercury contamination of Wisconsin lakes, and identification of potential sites for pine barrens restoration, plant collection and Kirtland's warbler habitat.

Editor's Note: John Coleman, Environmental modeler and mining specialist; Jon Gilbert, wildlife section leader; and Susan Klugman, assistant modeler, GLIFWC. The authors are using geographic information systems (GIS) in a cooperative arrangement with the Land Information and Computer Graphics Facility, a center in UW-Madison's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

For more information, contact John Coleman, GLIFWC-LICGF Cooperative Unit, UW-Madison, 550 Babcock Dr., Rm. B102, Madison, Wisconsin, 53706; colemanj@calshp.cals.wisc.edu; (608) 263-2873.

migizi

Treaty Ceded Territory



Crews will release sterilized male lampreys into Lake Superior

Marquette, Mich.—The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Marquette, Michigan, as the contracted agent of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (Commission), released 20,000 sterilized male sea lampreys into 27 Lake Superior streams. These streams, located in the upper peninsula of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Canada are the principle lamprey spawning streams of Lake Superior.

Experimental field and laboratory studies have demonstrated that male lampreys are sterilized without affecting their spawning behavior. When released in these streams they spawn with the females but the eggs will not be fertilized. Sterile male lampreys have completed their parasitic phase and die after spawning.

This program reduces the number of fertile lamprey eggs produced in each stream by about 65 percent. The number of sterilized males released in each stream is based on the estimated number of sea lampreys that typically spawns in each stream. Sterilized males will be released in a ratio of 1.6 sterile to 1 normal male. During 1991-95, 87,210 sterilized male sea lampreys have been released in Lake Superior streams.

This program currently is a supplemental control method to lampricide treatments and at present is not intended as replacement for the existing TFM treatment program.

The Commission is using an integrated approach to control sea lampreys. Applications of the lampricide TFM have been occurring in tributaries of Lake Superior for more than 30 years. The lampricide selectively kills young lampreys (larvae) that have burrowed in stream bottoms. Construction of barrier dams during the past 10 years has prevented the spawning of adult lampreys in some streams. The addition of the sterile male technique as another weapon will lead to further control of the lamprey populations.

The sea lamprey invaded Lake Ontario in the early 1800s, subsequently entering Lake Erie, via the Welland Canal, around 1921. Within a few decades, the lampreys infiltrated the Upper Great Lakes and severely reduced the number of lake trout and other fish species.

Before development of the lampricide and the control program, sea lampreys had virtually eliminated lake trout populations in the Great Lakes.

The control program, initiated in 1956 by the Commission, was begun in tributaries of Lake Superior in 1958; Lake Michigan streams were first treated in 1960, followed by treatment of Lake Huron in 1961 and Lake Ontario in 1971. The treatment of Lake Erie streams did not commence until 1986.

Repeated treatments of tributaries to the Great Lakes are necessary for control because of the difficulty of eliminating adult lampreys in the Great Lakes. Adult lampreys enter the streams to spawn, after which they die. The larvae they produce live in stream bottoms for several years. Later, as adults, they move into the lakes to prey on fish. The control program is designed to remove the larvae in the streams before they can grow into the adult parasitic form.

Since the advent of lamprey control, lake trout populations have increased and are showing promise of becoming self-sustaining through natural reproduction. Most of the lake trout planted in the Great Lakes are produced in Service hatcheries.

Sea lamprey control also benefits brook, brown, and rainbow trout, and coho and chinook salmon planted in the lakes by the Departments of Natural Resources in states and provinces bordering the Great Lakes.

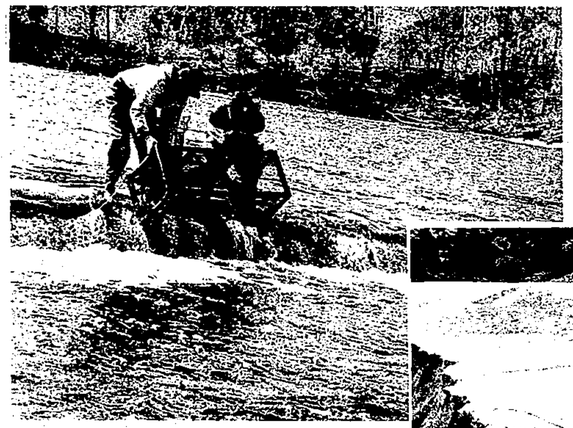
The Great Lakes Fishery Commission emphasizes that the fishery now enjoyed in the Great Lakes is dependent on sea lamprey control and would soon decline or disappear if the control program were discontinued. ❐

The sea lamprey uses its spiney mouth to attach to fish and live as a parasite on the fish. Lamprey are particularly attracted to lake trout and have seriously impacted the lake trout population in the Great Lakes. (Photo by Lynn Plucinski)

Kasha Mullet, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Sea Lamprey Control Program, Marquette, Michigan assists in set up for sea lamprey trapping. Flooding conditions on the Bad River made bridge building necessary in order to access areas where traps were to be set. (Photo by Lynn Plucinski)

Mike Plucinski, GLIFWC Great Lakes technician, happily takes the first of many trips across the newly constructed bridge, as Bill Mattes, GLIFWC Great Lakes section leader looks on. (Photo by Lynn Plucinski)

Lamprey assessments in 10th year



Since 1986, The Great Lakes Section has been cooperating with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Sea Lamprey Control (SLC) program in Marquette, Michigan to gather information on adult sea lamprey ascending various tributary strems of Lake Superior during their May-June spawning run. Together with information collected by SLC and other agencies, this data is part of an integrated and multi-faceted approach to controlling and reducing lamprey populations.

Rivers are monitored to track the upstream spawning movements of sea lamprey, to collect data on the biological characteristics of spawning sea lamprey, to estimate the number of lamprey spawning in each tributary, and to reduce the spawning potential of sea lamprey by removing a portion of the run.

Above, Mitch Soulier and Mike Plucinski, GLIFWC wildlife technicians, check a live lamprey trap in the Bad River. Traps are also set on the Middle and Amnicon rivers in Wisconsin and the Silver, Traverse, Firesteel, Huron, and Misery rivers in Michigan.

To the right, GLIFWC fisheries technicians clip fins and tag captured lamprey prior to release. The catch-release assessments determine the effectiveness of treatment programs. (Photos by Lynn Plucinski)

Marketing Great Lakes lamprey as a foreign food

By Marie Salés
Minnesota Sea Grant

You've all heard the overworked saying, one man's trash is another man's treasure. Well, here's a new one. One person's exotic species may be another person's dinner. The Great Lakes Protection Fund recently awarded Minnesota Sea Grant money for a two-year study on the overseas market potential for Great Lakes sea lamprey.

The sea lamprey is a parasitic exotic species that entered the Upper Great Lakes in the 1920s, and by the 1940s had helped decimate the Great Lakes fishery. Lamprey is a culinary delicacy in parts of Europe, especially Portugal and Spain. Live lamprey can reach a market value of over $25 per pound there. Traditional fishing methods have caused numbers to decline significantly, with demand far exceeding supply.

Although smaller, the Great Lakes lamprey is the same species considered a delicacy by the Portuguese. Great Lakes lamprey have been tested for a variety of contaminants and appear to be acceptable to the European Union standards, although further testing will be done.

Various programs designed to eradicate the lamprey are in place, coordinated by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Each year, the commission traps between 50,000 to 100,000 lamprey (or about one-eighth of the Great Lakes spawning population). Currently, over 20,000 of the trapped males are used in a program

where they are sterilized and released. The female lamprey are sent to a landfill. Sea Grant hopes this demonstration project will find a use for the female lamprey now wasted, determine the feasibility of exporting live lamprey for human consumption, and will augment current control efforts.

"Harvest of Great Lakes sea lamprey for human consumption has been speculated upon for over 30 years," said Jeff Gunderson, project leader and Acting Associate Director for Minnesota Sea Grant.

(See Marketing, page 15)

Cooking sea lamprey

Kill the lamprey and immerse it in hot water. Take all the mucus off by scraping the skin with a knife. Finish by rubbing the surface with a rough piece of cloth. WAsh it, cut off the tail end (about 15 cm) and discard; tie the head with a thread and hang it. Underneath put a bowl with a tablespoon of vinegar. Open the bronchial holes region to allow the blood to drip, and wash the lamprey with 0.2 liters of red wine, stirring the mixture of wine, vinegar and blood to avoid coagulation

Eviscerate the lamprey, taking all intestines. Do not forget the notocordium (dark organ along the abdonminal cavity) that gives a bitter unpleasant taste. Cut the lamprey in peices of 4 to 6 cm in length. Wash again. The head must be cut with a surface cut going around the body. Pull the head out. A thick bone must also come out with the head: the head is not used. Marinate the lamprey peices with salt, pepper, white and red wines, a bay leaf, parsley and pieces of carrots and onions. Wait at lease 2 hours, ideally 5 hours or more. After these procedures, the lamprey is ready to be used.

Lamprey Rice

Prepare the lamprey by cutting peices of 6 cm. Put all the peices in a pan with olive oil (about 6 tablespoons), garlic peices, salt and pepper andheat until everything starts to borwn. Add small portions of water, enough to make approximately 1 liter of sauce. Let boil for 1 hour. Taste and correct seasonsin. Add 500 g of rice and the lamprey blood. As soon as it starts boiling, cook slowly until the rice is ready. Be sure the rice remains cooked but with the sauce well liquid. Serve very hot.

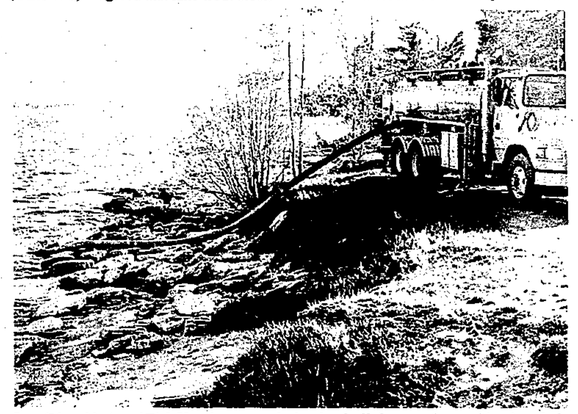
(Translated by Paulo Vaz-Pires, from the book "A Cozinha Ideal" (The Ideal Cooking), author Manuel Ferreira, Editor Domingos Barreira, Lisbon. Reprinted from Seiche, April 1996 edition.)

Lake Superior lake trout restoration proclaimed a major victory

Ann Arbor, Mich.—A major victory in efforts to restore lake trout in Lake Superior was declared during a recent meeting of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Superior Committee in Duluth, Minnesota.

The Committee—made up of fishery managers from the three Great Lakes States which border Lake Superior, from the Province of Ontario, and from U.S. Tribes represented by the Chippewa-Ottawa Treaty Fishery Management Authority (COTFMA) and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)—agreed that lake trout stocking programs, along with a coordinated effort of sea lamprey control, limits on sport and commercial fishing, and water quality protection and enhancements, has allowed lake trout to again become self-sustaining in areas of Lake Superior.

With the return of self-sustainable lake trout populations, state, federal, provincial, and tribal management authorities have decided to eliminate stocking of federally-reared lake trout in areas of the lake extending from the Apostle Islands in Wisconsin eastward to Grand Marias, Michigan. Similarly, a number of areas in Ontario waters have shown improvements in lake trout populations such that stocking has been reduced to about a third of what is was in the 1980s.



Iron River National Fish Hatchery puts the last load of lake trout for stocking into Lake Superior at Point Isabelle, Michigan on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Fish managers see no need to continue stocking lake trout. (Photo by Bill Mattes)

Currently, Lake Superior is the only lake in which lake trout populations are self-sustaining. According to a recent report by Dr. Michael Hansen of the National Biological Service, in some areas of Lake Superior, populations are up to 80% of those that occurred before the sea lamprey invaded and lake trout populations crashed.

The ultimate goal of the Lake Superior Committee, as reported in the 1990 Lake Superior fish community objectives "is to restore self-sustaining stocks that can provide an average annual yield equal to that attained during 1929-1943 [the period prior to decline]."

Lake trout restoration efforts began in Lake Superior in the 1950s—coincidental with the beginning of sea lamprey control—and mangers spread their efforts to the other Great Lakes during the ensuing decades. Since the

1950s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, and more recently the Keweenaw Bay Tribe, have been trying to increase lake trout populations through stocking.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission was created by Canada and the United States and has complimented these efforts by controlling sea lampreys and by coordinating fishery research and management on a binational level.

The return of self-sustaining lake trout populations is a major victory for the Great Lakes fishery because naturally occurring lake trout once supported a major commercial and a small sport fishery in the Great Lakes. Anglers came from far and wide to catch Great Lakes lake trout, and commercial fishermen sent millions of them to restaurants and packing houses annually, supplying the region and the world with some of the best fish available.

In the middle part of this century, however, the species experienced the unthinkable: near extirpation in the Great Lakes. Overfishing and sea lamprey predation caused such devastation to lake trout stocks that harvesting in the Great Lakes fell from about 17 million pounds annually to almost nothing. The lake trout, once the king of the fishery, fell so quickly in numbers that many questioned whether the species, let alone the fishery, could survive.

"The recovery of lake trout in Lake Superior is indicative of what is possible in the other lakes," said Lake Superior Committee Chairman Bill Horns of the Wisconsin DNR. "This achievement gives us renewed hope for ongoing lake trout restoration efforts in the lower lakes."

"This is a sterling example of a cooperative effort between federal, state, and provincial agencies, and tribal governments," added John Robertson, Chief of Fisheries, Michigan DNR, "to be able to claim such a victory on the road toward a complete rehabilitation of the lake trout in Lake Superior and elsewhere in the Great Lakes."

In other areas of Lake Superior—such as Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and lower Keweenaw Bay waters—stocking will continue because natural reproduction has not yet taken hold at a level that would likely allow self-sustainability. In these areas, state or tribally-reared fish will continue to be stocked. Management agencies will continue to monitor the lake trout fishery, and, perhaps, one day find it unnecessary to stock any lake trout in Lake Superior.

Marketing great lakes sea lamprey continued

(Continued from page 14)

"It's time to seriously address this question in a country where lamprey are traditionally consumed and demand a price high enough to make the effort worthwhile."

Should the test prove that a commercial venture would be successful, commercial or tribal fishermen may be able to use the information to develop a business. But such a venture would need to be coordinated carefully with efforts to control lamprey.

"Our job is to suppress them," said Mike Millar, Sea Lamprey Program Manager with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. "If we're successful, and your marketing program is successful, we'll be on a collision course.

"Supply is a potential problem as we get more proficient at controlling lamprey populations," said Millar. "However, we may be able to develop an approach that would supply enough lamprey for 5-20 years to provide a profitable business."

To ensure that any potential future use of Great Lakes lamprey does not interfere with lamprey control or research efforts, Millar and other state and federal agency personnel serve on the project's steering committee.

The project will began in the spring when lamprey begin to spawn and are most vulnerable to trapping. The source will be the St. Marys River, which connects Lake Superior and Lake Huron.

The St. Marys River has large numbers of lamprey and is the largest spawning area in the Great Lakes basin that is not fully under control by the commission. The river's large size causes the problems; however, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission is looking at new ways to control lamprey there.

One thousand female lamprey will be shipped to Portugal to test the market there. Next year, 1,500 will be shipped to both Portugal and Spain. Dr. Paulo Vaz-Pires the project cooperator in Ported Portugal at the Escola Superior De Biotechnologia, will conduct the market testing.

The project was the brainchild of Edmund Zottola, Professor of Food Microbiology at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul; and Dale Baker, former Associate Director for Minnesota Sea Grant. Zottola will design and implement the market test in Portugal and work with Portuguese food scientists on palatability studies.

Henry Schafer, Associate Professor and Extension Food Technologist University of Minnesota, St. Paul, will also work on those aspects of the study and will examine issues related to food safety and quality.

Others involved include Bob Ross, International Marketing Expert, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Gouchester, MA, who will help obtain appropriate permits to ship lamprey overseas; and Bruce Manny, Fisheries Biologist, National Biological Service, Ann Arbor, Michigan, who will help direct the project and garner cooperation of state and federal agencies.

Initial consumer acceptance results are expected by summer, 1996. Further refinements will be made in 1997.

For more information about this project, contact Jeff Gunderson, (218) 726-8715. *(Reprinted from Seiche)*

The Great Lakes lamprey is the same species cosidered a delicacy by the Portugese.

GLIFWC among those recognized for lake trout restoration success

By Bill Mattes, Great Lakes section leader

Odanah, Wis.—Members of the Lake Superior Technical Committee for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) were honored during the annual meeting of the GLFC in recognition of successful lake trout restoration in Lake Superior. Neil Kmiecik, GLIFWC biological services division head, accepted an award on behalf of GLIFWC.

The GLFC is an international body, with representation from the U.S. and Canada, responsible for the management of the Great Lakes fishery. The GLFC annual meeting was held June 3-5, 1996 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Also recognized during the meeting was former commissioner Buzz Besadny and Paul Wendler, U.S. Advisor, was honored for his successful efforts to facilitate an important partnership between Dow Chemical and the GLFC.

Other highlights of the meeting included the unveiling of the GLFC web site which can be viewed at http://glfc.cic.net. The web page features general information on inter-jurisdictional fisheries management and activities of GLFC's lake committees. Documents and current research papers are also available on the web.

Issues relating to the management of the Great Lakes fisheries were discussed throughout the meeting as were problems facing GLFC's program in the face of budgetary cuts, including Canada's reduction of $1.3 million.

Allegra Cangelosi, senior policy analyst, Northeast Midwest Institute, provided an update to progress on the national Invasive Species Act, formerly the Aquatic Nuisance Species Control and Prevention Act.

GLIFWC Director of Biological Services Neil Kmiecik is presented with an award by Great Lakes Fishery Commission Chairperson Gail Beggs during the annual GLFC conference in Milwaukee. Members of the Lake Superior Committee were recognized for their role in the rehabilitation of lake trout populations in Lake Superior. (GLFC photo)

Ed White, left, and Butch Mieloszyk, GLIFWC fisheries technicians check fyke nets as part of a river ruffe assessment on the Kakagon river and slough on the Bad River reservation. The assessment is performed jointly with the Bad River band and is in its second year. Happily, no ruffe were captured, indicating they have not yet invaded the Kakagon. However, several have been reported caught by hook and line fishermen at the mouth of the Kakagon. (Photo by Lynn Plucinski)

Pratt-Shelly honored for national conservation achievement

Judy Pratt-Shelley.

Washington, D.C.,—The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) presented Judy Pratt-Shelley with its prestigious National Conservation Achievement Award in a special ceremony March 2 at the Federation's 60th Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Since 1965, NWF's National Conservation Achievement Awards have been presented to individuals and organizations that provide leadership in spreading the conservation message and protecting natural resources. The year 1995 marked a special year in which we honored only public servants as they continue to face increased antagonism and official indifference. Our appreciation goes to those government employees who give so much in the name of conservation and who are rarely recognized for their efforts.

Judy Pratt-Shelley's award in the Science/Natural Resources Management category recognizes her exceptional leadership and credible efforts in protecting the Great Lakes Basin.

Ms. Pratt-Shelley is the Environmental Programs Director and a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas. She is responsible for administering a complicated set of tribal, state and federal environmental regulations and programs.

"Ms. Pratt-Shelley has been a major player on nearly every major policy initiative to protect Lake Superior," said NWF President Bill Howard. "With her help, the Red Cliff Band has become one of the most valued partners of the Federation's Great Lakes Natural Resource Center."

Ms. Pratt-Shelley advocated a resolution whereby the Red Cliff Tribal Council has designated Lake Superior as sacred. They actively support the designation of Lake Superior as an Outstanding Natural Resource Water.

As an Environmental Biologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, she was instrumental in implementing a study that found a correlation between slowed motor abilities and high levels of contaminants from local fish consumption among the Chippewa Tribe. In addition, there were elevated mercury levels in some tribal members traceable to environmental contamination.

The National Wildlife Federation is the nation's largest conservation education organization. Founded in 1936, the Federation works to educate and assist individuals and organizations to conserve natural resources, and to protect the Earth's environment.

River Ruffe.

Fon du Lac hosts national NAFWS conference

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Cloquet, Minn.—The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society's (NAFWS) 14th Annual Conference at Fond du Lac's Black Bear Hotel and Casino near Cloquet, Minn. brought several hundred tribal natural resource managers, conservation officers, and administrators from tribes across the U.S. and Canada last May.

Hosted jointly by the Great Lakes Region of the NAFWS and the Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee, participants were treated to a varied agenda including technical workshops, competitions in archery and shooting, and broad overviews of challenges facing tribal natural resource management nationally.

According to NAFWS Executive Director Ken Poynter the annual conferences provide opportunities for tribal resource management staff to exchange information and discuss problems. Frequently, tribal staff think they are working in a vacuum, Poynter says. During national conferences, tribal staff see others doing similar activities and confronting similar situations.

Problem solving, learning from each other, developing peer contacts, and establishing networks which function throughout the year are some of the real benefits of the conference, Poynter says.

NAFWS was formed fourteen years ago to provide technical assistance to tribes in various aspects of natural resource management.

Assistance to tribal natural resource programs is critical, he says, because many tribes nationally are unable to support tribal resource management programs to the extent needed.

While resource issues are considered a priority by most tribes, they pale in the light of immediate human needs such as health and social services.

One key focus of NAFWS has traditionally been provision of regionally based training for tribal conservation officers and law enforcement. Poynter says NAFWS training for tribal staff is at no cost to the tribes.

Besides technical assistance and training for tribal staff, NAFWS aims at encouraging tribal youth to pursue resource management careers, Poynter says. NAFWS' annual Youth Practicum program is now in its fifth year. Students in their junior and senior years are selected to participate in a two week practicum which combines classroom and field training in natural resource management, Poynter says.

Recently, NAFWS has taken on another large goal, the formation of the NAFWS Foundation. "The goal is raise ten million dollars," Poynter says, "and get off the federal dole in ten years." Poynter would like to see the organization self-sufficient and also capable of providing grants to member tribes for resource management programs.

Ken Poynter, NAFWS director, introduces guests at the banquet and auction during the NAFWS annual conference at Fond du Lac's Black Bear Hotel. (Photo by Amoose)

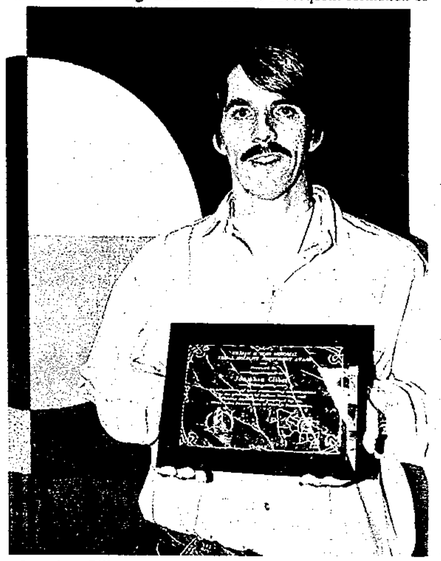
GLIFWC biologist honored by NAFWS

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Cloquet, Minn.—Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC wildlife section leader and Steve Mortenson, Leech Lake, both received the William H. Eger Biologist of the Year Award during the May meeting of the NAFWS Great Lakes Region at the Black Bear Hotel. The award recognizes outstanding work in tribal natural resource management.

This is the second year a GLIFWC staff biologist captured the award. In 1995 Neil Kmiecik, GLIFWC Biological Services Division Head, was the recipient.

Gilbert joined the GLIFWC staff in February 1984, shortly after the 1983 Voigt Decision and the subsequent formation of GLIFWC. In fact, he was hired by the Voigt Inter-tribal Task Force prior to the merger of the Task Force and the Great Lakes Indian Fisheries Commission. He has been working directly in tribal off-reservation wildlife management for over eleven years.



Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC wildlife section leader.

As the first wildlife biologist with GLIFWC, Gilbert is largely responsible for the continued expansion of the wildlife program. Currently, the wildlife section includes management of deer, bear, small animal, wild plants, and waterfowl in off-reservation ceded territories.

Gilbert is in the process of completing his doctorate degree at the University of Madison basing his dissertation on studies of bobcat and fisher interaction in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Gilbert began predator-prey studies on fisher, pine martin, and bobcat in 1990, using radio collars and telemetry to track the species.

Another significant area of work involves the control of purple loosestrife in wetland areas. Gilbert has worked on developing a methodology for its control and successfully tested it. Currently, he is conducting surveys to map loosestrife stands in the ceded territory using GIS mapping systems.

In the last several years Gilbert has devoted a great deal of energy to working with the U.S. Forest Service to incorporate tribal needs and goals as they revise Forest Service's management plan. The objective has been to tribal participation on a government-to-government level in the planning process.

One particular success has been the implementation of plant gathering rights on national forest lands. In the last several years Gilbert has devoted a great deal of effort to evaluating deer population goals and unit boundary changes. Achieving a point at which state and tribal representatives sat down in 1995 and negotiated deer population goals in some units, this marked a significant step in tribal co-management.

Gilbert received his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from Washington and Jefferson College in Pennsylvania. He spent five years in the Peace Corps serving in the Figi Islands and the Ivory Coast of West Africa for three years. He based his studies for his Masters degree on the African cob, an antelope which lives in the savanna areas.

He returned to the United States to complete his Masters degree at Michigan State where he met his wife Judy. They have two sons, Ryan, age 8, and Daniel, age 4.

Also recognized by the Great Lakes Region were Ray Villebrun, Nett Lake Band, who received the Patricia M. Zakovec Conservation Officer of-the-Year Award; Tom Maulson, Lac du Flambeau Tribal Chairman and Chairman of GLIFWC's Board of Commissioners, who received the Glen Miller Tribal Elected Leader of-the-Year Award, and Herman Lussier, Red Lake, recipient of the Great Lakes Technician of-the-Year Award.

1996 spring spearfishing season

Late start, good fishing

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—It seemed like winter refused to loosen its icy grip on northern lakes this spring. Finding a lake with shoreline open enough for spring spearfishing was a challenge for Chippewa spearers who were anxious for fresh walleye.

The St. Croix band was the first to press the season, venturing out on Yellow lake in Burnett Co. on April 23. Only five fish were taken the first night. However, the season picked up as more days passed and lakes slowly thawed.

Despite the late start to the spring spearing season, tribes took 28,316 walleye and 318 musky during the off-reservation season in Wisconsin. This came close but did not reach the 1995 record harvest of 30,249 walleye. The Lac Vieux Desert band in Michigan took 762 walleye in Michigan lakes during a very short spearing season this spring.

The Lac du Flambeau band harvested the largest number of fish, taking 15,074 walleye and 146 musky. However, the Red Cliff band took the largest percent of its walleye quota, harvesting 82.9% (1,970 walleye) of its declaration.

While the lakes did eventually thaw and free themselves of the ice cover, not too many evenings during the season were warm and balmy. The weather remained cold and crisp for spearers and staff at the landings.

Lac du Flambeau was the last of the six Wisconsin bands to start their season, but also was the last to close. May 23rd was their last night out, so the entire season from St. Croix's opening to Lac du Flambeau's end was about one month.

A total of 35 citations were issued during the spring spearing season. These include 15 for over bag limit violations; 18 over size limit violations; 1 failure to display navigation lights violation; and 1 harvesting fish without a spearing permit.

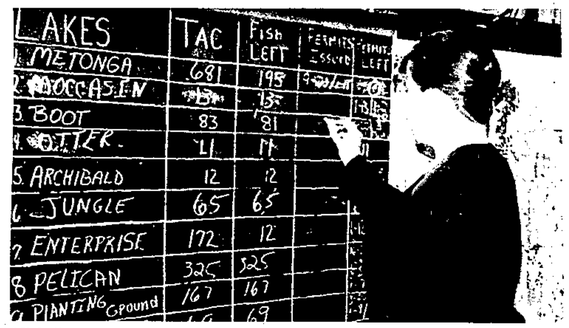
GLIFWC Chief of Enforcement Charles Bresette states the season passed with few incidents. Shots were heard at a few landings and reported by spearers. One landing had tacks strewn over its surface. One of GLIFWC's creel clerks had a windshield broken while at the landing, and there were a few reports of bystanders making comments to spearers from the shoreline. Information regarding these reported incidents were turned over to local law enforcement Bresette says.

All in all the season went very well. Despite the late start and the lingering chill, the fishing was good and peaceful.

1996 spring spearing season walleye & musky harvest

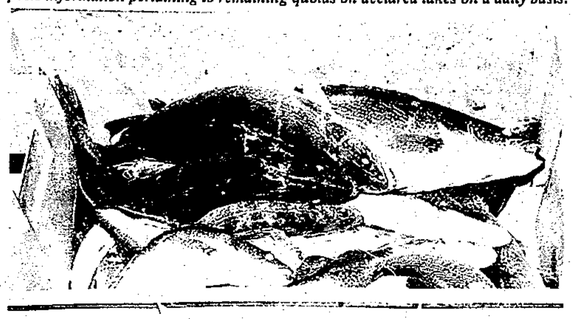
Tribe	Walleye	Musky
Wisconsin		
Bad River	3,087	7
Lac du Flambeau	15,074	146
Lac Courte Oreilles	2,461	46
Mole Lake	3,824	33
Red Cliff	1,970	3
St. Croix	1,900	83
Michigan		
Lac Vieux Desert	762	0
Totals	**30,249**	**318**

Steven Tuckwab Sr. applies for a nightly spearing permit at the Mole Lake registration station. (Photo by Sue Erickson)



Michelle Bryski, GLIFWC registration clerk at the Mole Lake registration station, posts information pertaining to remaining quotas on declared lakes on a daily basis.

GLIFWC Warden Bill Merts checks a spearfisherman's permit, boat, and equipment. Failure to have appropriate registration and safety equipment will result in a citation.



A night's catch. All fish are counted and measured before leaving the landing. (Photo by Amoose)

akwawaa (he/she spears)

St. Croix spearfishermen carry on a tradition

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Spooner, Wis.—Bruce Sonnenberg or John Bearhart, spearing partners from the St. Croix band, like to get out on the lakes and fish in the spring like St. Croix band members have always done. And that's what they do during the spring, off-reservation spearing season.

Using a canoe, simple lights and a trolling motor, the pair manage to get enough fish to satisfy their needs. John steers the canoe and Bruce does the spearing. It works well that way.

Three things are particularly important to them about spring spearing. One is that they get fish for their families and community. Secondly, they are carrying on an Ojibwe tradition. Thirdly, they are doing both the above in a conservative manner which respects the limitations of the resource and their neighbors' needs.

Prior to the first off-reservation season in Wisconsin Bruce and John speared along the shorelines of reservation lakes, but that was risky, according to Bruce. Once he went off reservation a few feet and all his equipment and fish were confiscated by the WDNR warden who was always lurking in shoreline shadows. That was before federal court re-affirmed the treaty rights of the Chippewa in ceded lands, and during the many years when Indian people were cited for exercising their treaty rights.

Bruce and John learned how to spear from family members—grandfathers and uncles who taught them how to fish and when nature provided food. Bruce first speared suckers in a creek with his grandfather.

"My grandfather showed me a place where they spawned," he said. "He could just grab them out of the river by hand." Bruce's grandfather also showed him how to squeeze the eggs out of a female that might be stuck on the rocks. "He would bring a few of the eggs home for the elderly women, who really enjoyed the caviar."

When Bruce and John arrive at the designated landing for the McKenzie lake, they check in with the GLIFWC warden, Ernest Honts, who checks their ID's and nightly permits.

Their canoe is also checked for proper registration, lighting and safety equipment before they launch out on the still Long lake. Honts works part-time for GLIFWC as a conservation warden, assisting in covering the landings during spring spearing. This is his first year.

He's impressed by the degree of monitoring and the cooperation received from tribal spearers. "Everybody cooperates with the fish count and the monitoring," Honts continued. "There's lots of sportsmanship here amongst each other as well as teaching."

He comments about a father who had brought his boy out the other night to learn to spear. "Took them three hours to get five fish, but he was letting the kid do it himself," he said with approval.

If over-size fish are confiscated, Honts takes them to the Hertel Ranger Station, and then they are distributed to the elderly.

Bringing up a walleye, St. Croix spearfisherman Bruce Sonnenberg plies the spear as his partner John Bearhart maneuvers the canoe through the dark water. Both men have speared in the springtime since they were young, taught by grandfathers and uncles. (Photo by Amoose)

After checking in with landing personnel, it takes Bruce and John only minutes to launch the light canoe, park their truck and push out onto the still Long lake.

They are only allowed 26 fish on this night. It's the last night out on Long lake, where the band was allowed to take a total of 419 walleye. Two other previous nights of spearing had left 52 fish in the tribal quota. That was divided between spearers wishing to go out on Long lake that night. John had a permit for 13 and Bruce had a permit for 13. That included two fish over 20", with one over 24".

Both the spearers are good-sized guys, but they sit comfortably in the canoe as it purrs out into the dusk, barely audible and scarcely making a wake. It's one of the few balmier nights so far. A pair of young eagles circle the lake, probably fishing as well.

While a number of spearers have turned to using bass boats, John and Bruce stay with the canoe. They say the spearing distance is shorter, it's easier to maneuver, and much quieter. Also, if you do have motor trouble out there, it's a whole lot easier to paddle back to the landing! However, standing in the bow to spear does require some agility and balance also!

The canoe disappears in the distance of the lake, heading for a far shore, where they begin to check the shoreline for walleye.

(See Carrying, page 27)

"It is good keeping count of all the fish like we do. At least we are practicing what our ancestors did, but not abusing what we have been taught."

—John Bearhart

Bruce Sonnenberg, St, Croix, gets assistance from his daughter while cleaning fish speared the night before. (Photo by Amoose)

Making sense of the safe harvest system

Is it possible?

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—1996 spring spearing declarations brought more public inquiry into the safe harvest system which is applied to tribal, off-reservation, spring spearfishing. The tribes have been fishing under the safe harvest system since 1989 and have been living with it's conservative nature as well as the annual public backlash produced by the state's bag limit reduction in response to tribal declarations.

Tribes entered their twelfth spearfishing season this spring. Tribal harvest has always been small in comparison to the state-licensed season. This year some tribes indicated an intent to spear on 245 lakes with a 100% declaration of walleye safe harvest on 79 of those lakes. This could have resulted in a catch and release fishery for walleye on those lakes had the tribes not reduced their declarations.

Typical of other seasons gone by, figures first declared by some tribes changed prior to the opening of spearfishing season. Lac Courte Oreilles, Mole Lake, and Lac du Flambeau all released some of their original declarations to provide for opportunity for state-licensed anglers. In many years tribes have also released numbers in the quotas following the tribal spearfishing season.

In looking at this issue, it is important to understand the system imposed upon the tribal harvest, called the safe harvest system. This is different from the system that applies to angling, which is referred to as the Total Allowable Catch, or TAC system.

The two systems are loosely related or linked. Much of the confusion that arises is because most people think there is only one system, or if they do realize there are two, they do not understand the linkage very well.

Because of many requests from people attempting to understand the safe harvest system upon which tribal declarations are based, an explanation of the systems governing walleye harvest in Wisconsin follows.

The issue may not be with the number of fish the tribes are taking, but rather a system which offers inequities to tribal and state licensed fishers alike.

About tribal declarations

Tribal declarations are based on expressed need for fish by tribal governments. The declarations provide tribes with an opportunity for tribal members to obtain those fish.

Biologists provide tribes with a listing of the number of walleye and muskellunge that are safe to harvest from each lake in the ceded territory. Then, based on anticipated need, tribes declare a portion of this safe harvest. By March 15 the number declared in each lake is provided to the WDNR. These are called the tribal declarations.

About the safe harvest level (SHL)

The SHL actually represents about one-tenth of the total walleye population of a lake and 30-35% of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC). The TAC is, itself, 35% of the walleye population in a given lake. With the SHL being approximately one-third of the TAC, it is also only about one-tenth of the total walleye population.

When tribes make their declarations, they can only take the SHL. The entire TAC is never available to tribes. So a declaration of 100% of SHL would be to take about one-tenth of the walleye in a lake or one-third of the TAC.

About bag limits

Based on a formula developed by WDNR, the state reduces state bag limits for anglers based on the percent of the safe harvest declared by the tribes.

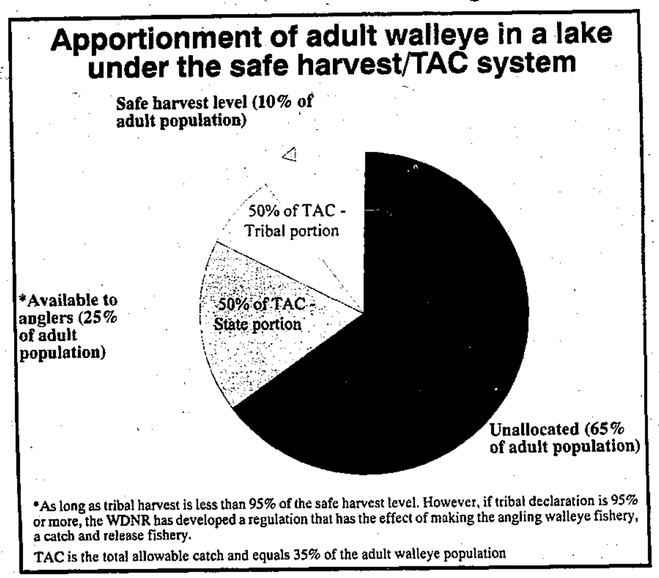
This bag limit formula is a state decision and was not mandated by Judge Crabb in her 1988 decision. Various methods of reducing angling harvest are possible, such as size limits, reducing season length, closing night fishing, but this is the method the state chose.

In fact, the state has implemented a 15" minimum size limit on many northern Wisconsin lakes since 1988. An analysis to see the effect of this regulation on reducing harvest has not been provided the tribes. It's very possible that with this size limit, bag limit reduction might not have to be as severe.

However, under the WDNR's system of determining bag limits, if tribes take 100% of the SHL, they will not provide state-licensed anglers opportunity to harvest the remaining two-thirds of the TAC. Those remain inaccessible to both state and tribal fishermen. If the tribes declare less than 100%, the remaining TAC is available to fishermen. Does this make sense?

About the impact of one fish on bag limits

The bag limit system developed by the state does not seem to make much sense as an effective and clear way to meaningfully limit angling harvest of walleye. Let's look at a lake with a safe harvest of 100 walleye.



Based on the state's formula, if tribes declare 54% of the safe harvest level (54 fish) on a lake with a SHL of 100 fish, then the bag limit would be three for the state-licensed angler. If the tribes name 55% of SHL on the lake (or take 55 fish), the bag limit will be two for state anglers.

Similarly, if tribes declare 94% (94) fish, the bag limit would be one, but a 95% declaration results in closure of harvest by anglers. In this case the one fish declared by the tribes changes the angler fishing to a catch and release walleye fishery. Does this make sense?

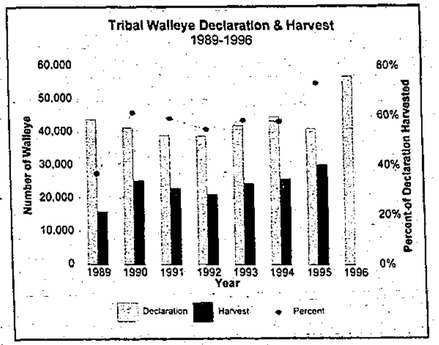
So, the one fish that the tribes give up or don't declare results in anglers having a larger bag and may result in the harvesting of many more fish than the one given up by the tribes. Does this make sense?

About monitoring the harvest

While the tribes are required to strictly monitor the spear fishery, with every fish counted and measured, the state has no method of effectively monitoring the number of fish taken by the anglers. If, for instance, the tribes take 50 walleye from a lake with a SHL of 100 fish, there is no means to tell when the state anglers have taken the other 50, nor any means of closing the lake if the SHL had been reached. Does this make sense?

Tribes fish under strict size restrictions and bag limits, requiring a nightly permit. Because of size restrictions, the majority of fish taken by spearers are males (over 80%).

The state considers the state-licensed angling season to be self-regulatory with low efficiency. Considering the technology available today, the efficiency of angling has increased. This is a factor which is not weighed into the self-regulatory capacity of the state-licensed fishery today. Does this make sense?



Fond du Lac's 1854 treaty rights affirmed

Fond du Lac and Mille Lacs 1837 treaty issues consolidated

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

St. Paul, Minn.—Both the Fond du Lac band and the Mille Lacs band are now in Phase II of treaty litigation, which deals with the regulation and allocation of the resources in ceded territories.

A recent federal court order consolidated Phase II 1837 Treaty rights issues of the Mille Lacs and Fond du Lac cases.

Judge Michael Davis found that the two cases have identical legal issues and that this outweighs any inconvenience to Mille Lacs plaintiffs from a delayed trial.

The State of Minnesota filed a motion seeking to consolidate the Mille Lacs and Fond du Lac cases so that Phase II regulatory and allocation issues regarding the 1837 treaty territories can be decided in one trial.

Mille Lacs had objected to the consolidation because of the probable delay in the trial and had requested an order allowing interim harvest if consolidation were granted. Judge Davis denied this request.

Fond du Lac completed Phase I following an agreement with the State of Minnesota through a legal stipulation stating the band's 1854 treaty rights are the same as the band's 1837 treaty rights which were reaffirmed in a March 18, 1996 federal court decision.

Phase I of treaty litigation deals with the affirmation that the rights exist on lands ceded in specific territories, such as the 1837 and 1854 treaties define.

However, further litigation continues to resolve issues relating to regulation and allocation.

Mille Lacs has been preparing for the Phase II hearings originally scheduled for September 1996. This date has now been suspended. Judge Davis has scheduled a conference in July to establish a new trial schedule.

1854 treaty issues would remain separate since the Mille Lacs band's issues relate only to the 1837 area. The Mille Lacs and Fond du Lac cases also remain distinct and separate cases. Only the 1837 Treaty Phase II issues common to both cases will be tried jointly.

Steve Haeseker, GLIFWC biologist stationed at the Mille Lacs reservation in Minnesota, picks up a new electrofishing boat for spring population assessments in Minnesota this year. (Photo by Amoose)

Bad River participates in statewide study

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—A stuffed horned owl with its wing torn off lay sideways on the floor of Dr. Tom Doolittle's office at the Bad River Natural Resources Department (BRNRD). Used as decoy for capturing goshawk, the large owl had suffered the damages of a goshawk attack which was protecting its nesting area.

While the goshawk, used in falconry and hunting, is a sharp and fierce hunter, the species is on the decline in the northern woodlands, according to Doolittle, biologist for the Bad River band. In order to better assess the status of the species, the BRNRD in cooperation with state, federal, and private organizations are surveying nests and sightings of goshawk in the north.

Doolittle believes that the vast areas of clear-cut forest have destroyed preferred habitat for the goshawk, which chooses to nest in remote, isolated areas in deciduous or large confierous trees.

Four territories have been identified on the Bad River reservation, Doolittle says, but one has been taken over by a great horned owl and another by red-tailed hawks. This spring eleven active nest territories have been found in Wisconsin.

The goshawk nests and lays its eggs in very early spring, so they rely on prey abundance during winter. A hard winter can take its toll on the goshawk as well.

Illustration courtesy of Jonathan Wilde

The female is the larger of the pair and depends on larger prey, such as hare; so they are more likely to suffer the consequences of a harsh winter. They are also vulnerable to attacks by fisher and horned owls while nesting.

Doolittle explains the goshawk situation as the females being prey limited, and the males being female limited.

He is also particularly concerned about the impact of logging and would like to see recommendations forthcoming which would create a management strategy and buffer the goshawk from the effects of current logging practices.

Unfortunately, this also brings goshawk existence into a political arena, Doolittle says. The bird is under consideration for federal listing and was proposed for state listing for protection, but was taken off the list largely due to political maneuvers and logging interests.

"All the biological reasons to list the goshawk are there, but its a political fireball," he states.

Wanted: Goshawk Nests

The northern goshawk is a crow-size woodland hawk with short-rounded wings and a long rudder-like tail for maneuvering in dense wooded environments. The adults have a striking white eye line and orange to red eyes. Their undersides are pale, while their backs are a dark slate blue, almost black when viewed at a distance. Goshawks usually nest in relatively mature stands of timber in remote settings. Many times there will be a stream or another body of water near or in the nest woods.

The nests are usually located in the main crotch of a deciduous tree, but they may be found in large coniferous trees also. In addition, woodland hawks, such as goshawks pluck their prey (birds and animals) within a few hundred yards of their nests. These areas are called "butcher blocks" and if a "butcher blocks" is found there is likely a nest nearby. They can be aggressive in defense of their nest and make the *kak, kak* call that is repeated over and over when disturbed. If a nest is found it is important to leave the area.

The information you provide will be kept confidential, and will greatly assist the cooperative efforts to assess goshawk populations in Wisconsin. The research on Goshawks is being conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the United States Forest Service, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Contacts:

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Madison, WI 53707
(608) 255-0924

Tom Doolittle, Wildlife Biologist
Band River Band of
Lake Superior Chippewa
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861
(715) 682-7123 ext. 136

Observer:	Location & Habitat:	Description of Hawk:
Name_____	Sec.__Town__Range__	Estimated Size_____
Address_____	County_____	Coloration_____
Phone (__)_____	Road & nearest town_____	Body Proportions (i.e. tail length to body length)_____
Observers background_____	Habitat_____	_____
_____	Butcher Block Found (Y/N)_____	Exhibit Aggressive Behavior (Y/N)_____
Type Observed:_____	Nests Found (Y/N)_____	_____
Sex_____	Nest Tree Species_____	Make a *kak/kak* call (Y/N)
Adult_____#_____	Date & Time_____	Other Descriptions_____
Young_____#_____	Add'l Location Desc._____	General Comments_____
	_____	_____

The return of the trumpeters

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Bad River welcomed back a native species last April when fourteen trumpeter swans were released on the Bad River reservation. Twelve pairs and two females were introduced into the Kakagon slough, the Bad River slough, Honest John slough, Rins flowage, and Moonshine lake.

So far the swans, noted for communication through their trumpeting call, appear to be doing well, according to Tom Doolittle, biologist for the Bad River band.

Doolittle and Dave Parisien, Bad River wildlife technician, monitor the birds three out of five days and every two weeks by plane.

Doolittle reports that the swans are very shy, afraid of boat traffic, and have been moving long distances, up to seven miles a day within the reservation. They have also begun to group together.

Once native to Wisconsin, the trumpeter vanished in the early 1800's, according to Doolittle, due both to their vulnerability and their market value at the time. The large bird is flightless during its molting period which make it easy prey for hunters during the molting season.

Besides using trumpeter feathers to adorn women's hats, trumpeter skins were valued for use as women's powder puffs due to the soft layer of downy feathers over the skin. Thousands of skins were shipped out for this use.

The mute swan, currently resident in the area, is an exotic species introduced into the region. Only the trumpeter and tundra swans were native. The Bad River Natural Resources Department (BRNRD) encourages the establishment of native species over exotic species.

The trumpeter recovery plan is part of a midwestern initiative including Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. The trumpeters released on the Bad River reservation were donated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Worth about $2200 each, Doolittle remarks that the gift was substantial. The Wisconsin recovery goal is twenty pairs of trumpeter swans. In addition to the fourteen on the Bad River reservation, four birds are in Polk County.

Out goes trumpeter swan 65 T as Tom Doolittle, Bad River Department of Natural Resources and Maureen Gallagher, USFWS open the door to its temporary cage. (Photo by Amoose)

Also contributing to the project is the Circle of Flight wetland initiative and the USFWS's North American Waterfowl Fund which have assisted Bad River in obtaining radio transmitters, other telemetry equipment needed for tracking the birds, and in hiring a wildlife technician.

Seven small radio transmitters have been installed in the neck collars of selected birds. While this has not been done before with trumpeter swans, Doolittle says they have historically been released in much more confined wetland areas where they are easy to observe. The spacious and open wetlands on the Bad River reservation would make it difficult to track the birds simply by boat.

Telemetry will be used by Doolittle and Parisien to study the behavior of the swans, such as their use of plants and habitat as well as their dispersal and return.

The radios will probably be the first indicator of their return following migration south during the winter Doolittle states. He hopes to see about one-third of the trumpeters return in the spring.

Accidental shooting, lead poisoning, and high wire collisions are the most common causes of mortality for the swans, he says. Swans are particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning because they root up plants and feed off the bottom tendrils which are likely to retain lead from lead shot, which was banned in 1989.

Recent cursory testing in the Kakagon slough system indicates that the system has been flushing the lead out, making it more favorable for the swans' survival in that habitat.

The birds were originally transported from Alaska as eggs and hatched in the Milwaukee Zoo, using a decoy mother to make sure the signets did not imprint on humans. They were first released in an enclosed rearing pond at a General Electric facility near Pewaukee, Wis. All the swans released on the reservation were twenty-three months old.

Next year they will be of breeding age, so biologists hope to be able to observe the cobs (adult male) and pens (adult females) with signets next spring. This would be the first generation of truly native trumpeter swans to inhabit the Lake Superior basin.

Trumpeter swan 67 T swims away after release into the Honest John Slough, Bad River reservation. (Photo by Amoose)

Maureen Gallagher and Tom Busiahn, USFWS, lifts one of the trumpeter swans into a boat at Honest John Sloughs. They are assisted by Tom Doolittle, Bad River biologist. The trumpeter swans were released on several waterways on the reservation and will be monitored by the Bad River Department of Natural Resources. (Photo by Amoose)

Niibin — It is summer

Miinan, Ode'iminan, Miskominag, Bawa'iminaan, Gozigwaakominag, Wiingashkoon, Giizhik, Negweyaab, Animikiikaa, Wawaasese, Asiniig

(Blueberries, Strawberries, Raspberries, Pincherries, Juneberries, Sweetgrass, Cedar, Rainbow, There is thunder, There is lightening, Rocks)

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 mazina'igan.

—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

Asin — as in about

Iniw — as in tin

Niibowa — as in only

Long Vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Baa nimaa — as in father

Ninoshe — as in jay

Miinan — as in seen

Noopiming — as in moon

Niizh—2

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

A. Jiigikana iwidi, apane mawinzo, ninoshe.

B. Sue izhinikaazo ninoshe. Minwendam niibing.

C. Noopiming, Sue obimiwinaan a'aw akikoon.

D. Niibowa omikaanan, iniw miinan dash ode'iminan.

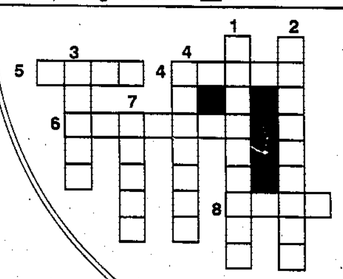
E. Baanimaa odonzaanan bawa'iminaanan.

F. Owaabandaan, i'iw negweyaab. Giiwe.

B	N	A	N							
A	O	M	I	A	D					
A	B	Z	I	C	K	G				
N	L	Y	B	M	E	I	Q			
I	P	N	I	D	A	I	K	O		
M	I	I	N	A	N	W	S	O	T	
A	K	N	G	E	R	E	I	N	O	
A	N	O	O	P	I	M	I	N	G	N
X	J	S	W	F	M	V	G	U	Z	H
I	Z	H	I	N	I	K	A	A	Z	O
O	D	E	'	I	M	I	N	A	N	I

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)



Down:

1. By the trail
2. Rainbow
3. Always
4. Cedar
7. Over there

Across:

4. S/he goes home
5. And
6. Rocks
8. That (living thing)

Niiwin—4

Ojibwemowin

1. Onaabandan i'iw miin!
2. Onaabandan i'iw ode'imin!
3. Onaabandan i'iw bawa'iminaan!
4. Onaabam a'aw miskomin!
5. Onaabam a'aw asin!

Daga Ojibwemon!
Eya, miigwech.

Translations:

Niizh—2 **A.** *By the trail over there, always she picks berries, my aunt.* **B.** *Sue she is called my aunt. She is happy, when it is summer.* **C.** *In the bush, Sue, she caries him/her, that pail.* **D.** *Plenty she finds them, those blueberries and strawberries.* **E.** *Later she boils them pincherries.* **F.** *She sees it, that rainbow. She goes home.*

Niswi—3 ***Down:*** **1.** *Jiigikana.* **2.** *Negwayaab.* **3.** *Apane.* **4.** *Giizhik.* **7.** *Iwidi.* ***Across:*** **4.** *Giiwe.* **5.** *Dash.* **6.** *Asiniig.* **8.** *A'aw.*

Niiwin—4 **1.** *Pick it that blueberry!* **2.** *Pick it that strawberry!* **3.** *Pick it that pincherry!* **4.** *Pick him/her that raspberry!* **5.** *Pick him/her that rock!* Please Speak Ojibwe! Yes, thank you.

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

Ojibway Tales features lives and humor of the Moose Meat Point Ojibway

Ojibway Tales by Basil Johnston carries on the Ojibwa tradition of storytelling but in the written format. It carries storytelling into the twentieth century because the tales are about the lives of Ojibway people in the mid-1900s.

Published in 1978 under the title Moose Meat and Wild Rice, it is one of Johnston's earlier works. He is well known for Ojibway Ceremonies (1990), Ojibway Heritage (1990), and his most recent publication, The Manitous.

Unlike those books mentioned above, Ojibway Tales does not directly deal with the traditions and teachings of the Ojibway as passed down through generations, although some of this is very much a part of the perceptions and life-styles of his characters.

Set on a fictional reservation Moose Meat Point Reservation near the town of Blunder Bay in Canada, episodes of daily life for various Moose Meaters come to life in this collection.

As Johnston relates, "The reserve is like many other Indian reserves; neither prosperous nor severely impoverished; westernized in outward appearance but in soul and spirit very much still Ojibway.

Humorous and delightful, especially for readers familiar with reservation life, the stories not only chronicle an Ojibway life-style, but also the absurdities encountered as the Ojibway culture tangles daily with anglo civilization.

Johnston challenges accepted "western" norms through the stories using irony, but he also spins his tales with an attitude of warm humor. Johnston notes in his preface, "Though he may intend good, the white man has too often allowed his sense of order, organization, superiority, his fondness for paperwork, efficiency, convention, ceremony, change, his penchant for formula, prescription, solution, and his haste, overbearing, force, and decisiveness to negate his intentions."

Ojibway Tales makes light, comfortable reading. With twenty-two separate stories, it is easy to set down and pick up again when moments of time become available.

Ojibwa Tales is published by the University of Nebraska Press.

Sheena Cain, Bad River, dances at the Northland College Pow-wow this spring. (Photo by Amoose)

Beadworking: More than a craft, something for the soul

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—The Ojibwe word for beads is manidoominens, which means "berries from the Great Spirit." Sharon Nelis, secretary for GLIFWC's Planning & Development division, thinks the name appropriate because not only is beadwork very beautiful, but beadworking can be a spiritual time as well. Nelis will be sharing her skill and passion for beadworking with some of GLIFWC's staff on Friday afternoons. This will be the second beadworking class for interested staff she has offered.

Nelis has been beading since 1971 when she watched a friend beading and decided she could do that as well. She bought some beads and went home to give it a try. Her first item was a little lumpy, she says, but the pattern and colors were good.

From then on, she's beaded just about anything you can imagine, more-or-less teaching herself through the years.

Nelis prefers the traditional floral patterns of the Ojibwe and likes to appliqué rather than loom. She feels the floral appliqués allow for much more creativity than geometric patterns, which tend to be more repetitious.

Beading can be a social event where a group doing patterns can chat and share ideas, or it can be solitary and a time for thought. "I've worked out many problems during that quiet time beading," she says. It's almost like something spiritual and therapeutic for her. Sometimes she offers beading as an activity to friends or family members who are having problems as well.

She comments that beads have a spiritual use in several cultures, such as rosary beads for Catholics, prayer beads for Chinese monks and Africans, and the Apache worry beads. There's something about the smooth, round feel of beads that is soothing for humankind, she says.

Beadworking is also a form of art to Nelis and much more than a simple craft. The ability to combine color and patterns and the skill to bead smoothly and tightly make the difference and are not necessarily part of everyone's talent.

Nelis has beaded vests, moccasins, both men's and women's outfits, barrettes, buckles, purses, and pouches. She is especially proud of a stole she beaded for a priest at St. Mary's Church on the Bad River reservation. The color and design worked out very well for her. The most unusual thing she has beaded is salt and pepper shakers that somebody ordered.

Her students will begin with a barrette or belt buckle. She encourages the choice of a simple pattern to start. Her hope is to see some lovely items at completion and also to share the beauty and spirit of beadwork with those who are participate.

Sharon Nelis, secretary for the Planning & Development Division is an avid beader who is willing to share her skill and love of beading with fellow staff. (Photo by Amoose)

Summer interns bring diverse backgrounds/skills to GLIFWC

Written & photographed by Francinevia Browden, PIO Intern

With what many recall as one of the coldest winters finally coming to pass, some now wonder if summer weather is here to stay. Who knows? However, it is certain that the summer interns have arrived to stay, well for the summer at least. My name is Francinevia Browden and I am one of eight interns here at Great Lake Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

Francinevia Browden (Photo by Amoose)

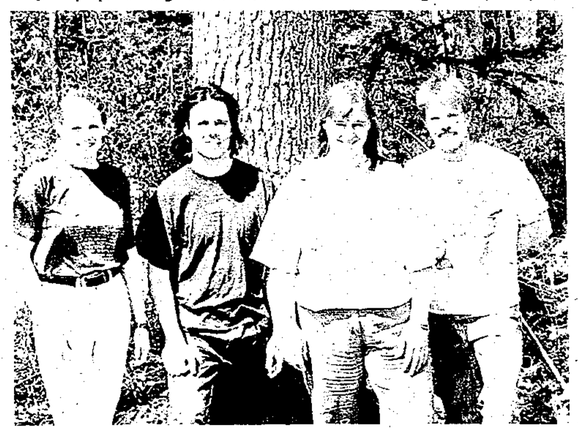
The job descriptions of the internships vary from tagging sturgeon to surveying and analyzing the jurisdiction of Wisconsin Chippewa Tribal Courts, but the common bloodline that runs through all of the internships is the desire to generate, establish, and promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of the delicate balance of nature and to provide the interns with a chance to get hands on experience in a particular field.

The efforts of the Biological Services division will be aided by four interns from the Upper Wisconsin region. Carrie Linder, a recent graduate from Northland College with a Socio-Political Environmental major, along with Nathan Hall, a senior and an Environmental Studies/ Biology double major at Northland College, will be working with Wildlife Biologists John Gilbert and Lisa Diutkowski to help contain the purple loosestrife infestations in the surrounding area wetlands.

Purple loosestrife is an exotic, noxious weed that chokes out neighboring plant life and ultimately alters the ecology by creating a loss of open water and a reduction of wildlife food among other things. Carrie's goal is to learn more about American Indians on a whole and to help control the spread of purple loosestrife. Nathan's main objectives are gaining experience collecting wildlife data and helping out in the community.

Thomas Rottler, another recent Northland College graduate with a major in Outdoor Education, and Lynn Ochsenbauer, a senior at the University of Wisconsin- Superior majoring in Aquatic Biology, under the supervision of Peter David, will help take on the responsibilities of surveying stands of wild rice.

The interns will be comparing the data to that of previous years in order to monitor growth patterns and to help determine more of the factors that contribute to the fluctuation of the yields. Thomas is using this internship as a means to gain a better understanding of Ojibwe people and to get an introduction into the field of biological research. Lynn is a second year intern here at GLIFWC who wants to further her knowledge in wetland and aquatic ecology and to gain more field work experience. They both enjoy the fact that in addition to their work on the wild rice stands, they will also have an opportunity to help with other wildlife projects.



Biological Services interns are, from the left, Lynn Oschenbauer, Thomas Rottler, Carrie Linder and Nathan Hall.

Tom Nolasco and Michelle Zaccard, Intergovernmental Affairs interns.

Michelle Zaccard and Tom Nolasco are both second year law students at Marquette University who are working in the Intergovernmental Affairs division under the supervision of Jim Zorn with many projects in the works. Michelle is presently in the process of surveying and analyzing the courts' jurisdiction, laws and process, and providing a report that will give a summary of her research.

One of the main goals of this project is to reveal if tribal court judgments are properly honored by state courts. One of Tom's projects is to assist in legal research and drafting comments for Lake Superior Lakewide Management Plan regarding load reductions for critical pollutants.

Another project pertains to the Crandon Mine proposal in Wisconsin and Copper Range Mine proposal in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and researching to find out if the mining companies' proposed methods of pollution control are valid.

The new mining proposals have raised questions concerning possible ramifications of new mines and if the mining companies will in fact be able to reverse the damage done to the land by mining.

Michelle will use her internship as a chance to understand the court system better and to find practical applications for the material she learned during her first year of law school. Tom hopes to increase his awareness and understanding of environmental and Indian law.

Northland College junior Sarah Day will team up with the Great Lakes Section along with supervisor Mike Plucinski to trap and tag lamprey for a population estimate and catch lake sturgeon to be radio tagged. Radio tagging the sturgeon monitors how far the sturgeon swim up river and in what areas they concentrate. Sarah, like many of the other interns, is using this intern opportunity to gain more experience in field work and fisheries and to find out if this is a career that she might be interested in pursuing.

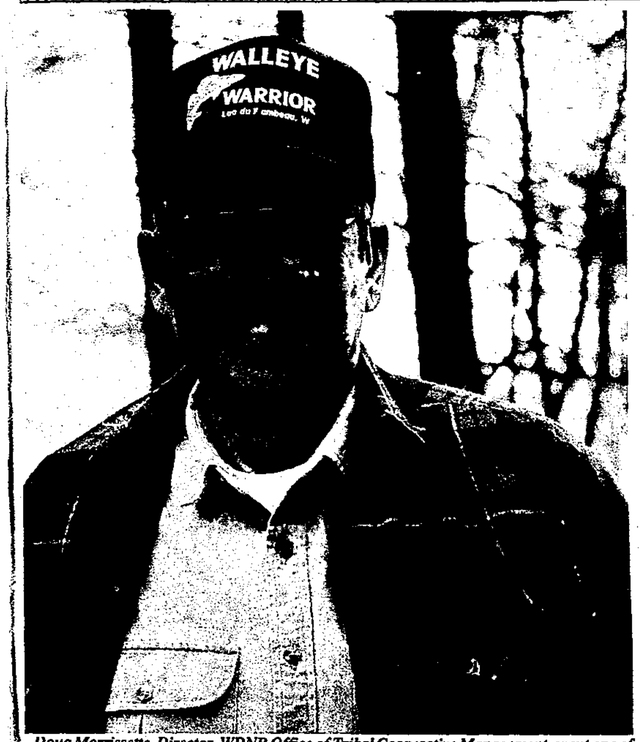
Sarah Day, Great Lakes Section intern.

Last, but not least, I am the Public Information intern at GLIFWC. I am a second year student at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana. I have a Political Science/ French double major and a Chemistry/ Spanish double minor.

As an intern I will be working with Sue Erickson, Lynn Plucinski and Amoose writing stories, doing photography, and covering events— in addition to whatever else they might ask me to do. I want to use this internship as an opportunity to gain another perspective on life and to learn on a first- hand basis more about American Indians and their world views.

I have strong opinions regarding human rights and hope to one day practice some type of international law.

Just as summer is getting under way, the GLIFWC interns are starting to get into the swing of things and hope to have a summer full of valuable experiences and opportunities that can't be found anywhere else. It will no doubt be a lot of work, but I think we're up for the challenge.



Doug Morrissette, Director, WDNR Office of Tribal Cooperative Management, spent one of his last days before retiring with members of the Joint Fishery Assessment Steering Committee on the Flambeau Flowage. Morrissette has been with the WDNR since 1962 and spent the last several years of his career in fisheries working as a liaison with the Wisconsin tribes. Happy retirement, Doug, and happy fishing! (Photo by Amoose)

Carrying on a tradition

(Continued from page 28)

It takes some time trolling the shallows before Bruce spots one. He verbally guides John, who steers the canoe close to the fish. Once positioned at a good angle, the action is quick. Bruce lifts the spear, sinks it slowly beneath the water, and with a fast plunge spears the unknowing fish, which is taken up and dropped in a bucket set in the middle of the canoe.

An experienced eye keeps sizes within limit, Bruce explains. You learn to account for distortion caused by the water and judge your fish lengths.

A little over two hours are spent on the lake that night by the two before their 26 fish limit is met. Then it is time to head back to the landing with the night's catch.

They are fortunate tonight to have the lake calm and wind still. The evening is perfect with a star-filled sky. Not all nights are so attractive. In fact, the season has been very cold and inclement.

Once back at the landing, Honts counts and measures the fish. If any had been over size, a citation would have been issued. But Bruce and John had kept within all limits.

As they pulled their canoe out of the water, another boat arrived with St. Croix fishermen. They would probably complete the quota on Long lake and close the lake for the season.

Fishing is only half the work, however. Morning hours are spent cleaning fish, the not-so-fun part of enjoying a walleye dinner. But one that must be done. The fish is used for family meals, feasts, ceremonies and taken to the elders who are unable to go out themselves.

Bruce and John have been spearing since the off-reservation season opened in 1985. During the years of violent protests, they tried to avoid lakes where controversy was likely to occur. However, they felt the hatred and tension in the community as a whole.

Asked their opinion on the monitoring system and the strict controls over spearing, John says that it "is good keeping count of all the fish like we do. At least we are practicing what our ancestors did, but not abusing what we have been taught."

Bruce agrees. "It's positive that we have the limitations that we do. We still get to have fish, enough fish for our needs."

National forest planning

(Continued from page 9)

GLIFWC biologists monitor wildlife on the Moquah barrens and conduct surveys of many species throughout the ceded territories, including waterfowl, frogs and toads, bobcats, fishers and martin.

Harvest records kept by GLIFWC on deer, waterfowl, bear and walleye add greatly to population estimates and prove that tribes conserve the resources of national forests. Wild rice populations and harvest have been monitored for several years. Blueberry production on various sites at Moquah barrens is also being monitored.

A cooperative study with the Forest Service of the effects of some logging practices on understory plant species is entering its second year. Reports of projects are published each year. All of these data will support tribal input to the national forest plan revisions.

GLIFWC staff have been assisted by many tribal members and tribal staff who have provided invaluable direction, knowledge and to protect the exercise of treaty rights in the ceded territories on national forests. ❐

Run, Jim, Run

Boston, Mass.—April 15, 1996 marked the historic 100th running of the Boston Marathon. GLIFWC's Jim Zorn, a policy analyst and long-time runner, was there and a part of it all. Jim started running in high school as a mid-distance runner. He ran the 880 yard run, which is now the 800 meter run. 10 years ago Jim began running on a consistent basis to get in shape and to stay healthy and fit. Gradually he started running for longer periods of time and longer distances, then a year ago he decided to train for a marathon. The October 1995 Lakefront Marathon in Milwaukee provided Jim with both a goal and a personal challenge to succeed. He finished the 26.2 mile course in 3 hours, 10 minutes, and 43 seconds, which was good enough to qualify him for the Boston Marathon.

Although it took quite a while for Jim to recover physically from the Lakefront Marathon, he was still able to complete the Boston in a time of 3 hours, 27 minutes, and 53 seconds. During the race Jim carried a fanny pack and camera to take pictures and keep record of his accomplishment.

Overall he placed well by finishing 8,040th in a field of runners that was speculated to be anywhere from 30,000 to 40,000 entrants. Having completed the highly competitive, extremely demanding Boston Marathon has proved to be a major milestone for Jim. He is now living proof that hard work and dedication pays off in the long run. (*Written by Francinevia Browden, photo by Marathon Foto*)

A kinder, gentler hate, part II

By David McLaren
Communications Coordinator
Chippewas of Nawash

In the first installment, printed in the spring edition of *MASINAIGAN*, of my look at the anti-Native rights lobby in Ontario, I examined the messages of some of its spokesmen at a meeting of Ottawa Valley sportsmen held in Pembroke in February 1993. The key-note speaker at that rally was Mike Harris who is now the Premier of the Province.

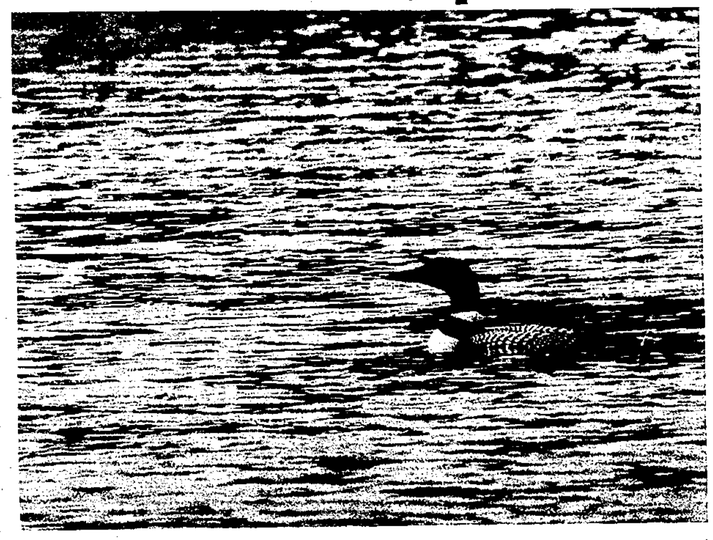
Last, but not least of the scheduled speakers was Rick Morgan, the Executive Vice President of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) which bills itself as the oldest and largest conservation organization in Ontario. The OFAH claims to represent the interests of the 3 million anglers and 600,000 hunters in the Province. The government pays homage to the OFAH's clout.

At the Federation's annual meetings, the Minister of Natural Resources always comes to speak and his Deputy and Assistant Deputy Ministers are on hand to answer questions from the OFAH membership. The OFAH lobby on natural resource issues is the best organized and most successful in the Province.

The OFAH lobby against Native rights has taken many forms but a central theme has been to criminalize Natives for practicing their inherent rights. Here are two examples:

⇨In 1992, the Federation sponsored a mail-in card campaign to federal politicians that stated the Constitution's recognition of Native rights had lead to a slaughter of wildlife: *"As a result [of section 35(i) of the Constitution] there have been large native kills of spawning fish, nesting birds, moose, deer, wild turkeys, etc. during seasons that are closed to nonnatives in Ontario."* No evidence was given to back up these claims.

⇨In a 1992 letter to the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, (MNR) then President Davison Ankney accused the Delaware of the Thames with fishing 600,000 pounds of walleye from the river adjacent their reserve—essentially he charged them with poaching. His estimate was based on a very unscientific observation from an MNR conservation officer hose report found its way to the OFAH. Ankney claimed that the Native catch would ruin the walleye fishery. He made the claim in the face of official MNR reports that the walleye population on the Thames River is in good shape, but if there are problems, they are not due to either the angler catch (which is very heavy along the whole river) or the Native harvest.



Maang (loon) whose distinct call has been a source of fascination, is very sensitive to disturbances in its habitat. (Photo by Amoose)

This last point characterizes the approach of the OFAH in lobbying against Native fishing and hunting: the recognition of Native rights to fish and game will endanger "our" natural resources because Natives will abuse these rights and wipe them out.

To a large degree, the enforcement arms of the government (the Ontario Provincial Police and MNR conservation officers) have bought into this line of thinking. Many are OFAH members themselves and OFAH publications have, until recently, been full of this kind of thinking. "OFAH think" and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters lobby has, I believe, led to charges against Natives for practicing ways according to their customs.

For example, after the OFAH campaign against the Delaware of the Thames' fishery, charges were laid against a band member for selling walleye on his reserve (to two undercover MNR officers). Charges are still proceeding through Ontario courts after hundreds of charges were laid against First Nations hunters on Manitoulin Island as part of an MNR sting operation there.

The criminalization of legitimate Native claims is a strategy overtly used by the OPP in their attack on the people of Stoney Point at Camp Ipperwash in 1995. If you are dealing with criminals, then it's OK to kill someone like Dudley George even if he is only walking toward you with a stick.

And that is the danger of the message of the "nice" anti-Native rights lobby. Unlike the cynical message of the overtly racist Heritage Front, the people behind the anti-Native rights lobby sincerely believe their common sense notions of "conservation" and "equal rights" and "wise use". So, for them, rightful Native access to natural resources has become a kind of holy war.

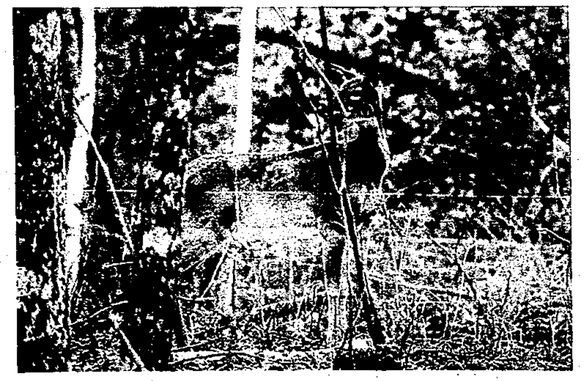
Rick Morgan's own definition of "wise use" wraps up all these notions together: it is the *"use of the natural resources by all people equally and fairly for the protection of the future of fishing and hunting wildlife."* I cannot doubt his sincerity. However, as the present conservative Ontario government turns this philosophy into policy, the *effect* is to maintain the *status quo* in which white men maintain control of everyone who hunts and fishes what, where, and when. Native rights go unrealized, and traditional, resource-based Native economies remain stagnant.

And what does the anti-Native rights lobby make of the current atmosphere of mistrust, hate and racism around Native rights in Ontario? Let Rick Morgan tell you: *"One thing that I think that we can't ignore is the fact that racism now exists where I didn't see it before. I am getting complaints about them [Natives] going out and taking deer before the non-native season opens ... People start to resent that."*

Talk about blaming the victim. Racism has always existed in Canada, and if it more evident now, it is not Natives' fault. Whether it is intended or not doesn't matter; the fact is, the anti-Native rights lobby, with its position papers, rhetoric and misinformation, taps into the same racial hatred that the Heritage Front promotes.

(See Confronting the hatred, page 29)

> "Racism has always existed in Canada, and if it more evident now, it is not Natives' fault. Whether it is intended or not doesn't matter; the fact is, the anti-Native rights lobby, with its position papers, rhetoric and misinformation, taps into the same racial hatred that the Heritage Front promotes."
> **—David McLaren**



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Confronting the hatred

(Continued from page 28)

Now that we've heard the message and seen its effects, what can we do about it? This is where non-Natives can help the most. Non-Native people who would work with First Nations must be ready to take responsibility for defusing the anti-Native rights lobby and confronting the hatred that lurks behind it. A number of years ago the churches in Canada asked Native leaders, "What can we do to help?" Their answer was obvious as soon as it was given: "Take your people's oppression off our backs so we can get on with the business of self-government."

> **"We don't want to see our native people lose their culture. It's a beautiful culture and when we hear the native talk about inherent rights they're correct. It is the inherent right of each and every Canadian, regardless of race, creed, colour, sex or heritage to grow and prosper and work to make our country great.**
> **—Hector Clouthier, former president of the Ottawa Valley Lumberman's Association**

Know who you are dealing with

You must realize that the "antis" are well-organized, well-connected (in Ontario their leading political supporter is now Premier), and well-schooled in the delivery of their politically correct message.

Deconstruct the message

What is the politically correct message of the anti-Native rights movement? It was well expressed at Pembroke by Hector Clouthier a past President of the Ottawa Valley Lumberman's Association and, at that time, a Liberal candidate for the federal election:

"We don't want to see our native people lose their culture. It's a beautiful culture and when we hear the native talk about inherent rights they're correct. It is the inherent right of each and every Canadian, regardless of race, creed, colour, sex or heritage to grow and prosper and work to make our country great. ... The philosophy of equal outcome is wrong, but the philosophy of equal opportunity is right."

"Equal opportunity." "Equal treatment." "Equality" is becoming the mantra of the anti-Native rights lobby. But it is only a smoke-screen. It was clearly shown for what it is by the Church in Society Committee of the Saskatchewan Conference of the United Church in its report, Beyond Ethnocentricity:

"Power is at the root of racism. [Alliances for those seeking power or in power are] made stronger, first, by exaggerating the differences between those with power and those without, and then by assigning values to these differences. The assigned values are made to stick and eventually to become part of the 'natural' order of society. ...

"Once the situation has jelled and powerful and powerless alike have begun to 'breathe' such attitudes, then it is safe, as a precautionary measure against change, to do two things: to stress the flexibility of the situation by pointing to carefully selected 'token members' of the powerless who have entered the ranks of the powerful; and to verbally minimize the still all-important differences and to insist that all are equal. Whereas initially, it was important to stress the differences, it now becomes advantageous to stress the sameness — the equality of all— in order to effect the same racist ends."

This theme of "equality of all" (in the context of institutional or systemic discrimination) is picked up by Judge Murray Sinclair in the report of the Manitoba Aboriginal Justice Inquiry:

"Systemic discrimination [defined as the result of racial prejudice] involves the concept that the application of uniform standards, common rules and treatment of people who are not the same constitutes a form of discrimination. It means that in treating unlike people alike, adverse consequences, hardships or injustice may result."

When you treat unequal people as though they were equal, discrimination results. If that discrimination has served a group well in the past (such as white sportsmen) then it should come as no surprise if their spokesmen talk a lot about "equality."

Confront the message and the messengers

The equality message must be exposed for what it is—the desperate attempt of certain groups to hold on to power and a smoke-screen for their continued plunder of natural resources. It takes some work to deconstruct the equality message in a way the public can grasp it, because it is a message dearly loved by the public. It is the cornerstone of the American Dream. It is so a part of the dominant culture, that to dispute it is tantamount to treason. That's where the next strategy comes in handy.

Use every way you can think of to expose the hatred behind anti-Native rights demonstrations and meetings. For example, whenever we hear of a rally in opposition to Native rights, we show up. That either cools the rhetoric or sparks a response that reveals the hate that is fueling the demonstration. At the very least, we are there to provide the media with our reaction. In a variety of ways we have made those demonstrations serve our purposes.

We used that strategy to good effect at a demonstration against Nawash fishing rights in Owen Sound last year. About 100 area anglers marched on a lone Native woman selling fish at the Owen Sound open market. One of the demonstrators threw a bag of fish guts at her stall. That, and the racial slurs that were slung around, and our immediate response made it pretty obvious to the media (and to the public) what this demonstration was really all about.

Work in broad-based coalitions, locally and state-wide

Right now, this strategy holds the most promise. Work with other groups (not individuals—you will need the political clout and the staff support that organizations can bring) by comparing agendas and trying to work together in ways that will further everyone's goals. Assume that everybody's resources are already stretched to the max, because they are. Coalitions won't work if you insist everyone else has to follow your agenda. Coming up with strategies that serves everyone's goals will make best use of limited resources.

Environmental groups are good allies right now—as long as they accept the priority nature of aboriginal and treaty rights to resources and understand that First Nations need these resources to reconstruct shattered economies. More and more in a world driven by corporate agendas, First Nations are finding themselves the last line of defence for threatened ecosystems. Once you make strong, credible environmental groups realize this, you can then make common cause.

Churches are not as strong advocates of Native rights to resources as they ought to be, partly because large, vocal portions of their own congregations are out lobbying against Native rights. The same holds true for the unions. However, the leaders of churches and unions are often aware enough of the injustice hidden in the message of equality to at least provide public and educational forums for your deconstructions.

As a rule, save education on history and treaty rights for the classroom

Most people today are immune to the messages of history and so are doomed to repeat its mistakes. This is a symptom of our times actually. As a civilization, the west has fallen for the ideology of what Canadian author John Ralston Saul calls "corporatism" in his recent book The Unconscious Civilization.

Corporations, with their obsession for the bottom line are the most forgetful of all institutions. It's a forgetfulness that serves them well, for with it, comes reduced responsibility—a kind of corporate Alzheimer's.

Education efforts are best directed at schools—Native and non-Native. Insist your school boards integrate Native studies into their curriculum. Is there racism in your schools? Go into the schools to talk about Native rights and history. Look for the shape of things.

For example, are the Native kids sitting together in a bunch near the door? What are the white kids who are sitting together at the furthest distance from the Native students doing and saying? Stop the lecture and deconstruct any comments that smack of racism (for example, "My dad's taxes pay your welfare"). Show the errors in fact and logic and

(See Confronting hatred continued, page 30)

> ***Honor Our Neighbors Origins and Rights (HONOR). HONOR's principles are: 1) Honor government to government relationships and tribal sovereignty; 2) Affirm Indian treaties; 3) Honor and protect the Earth and the life thereon now and for the future; 4) Conduct ourselves in a manner which is respectful of all people; and 5) Promote intercultural understanding and awareness.***
>
> HONOR

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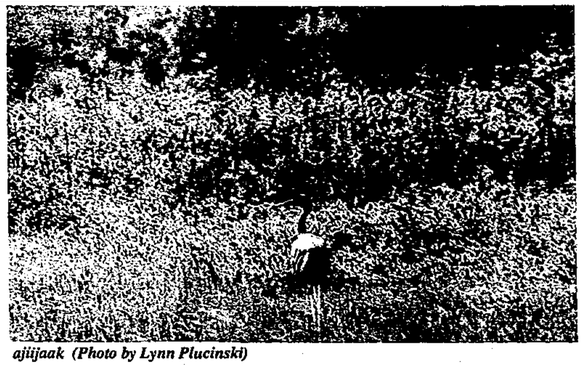
Note: All addresses should be in service by the end of the summer.



ajiijaak (Photo by Lynn Plucinski)

Confronting hatred continued

(Continued from page 29)

in the implied notion we are all equal. When you finish, ask the student who made the comment if he still believes it. If he says yes, or if he shrugs off the question, he has been taught to hate.

The message is the medium

Understanding the ideology of the times is important. Remember GM's old message? "What's good for GM is good for America." That message has taken root, only now it goes: "What is good for multinationals is good for America." Never mind the contradiction between what's good for transnational corporations and what's good for America, and never mind the obvious social upheaval around us, it's the message of today.

Without buying into corporate ideology, we need to begin to make the same point. Except ours reads: "what's good for First Nations is good for the environment."

Make the case for the recognition of Native rights as a way to *protect* the environment. The tribes that are cooperating under the banners of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Chippewa-Ottawa Treaty Fishery Authority have a tremendous advantage over First Nations in Ontario. In Ontario, we are a long way from comanagement agreements of any kind.

The anti-Native rights lobby here has been successful in frustrating the kind of arrangements you have built. We have no stockpile of biological assessment reports and no recent management history to point to. We can only point to you and say, "See, it works in the States and it serves the environment well."

Capturing the conservation high ground means you will have to refute the argument of the sports and wise use lobbies that *they* are the true conservationists and, being outdoors men, they know what's best for natural resources.

Here is where you need to bring university biologists into your coalition and find ways to make their work known and understood by the public. Corporatism defers to rationality and science in making most of its decisions. Use that flawed assumption by ensuring legislators know what science knows about stocking with sports fish, for example, or the environmental cost of current mining practices. Again, coalitions with environmental groups can help.

Make the economic argument: the recognition of Native rights will make First Nations more economically self-sufficient. Stronger tribal economies benefit neighboring non-Native communities.

Make the spiritual argument. Ask the public who they would rather have looking after the country's natural resources — those who would turn them for profit or a people whose very soul is connected to the health of the land? This, of course, is not an argument for non-Natives, no matter how well-intended, to make. It is an argument for the elders to make.

The medium is the message

If you are reading this article, you are in the minority. People, at least the people you need to reach, don't read anymore. They listen to talk radio and watch talk TV. Get on the shows people listen to and watch — never mind how brutal the host is.

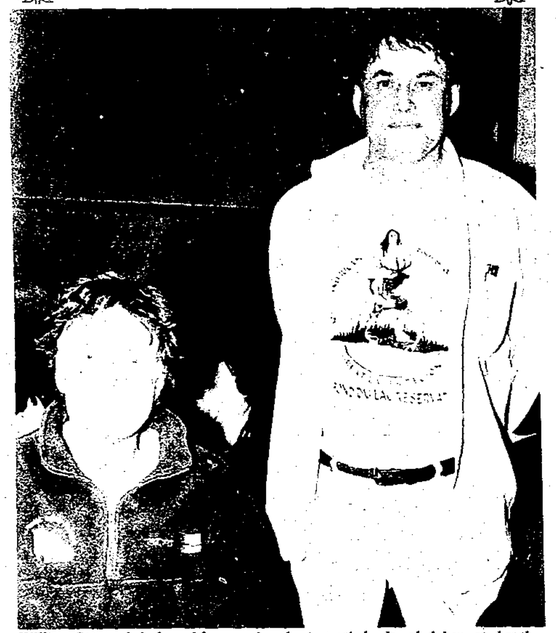
Get elders on the shows. They generally end up charming even the most obnoxious host. In my experience, Native people are their own best spokespeople, but their eloquence is not heard often enough outside the circles of their supporters.

Team up with a prominent non-Native church person if you want to talk about racism. Team up with a biologist if you want to talk about how to best steward natural resources.

Be patient, determined and stubborn

Some of your allies will try to get you to moderate your approach of zero tolerance for the anti-Native rights lobby. There will be some who say, "we can work with these people". But how can you work with people who have no memory and who don't even understand their own culture very well? How can you expect them to learn Native history and to understand Native culture?

Ask yourself if you could work with the protestors who hurled abuse at you from the docks of Wisconsin and Michigan. These are the same people, only now they are in a more respectable disguise. And remember, social justice work never ends. ❐



William Steger, left, famed for crossing the Antartic by dog sled, keynoted at the NAFWS conference. He is pictured with Larry Schwartzkopf, Fond du Lac Department of Natural Resources director. (Photo by Amoose)

Partners find good fishing on the Flambeau Flowage

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Lac du Flambeau, Wis.—Members of the Wisconsin Joint Assessment Steering Committee hung "Gone fishin' " signs on their office doors and took time out June 3rd and 4th to enjoy the activity they spend hours analyzing and discussing during the normal work week—fishin'.

This was the Committee's fourth annual fishing expedition/competition sponsored by Discover Wisconsin Inc. and the Minneapolis Area Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The two day "Partners in Fishing" event spurred committee members from the Chippewa tribes, WDNR, GLIFWC, USFWS, and the BIA to hang business hats on the door, put on fishing hats, grab the bug repellent, bait, rod and reel, and hit the water. And so they did.

The aim was to leave fish numbers, fish quotas, fish assessments, fish data, and fish disagreements at home and just catch the biggest fish. In addition the event stresses cooperation and partnership in fishery management, according to Robert Jackson, BIA fishery biologist and chairman of the Steering Committee.

The fishery is a shared resource, enjoyed and valued by all. The "Partners" fishing day emphasizes that we all enjoy the resource; we all use the resource; and we all must share in the responsibility of managing the resource as well.

The Joint Assessment Steering Committee formed in 1990 in response to the controversy in Wisconsin over the impact of the treaty spearfishing season on the walleye fishery. Encouraged by Senator Daniel Inouye, then Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the legislature appropriated funds for a joint assessment of the fishery in order to answer questions posed by fishery managers and the public alike.

This put electrofishing boats and crews from GLIFWC, the St. Croix and Bad River bands, the WDNR and the USFWS on numerous lakes in the ceded territory to perform spring and fall population estimates.

Now in the sixth year, the Committee has been able to jointly assess most lakes in the ceded territory which are both speared and open to state-licensed anglers.

The Committee's first report, "Casting Light Upon the Waters," was published and distributed in 1991. It was based on information obtained from the joint assessment process, cooperatively written and approved prior to publication. The conclusion was that the tribal spearfishing season does not harm the walleye fishery.

It also concluded that the fishery is subject to combined pressure from state-licensed angling, spring spearing, and environmental impacts and, therefore, must be closely monitored.

For this reason the assessment process has been ongoing. Data obtained through the spring and fall population estimates is used to establish each year's Total Allowable Catch (TAC) figure for individual lakes. These figures also serve as a base for the Safe Harvest Level figures upon which tribal spearing quotas are based.

The Committee published an update to "Casting Light Upon the Waters" in 1993 and recently summarized information from five years of data collection in a publication called "Fishery Status Update."

Thanks to the effort of Jackson, Mark Rose, Discover Wisconsin, and the hospitality of the Lac du Flambeau band, all participants enjoyed the day gone fishin.'

Back into the water you go. Robert Jackson, biologist, Minneapolis Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, releases a bass caught during the Partners fishing day at Lac du Flambeau. (Photo by Amoose)

Sizzling good. Fresh fish fried over the fire was part of the shore lunch during the Partners fishing event. (Photo by Amoose)

Jim Schlender, GLIFWC executive administrator, looks pleased to have won a new fishing pole for the largest walleye caught during the day. Doug Morrissette, WDNR tribal liaison, looks slightly disappointed. (Photo by Amoose)

Fate of Strawberry Island still unsettled

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Lac du Flambeau, Wis.—It was almost a year ago that the Lac du Flambeau band held a week long rally to promote awareness of the Strawberry Island situation and its impending development. Today, the destiny of the historical site still bounces on waves of political/legal seas.

According to a spokesperson from Vilas County Zoning Office,, John Anderson, Vilas Co. zoning administrator, issued a building permit to developer Walter Mills on June 19th.

The permit will be appealed to the Vilas County Board of Adjustments, says Lac du Flambeau Tribal Chairman Tom Maulson.

These steps are only a few in a gamut of decisions and reversals regarding the building permit.

The Vilas County Zoning Board earlier denied the permit to Mills. Maulson says that the denial as well as the tribe's objection to the permit considered issues such as safety, environment, and public peace.

Tom Maulson, Lac du Flambeau tribal chairman.

When appealed, this decision was upheld by the Vilas County Board of Adjustments. Mills then filed another appeal in circuit court.

However, before the court could hear the case, Gene Alborn, Chairman of the Vilas County Board, appointed new members to the Zoning Commission, according to Maulson. The new Zoning Commission then reversed the earlier decision of the previous Zoning Commission and approved the granting of a building permit to Mills.

Chairman Maulson notes that "we are not dealing with honorable people in Vilas County." He also says that there has been no attempt to work on a government to government basis between Vilas County and the tribe.

Maulson has asked the Bureau of Indian Affairs to become involved on the basis of trust responsibility and public safety issues.

Maulson says that the building permit will be challenged, but no action can be taken until the permit is actually issued.

In review, Walter Mills, developer and owner of the Strawberry Island, has applied for a building permit on the island and proposes a 16 lot subdivision of the 27 acre island for development.

The subdivision alarmed the Lac du Flambeau Band of Chippewa who regard the island as culturally and spiritually significant.

The island is not only on the National Register of Historic Places, but is the site of the last battle between the Ojibwe and the Dakotas.

Consequently, it is also a burial site for Ojibwe warriors. It also lies within the perimeters of the reservation.

Although the island has been in the Mills family for years, it has been left undeveloped until Walter Mills inherited the property in recent years.

A day in the life, continued

(Continued from page 4)

Dates reaches his truck in full light. He takes a swig of coffee from the thermos and then retrieves his notebook and pen to record the date and numbers of grouse sighted.

This was just the beginning of his rounds. He sets off to check three sites where reptile/amphibian traps have been set and also the other dance grounds. While the dancing is over for the day, a stroll to the site can set some pairs into flight, giving him an idea of how many pairs might have been there and whether the grounds are being used.

The roads around the back areas of the barrens take him over hills and down gullies and following barely discernible roadways. He watches the hillsides and tree tops as he bumps and jolts through the barrens' pathways.

Three eagles are perched to the left, two adults and one immature. Stopping he grabs his binoculars for a better look and the pair take flight. Red-tailed hawk are common. He spots them frequently along the way. He watches for the pair of cubs he saw several days ago in a distant tree. Today there is no sign of them.

It takes about twenty lurching minutes to reach the first trap site. He stops the truck, grabs a spade, his amphibian identification book, and marches into a low area near a pond. Sunlight glints and flickers off a long thin stretch of metal running the length of the trap-line. Buckets have been sunk on each of the far ends and in the center, and a wire trap for snakes is also set on each side of the metal. This is the first year of the reptile/amphibian survey, designed to provide a data base on the population density of critters like frogs, salamanders, lizards and snakes in the area.

Dates reaches the trap site and kneels by the first bucket. Taking a nearby stick he gently lifts a small clump of wet grass and checks it for creatures. Then he stirs in the bottom of the bucket, looking for a glistening back or a telltale wriggle. Nothing.

He places the grass back and goes to the bucket on the other side. The bucket appears empty, but a careful check reveals a tiny brown peeper frog hidden in the grass.

Checking his manual, he identifies it by size and the distinctive dark brown markings on its back. He releases it in the direction of the pond, its probable destination before its journey was so rudely interrupted by a fall into a deep, dark bucket.

The snake traps are empty, but another bucket on the far end holds a blue spotted salamander.

Dates shores up the metal strip which serves to guide creatures towards the bucket, and leaves the site. He will return in two days for another check.

And so the morning goes on in this strange round of activity winding through the various byways of the barrens from one trap site to the next, one dance ground to the next.

He carefully records dates, numbers and species he finds at all three trap sites and numbers of grouse at all three dance grounds. By 10 a.m., Dates is about ready to head to the office to round up his day's work.

Grabbing a breakfast sandwich at Hardees while passing through Ashland, he eats it on his way out to the Odanah office. Once in the office it's time to enter the information into his computer and get things ready for the next day, which is waterfowl surveys—another early morning nature beat.

The amphibian surveys will run for several weeks through the spring, then Dates will be setting live traps for small animals, another survey to establish baseline information on the population of the barrens, a community, a place known well to Dates. It seems he's actually part of the place, familiar with all the hills, critters, crooks and crannies, comfortable with both its silence and its sounds. ❑

John "Dates" Denomie, GLIFWC wildlife technician, and Peter David, GLIFWC wildlife biologist, examine a salamander caught in one of their live traps. Information on date, place and species are recorded to develop a data base. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Ceremonies formally open Bad River's new administration building

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Selection of an official name for Bad River's new tribal administration building was one event that concluded week-long open house festivities. The new building is now officially the Chief Blackbird Center. The name, submitted by Patty Bigboy, was voted on by tribal members during the week and received the most votes.

Open house events opened on May 28th with ceremonies, a feast, a week of building tours, and concluded with a community pow-wow.

The ceremonies opened at noon with a song from the Bad River Drum. Sonny Smart, Bad River tribal judge, followed with an Ojibwe prayer and blessing of the building.

The building was dedicated to the generations of tribal members who have gone before and who are yet to come.

The ceremonies were a culmination of several years of hard work from the initial planning stages to the point where Bad River and GLIFWC staffs could occupy the new office space early this year. Recognition was given to Donald Moore, former chairman of both the Bad River tribe and GLIFWC's Board of Commissioners, for his role in promoting the construction of a new administration facility.

Among others recognized were members of the tribes building committee and Mary Maday, Bad River tribal planner, who acted as a liaison between the tribe and others involved in the building process.

The building was designed by CPR Associates of DePere, Wisconsin and constructed by Angelo Lupino Construction Inc., Hurley, Wisconsin.

Joe Dan Rose, Bad River tribal council member displays a plaque which will be hung in the Chief Blackbird Center dedicating the building to Bad River ancestors, present members and future generations. Other council members present were Patti Neveaux and Mary Maday. (Photo by Amoose)

1925 letter from Bad River asks for recognition of treaty rights

Excerpted from a lengthy letter from the Bad River Chairman dated December 16, 1925. The letter was addressed to the Commissioner of Indian affairs, the Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Senator Follette, The Honorable H.H. Peavy, Congressman of the 11th District of Wisconsin.

...We call your attention to the Constitution of the United States, To-wit, Article 6, Section 2, of the Constitution of the United States,

This constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

And we further call your attention, to the citizenship act, To-wit,

Act approved June 2, 1924. (Public No. 175, 68th, Congress, as follows,

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that all noncitizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States be, and they are hereby, declared to be citizens of the United States: *Provided,* that the granting of such citizenship shall not in any manner impair or otherwise affect the right of any Indian to tribal or other property."

Now therefore, from the language of the Constitution of the United States, The Supreme Court has no jurisdiction, no Court can not annul or affect the operation of a treaty, if the language in the treaty be party or wholly indefinite, nothing but the language in the treaty itself could be used to remedy the defects. The citizenship act, still reserves the right of hunting and fishing, and other tribal rights to the Indians.

The Supreme Court of the United States, conflicts with Constitution of the United States, and acts of Congress, of our Indian rights, making more or less confusion and misunderstanding among the Indians and whites alike, as to the rights of Indian hunting and fishing in the ceded territory.

Indians have been arrested from time to time, for fishing, hunting and trapping by the State laws, causing them more or less hardship and keeping them in constant fear while hunting and fishing, which they are often obliged to do to provide something for their families to live on, many Indians live in localities where they can not readily find employment.

Firmly believing that this great Government would abide by their treaties with the Indians and protect them in their rights of hunting and fishing, that was reserved to them and by them, and to provide food necessary to sustain life for their families, they did hunt fish and trap for that purpose, and that purpose alone.

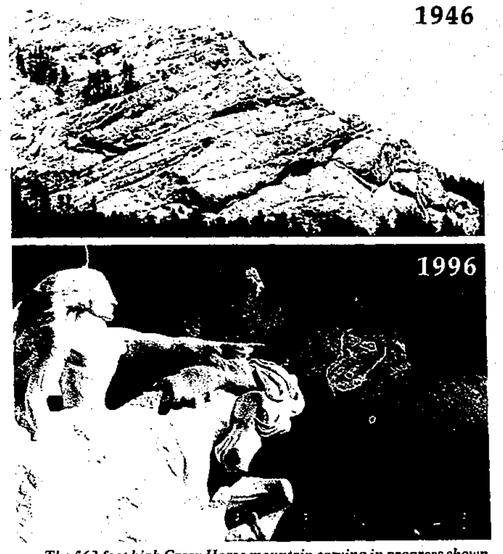
An Indian does not hunt for a sort like a white man, but for necessity. There is an unwritten law and custom among Indians, for to not unnecessarily destroy animal life, but conserve as far as possible, while the white man invading his hunting ground in the past, hunting for the pleasure of hunting ruthlessly, killing and slaughtering all game within his reach.

The western plains once grazed hundreds of thousands of buffalos, lakes, rivers, and streams had a great abundance of fish, which the **God of nature** had provided for his people, but nearly all has been sweeped away by the tidal wave of the white mans civilization. Indians hunting and fishing has been greatly misunderstood by the whites in the past and up to the present time, the Indians as a rule never abused the privileges of hunting and fishing reserved to them. Since the fish and game has became nearly exhausted by the white hunter, it was necessary to enact protective laws, in order to conserve and multiply animal life.

The Indian could not be justly charged for having destroyed the fish and wild game, unnecessarily, when a charitable, honest, and conservative man takes in consideration the price the Indian received for all the territory he ceded to the US Government, in his treaties. He should not envy him the little privileges he has reserved to himself. The time has now come when the Indians and the whites should know definitely where the Indian stands in the matters of hunting and fishing.

We the undersigned have been requested to write an appeal to you for assistance, to take such action as you think proper to settle this question of hunting and fishing rights in the future.

/s/ **James M. Scott, James Stoddard and William Obern**



The 563 foot high Crazy Horse mountain carving in progress shown in contrast to the mountain when selected 50 years ago.

The mouth of Crazy Horse is the latest feature to begin to emerge. The face is some two-thirds finished and the work remains ahead of schedule. The 9-story-high face of Crazy Horse is to be completed by June 1998. This is the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Crazy Horse Memorial with the first blast on the mountain.

Work continued through the winter although numerous days were lost due to bad weather.

(Photos courtesy of Crazy Horse archives)

Shellfish agreement eludes tribes, state

Doug Williams, NWIFC

Western Washington Indian tribes and the Washington State Attorney General's office have exchanged proposals and counter-proposals in an attempt to reach a negotiated settlement regarding tribal shellfish harvest rights, but an agreement has eluded the parties so far.

The tribes' rights to harvest clams, oysters, crab, sea urchin and other shellfish were re-established in December 1994 by a federal district court judge. While Judge Edward Rafeedie's ruling was primarily a victory for the tribes' treaty rights, the tribes have continued to seek an out-of-court settlement with the state. The tribes' four basic requests in the settlement are:

❶ A 50-50 sharing on all subtidal species, including geoduck, sea urchin and sea cucumber;

❷ A 50-50 sharing of shellfish from all public tidelands, regardless of their status as staked or cultivated;

❸ Some exclusive tribal harvest areas; and

❹ Funding for management and enhancement, tidelands acquisition, and for addressing environmental or habitat problems affecting shellfish.

The tribes, represented by co-lead attorneys Phil Katzen and Mason Morisset, outlined their most recent settlement proposal to the state in a late January letter to Senior Assistant Attorney General John Hough.

"Although differences remain, we believe the differences between the two proposals are capable of resolution with good faith on both sides," Katzen and Morisset wrote. "It is our intent to continue this process in that spirit."

The tribes' attorneys said their most recent proposal addresses two of the state's primary goals: protecting private tideland owners against non-consensual tribal shellfishing, and preservation of recreational shellfish harvest opportunity.

"...The tribes consider an agreement to partially reduce their right of non-consensual access to privately owned tidelands to be a major step towards reaching an agreement. It is a much larger step now given the judicial declaration of the right of access to private property," Katzen and Morisset wrote.

But Hough wrote that there was nothing in the tribes' proposal from which the state could develop a response.

"We regret that the exchange of proposals has not resulted in a realistic opportunity for arriving at a settlement in a timely manner," Hough wrote. "We must now look to the courts to resolve these fundamental issues, unless a new settlement opportunity presents itself. The state intends to continue to work with the tribes on a government-to-government basis, and with the other parties, while the case proceeds through the appellate courts."

Hough said the state has little time to negotiate a settlement with the tribes because any agreement would have to get approval from the state legislature, which was scheduled to adjourn in early March.

Meanwhile, the tribes, state, United Property Owners of Washington, another private property group, and commercial shellfish growers are all expected to appeal various portions of Rafeedie's plan for implementing his court decision. A prebriefing conference with the parties' attorneys and an attorney representing the court will be used to establish a schedule for hearing appeals arguments.

Katzen predicted the briefings would be completed by late summer or fall, followed several months later by oral arguments in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Seattle. The Court of Appeals could take from a few months to a few years to render its decision, he said.

(Reprinted from Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission News)

Brazilian Rainforests: *The New Threat*

Brazil's indigenous peoples are the guardians of the ancient rainforest. But they could soon lose their lands.

The indigenous peoples of Brazil have one of the most tragic histories of any of the world's peoples. Since the arrival of the first European invaders 500 years ago, they have seen their lands stolen, their traditions destroyed and their people murdered. More than 80 indigenous cultures have been wiped out in the Amazon since the beginning of this century.

Only recently has real hope appeared for their future. In 1988, in its new democratic constitution, the Brazilian state finally agreed to recognize the rights of its indigenous peoples.

'Decree 22/91' guaranteed Brazilian Indians' permanent rights to lands traditionally occupied by them, and required that all these lands be 'demarcated' by 1993. Indians living in demarcated areas have the right to live, free from outside interference, according to their own customs and laws.

Demarcation is not only a question of land rights, it is also one of the best ways to protect the Amazon rainforests. The Indians have the skills, the knowledge and the incentive to preserve the forests they have relied on for their livelihoods for thousands of years.

The 1993 deadline was not met, and 340 of a total of 545 areas identified as Indian lands still await demarcation. But President Cardoso of Brazil publicly committed himself to demarcation, and indigenous groups hoped that the process would be completed, even if it was slower than promised.

But just as events were moving in their direction, a bombshell has hit Brazil's indigenous peoples.

Decree 22 is being challenged as unconstitutional in Brazil's Supreme Court. President Cardoso, under pressure from powerful forest profiteers and members of his own government, has replaced it with a new law—Decree 1775—which will work in favor of the very people who profit from the destruction of the forests.

Loggers, ranchers, miners and other business interests in Brazil have long been opposed to demarcation, and have continued to illegally invade and occupy Indian lands.

The present Supreme Court case has been brought by an agribusiness firm occupying the land of the Guarani Indians. The company claims that Decree 22 was unconstitutional because it did not give 'private interests' the right to contest any proposed demarcation.

Decree 1775 means that those who profit from forest destruction will be able to mount legal challenges for ownership of Indian territory. Decree 1775 could be the biggest single disaster to hit Brazil's indigenous peoples for decades. All Indian lands—even those already demarcated—are now at risk.

How you can help

Indigenous groups in Brazil are appealing for international pressure to be put on their government, to safeguard their forests and traditional lands.

Please send a message to President Cardoso, sending a copy to the Minister of Justice. Urge the President to:

- Immediately revoke Decree 1775, and honor his constitutional commitment to demarcation.
- Continue the demarcation process, and complete all demarcations by the end of his own Presidential term in 1998.
- Do whatever is necessary to protect Indian lands from invaders, and immediately expel those illegally occupying Indian lands.

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Legislative Update, 104th Congress

House Committees: APR=Appropriations; COM=Commerce; EE=Economics & Education; JUD=Judiciary; RES=Resources; SB=Small Business; TI=Transportation & Infrastructure; WM=Ways & Means **Senate Committees:** ENR=Energy & Natural Resources; ENV=Environment & Public Works; FIN=Finance; GA=Governmental Affairs; LHR=Labor & Human Resources; SCIA=Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; +=Multiple Committees

Bill No.	Title	House Committee	House Hearing	House Passed	Senate Committee	Senate Hearing	Senate Passed	P.L. Date	P.L. No.
H.R. 4	Personal Responsibility Act of 1995	+		3/24/95	FIN		9/19/95	Vetoed 1/9/96 H.Doc. 104-164	
H.R. 101	Land Transfer for Taos Pueblo of NM	RES		2/1/95	ENR				
H.R. 517	Amendment to P.L. 96-550	RES		3/14/95			4/27/95	5/18/95	104-10
H.R. 961	Amendments to Water Pollution Control Act	TI		5/16/95	ENV				
H.R. 1617	Consolidate and Reform workforce development and literacy programs	EE		9/19/95	LHR				9/21/95
H.R. 1670	Federal Acquisition Reform Act of 1995	+		9/14/95	GA				
H.R. 2040	A bill to Provide for Treatment of Indian Tribal Government	WM							
H.R. 2239	Mixed-Blood Ute Indian Tax Status Act	+							
H.R. 2623	Amendments to Indian Self-Determination Act making provisions for contracts applicable to to Indian Self-governance compacts	RES							
H.R. 2631	American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1995	RES							
H.R. 2747	Water Supply Infrastructure Assistance Act of 1995	TI	H.Rept. #104-515–3/29/96						
H.R. 2766	Federal Lands prioritization Act of 1995	+							
H.R. 2800	Education Trust Fund Act	+							
H.R. 2807	Youth Development Community Block Grant Act of 1995	+							
H.R. 2854	Freedom to Farm Bill	+		2/29/96			3/12/96	4/4/96	104-127
H.R. 2977	Administrative Dispute Resolution Act	JUD							
H.R. 2997	A bill to establish certain criteria to extend federal recognition to certain Indian groups	RES							
H.R. 3034	Amendments to Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act	RES							
H.R. 3049	A bill to amend section 1505 of the Higher Education Act to provide for the continuity of the board of trustees for the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development	EE							
S. 377	A bill to amend provisions of Part A, Title IX relating to Indian education			2/9/95	SCIA		2/16/95	3/29/95	104-5
S. 479	Indian Federal Recognition Administrative Procedures Act of 1995				SCIA	7/13/95			
S. 487	Indian Gaming Regulatory Act Amendments of 1995				SCIA	7/25/95	S. Rept. #104-241 3/14/96		
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		
S. 764	Indian Child Welfare Improvement Act of 1995				SCIA				
S. 814	BIA Reorganization Act				SCIA	S. Rept. #104-227 — 1/26/96			
S. 1303	Indian Reservation Jobs and Investment Act of 1995				FIN				
S. 1304	Indian Tribal Government Pension Tax Relief Amendments				FIN				
S. 1305	Indian Tribal Government Unemployment Compensation Act Tax Relief Amendment				FIN				
S. 1307	Treatment of Indian Tribal Natural Resource Income Act of 1995				FIN				
S. 1485	Bill requiring Interior Secretary to submit a report on Indian tribal school construction				SCIA	Reprinted from American Indian Report, a publication of the Falmouth Institute, Inc.,			

Ethnobotanical Thoughts

Protecting understory plants in hardwood forests

By Dr. James Meeker
Associate Professor, Northland College

Dr. James Meeker

"Can you eat them?" is a question frequently asked by students when we are out identifying plants. I usually suggest "they taste great with loads of butter and garlic," but in general, I discourage substantial gathering until one gets a better idea on a plant's abundance at a site and its distribution overall. This takes some time out in the field. For the most part, if the species is not limited to only a few sites, plant resources grow in sufficient numbers to gather a conservative portion.

Red-osier dogwood and willow sprouts can be harvested annually from the same clump, and wild leek patches in hardwoods stands and sweet flag in wetlands will expand to recognize a small collection patch. There are some exceptions, however, in that some species are inherently rare. (Most orchids, for example, are found in low numbers whenever they are found). Other plants are rare due to overcollecting. In the past, ginseng "drives" (people walking at arms' length through the woods) were an extremely efficient means of collection and today the species is rare to nonexistent across the landscape.

Even common species can be affected. For example, as bough cutting is getting more popular it is hard to find a balsam fir patch near a road that doesn't look like a grove of Charlie Brown's Christmas trees. For these sought-after species, it just means the easy picking is harder to come by, as if someone had visited "your" berry patch the day before you arrive. Generally though, the key to having plant resources available for collection is to maintain quality habitat. If enough habitat is available, populations will usually be large enough to handle human use.

So how are we doing on quality habitat? This is easier to answer if you narrow your question to one community or vegetative type. Over the past several years both Beth Lynch and John Heim at GLIFWC and myself at Northland College have been asking this question in areas that we call "rich" hardwood sites.

These hardwood sites are those dominated by sugar maple and basswood, and these usually have a predictable component of spring flowers (like trillium, toothwort, dutchman's breeches and trout lily). What we are finding is there are vast differences in quality across the northern landscape. The highest quality sites appear in areas generally isolated from old fields and roadsides.

For example, in the Penokee "Mountains" of Ashland and Iron counties some of the nicest hardwood sites, those that still maintain rich native understory vegetation, are in large areas with a continuous forest canopy that have not been entered since the first cutover. So, in these sites, the understory vegetation appears to have recovered well. Keep in mind that the logging of the cutover was not an efficient process. Although today we look down at this type of logging and refer to it as high grading (or cutting only just the biggest trees), it usually took place in winter (reducing soil compaction) and left some canopy trees (reducing the extreme drought conditions that can accompany even-age management). (Clear-cutting is a form of even-age management in that the trees, as they grow up, are all about the same age.)

In addition, most of the quality hardwood sites are found on the north facing uplands, those areas that did not burn intensively, whereas the south facing slopes responded to the cutover and fires by coming back to aspen, a cover-type that likely has been clear cut to maintain aspen.

It is in the forest stands that are midway between those that came back completely to hardwoods and those that became dominated by aspen that the future of hardwood habitat lies. These midway sites provide critical habitat for understory plants as well as protect the existing quality hardwood sites, by surrounding them in a larger continuously canopied forest.

Many of these midway sites are just now being entered for the second time, but this time there is a greater risk of exotic species invasion and compaction due to summer logging and larger logging equipment. In addition, since there is a mix of aspen and hardwoods in these stands, forest managers can manage these in two different directions. Hence, we are at a critical point in terms of our forest management within these stands.

In northern Wisconsin, the county, state and federal forests are all in the midst of reviewing their management plans. Depending on how they are managed this time, we will have determined the direction for the forest well into the next century. The trouble is, in general, the importance of native vegetation, whether for plant gathering or for biodiversity concerns does not yet compete with timber and recreational interests.

Those that appreciate and find value in native vegetation are getting fewer in number and as of yet have not formed a constituency. The input and voices that have been heard up to this point appear to be well organized groups representing single interests such as the timber industry and the motorized recreational users of the forests, especially snow machine operators. There is no organized group that speaks for the plants. So we ask, if you appreciate these understory plants, speak up, get on the forest managers mailing lists, and have input into the forest plans. Your children's children will thank you.

(Jim Meeker is an Assistant Professor of Natural Resources at Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin and is active in regional conservation. Jim received his PhD in Botany from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and his research interests include studies of Great Lakes wetlands and investigations in regional ethnobotany, including joint authorship of "Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa," published by GLIFWC.)

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(Pronounced MUZ IN I AY GIN)

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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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