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A Chronicle of the Lake Superior Ojibwe

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## The Sandy Lake memorial monument takes shape 150 years after tragedy

By Sue Erickson  
Staff Writer

McGregor, Minn.—Tribal representatives, GLIFWC staff, and contractors worked together intently constructing the base of the Sandy Lake memorial monument, mindful throughout the process that people from scattered Chippewa bands in the Great Lakes region were probably just embarking on an ill-fated journey to the very same site 150 years ago.

It was the fall of 1850 when representatives from 19 Chippewa bands packed up and started an arduous journey to the shores of Sandy Lake, where they had been told to gather in late October for annual annuity payments and supplies.

In previous years, the annuities had been distributed at LaPointe, Wisconsin. However, a change in time and place was instituted as part of a scheme to encourage Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Chippewa to remove to Minnesota. Indian agents knew the time of

the year was late for such a trip and hoped the Chippewa would stay at Sandy Lake rather than risk the perilous trip home in the winter months.

As it turned out, the annuity payments and supplies were late in coming to Sandy Lake, and the people had to wait until early December before they received the limited sums of money and available supplies. Trying to survive on spoiled and inadequate government rations while waiting for the annuities, about 150 Chippewa people died from dysentery and measles at Sandy Lake. Another 230-250 died en route home. Despite the hardship, removal from their homelands was not acceptable to the Chippewa people.

150 years later, on October 12, 2000, the Sandy Lake Memorial, a monument in commemoration of this tragedy, started to move from a concept into a reality. The memorial resulted from a year's worth of meetings with representatives from many of the affected bands to discuss and design the monument and coordinate with the U.S. (See Sandy Lake, page 2)



Placing grandfathers (stones) from ten Chippewa reservations into the base pedestal of the Sandy Lake Tragedy Memorial monument required many hands. Quickly drying concrete made fast work a necessity. Helping with the project are Fred Ackley, Mole Lake; Eugene Van Zile and son Roland, Mole Lake, and Gigi Cloud, GLIFWC. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

## First hunt: A cross-cultural rite of passage

By Sue Erickson  
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—The silence afforded by a slightly soggy forest floor benefited both the hunter and the hunted on the opening morning of the first

Wisconsin Zone T hunt. It stilled the telltale crackle of leaves that would otherwise alert both predator and prey.

The morning hung damp and quiet; little but an occasional chirp and flutter of birds or the scurry of mice could be heard as four hunters stepped out of their vehicles, donned blaze orange,

and gathered together rifles and ammunition.

They paused briefly before entering the woods. Gerry DePerry, Red Cliff, brought out his asemaa (tobacco) and gave some to his nephew, Luke, Jon Gilbert and Jon's son, Ryan. Putting down the asemaa, the four asked the Great Spirit for a safe and productive hunt. That was the first lesson taught that day, a day which was the first hunt for both twelve-year old boys, now quiet but showing a mixture of excitement and nervousness.

Gerry led Luke to a hunting stand set atop a small hill in the forest, placing Luke's 30-30 rifle, lent to him for the day by grandfather Larry Deragon, in a safe, but convenient location. The spot offered a panorama of the surrounding forest, and it was a place where Uncle has been successful in years past. It was there, the two began the patient, hushed wait for passing deer.

Ryan followed his dad in the other direction to a hill's crest and a spot among the trees to sit and watch for the advancing of an unsuspecting doe.

Both boys were hunting as state-licensed hunters during the special early Zone T season in Wisconsin. Both are also recent graduates of hunter safety classes, but much remained for them to learn about the skill of hunting. That was what this day was about—a day of initiation—a point in a boy's life long-

held symbolic of entry into manhood by many cultures.

This morning the forest offered only a few indications of waawaashkeshiwag (deer). There were tracks on the narrow, sandy road leading into the forest; there were pellets, some fresh, dropped on the forest floor, but the elusive creatures, sighted so frequently when driving down a country road, now seemed to have vanished into the variegated brownness of the trees and fallen leaves.

The massively, over-populated deer herd seemed to have no presence here. Not one was to be seen. But for the four of them, the wait went on, allowing the forest to settle after the disturbance of their careful, but still audible entrance into the woodland world.

Minutes ticked by, then hours; the day was overcast, but balmy, perhaps too warm, Uncle thought, too warm for the deer to be moving.

Only small critters stirred as the hunters continued to scan the forest from their perches, watching for a telltale movement among the trees, perhaps the upward flick of a white tail.

Hunting may speak more of patience than macho—sitting, waiting, wordlessly watching. Something to be learned here, dulling the glamour of carrying rifles which could, today, only be partners in a silent wait.

(See First hunt, page 10)



Out for the first hunt during the early Zone T season in Wisconsin was Ryan Gilbert, age 12, accompanied by his father Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC wildlife biologist. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

# The Sandy Lake tragedy

(Continued from page 1)

Army Corps of Engineers, who currently own and manage the site.

While people worked on the monument, smoke rose from the sacred fire lit and initially tended by Leo LaFernier and Donald Carlson, Red Cliff. The fire burned adjacent to the mound where the monument was being erected and was also tended by Fred Ackley, Fran Van Zile, Eugene and Ramona Van Zile and their children from Mole Lake.

Before the first load of concrete was poured for the base pedestal, Fred Ackley, offered a pipe and prayer, and asemaa (tobacco) was put down.

Jim Zorn, GLIFWC policy analyst, who has coordinated much of the project, noted the time was 1:07 p.m. as a bobcat poured the first bucket load of red-colored cement into the circular form.

The moment was a culmination of many hours of planning and preparation, including an archeological dig at the site to be sure no artifacts or graves were being disturbed.

Grandfathers (stones), brought from the reservations of many affected tribes, were carried up the small hill to the monument, and people worked quickly once the cement was partially set to insert the stones into the base. Everyone participated—contractors, elders, grandchildren, and GLIFWC staff—placing the grandfathers carefully, firmly into the base.

Migizi (bald eagle) came to the site as the stones were being set, circling close and then swooping for prey in nearby Sandy Lake.

Fran Van Zile, Mole Lake, brought a large, flat piece of pipestone she had received in 1998 to be used in the monument as a place to lay asemaa. It fit perfectly, into place. The idea had come to her just the night before.

"I've had this pipestone since 1998, and I didn't know what I had it for," she said. "Then last night this woman's voice told me to take it to the monument to be used for tobacco. People can place their asemaa on here." And so the memorial became more complete than plans had even envisioned.

Templates for bronze plaques were placed evenly around the base. Each will eventually bear the name of an annuity band. Plaques on the second pedestal will represent present-day bands.

By 4:00 p.m., the base pedestal was complete. The second-layer pedestal was successfully completed the following day. A total of 400 grandfathers are part of the monument, 294 in the bottom round and 106 on the top.

A boulder will finally be placed on top of the concrete base with a bronze plaque commemorating the people who died in the Sandy Lake tragedy. An historical marker will also be placed at a nearby wayside informing people of the memorial monument.

## Participating bands

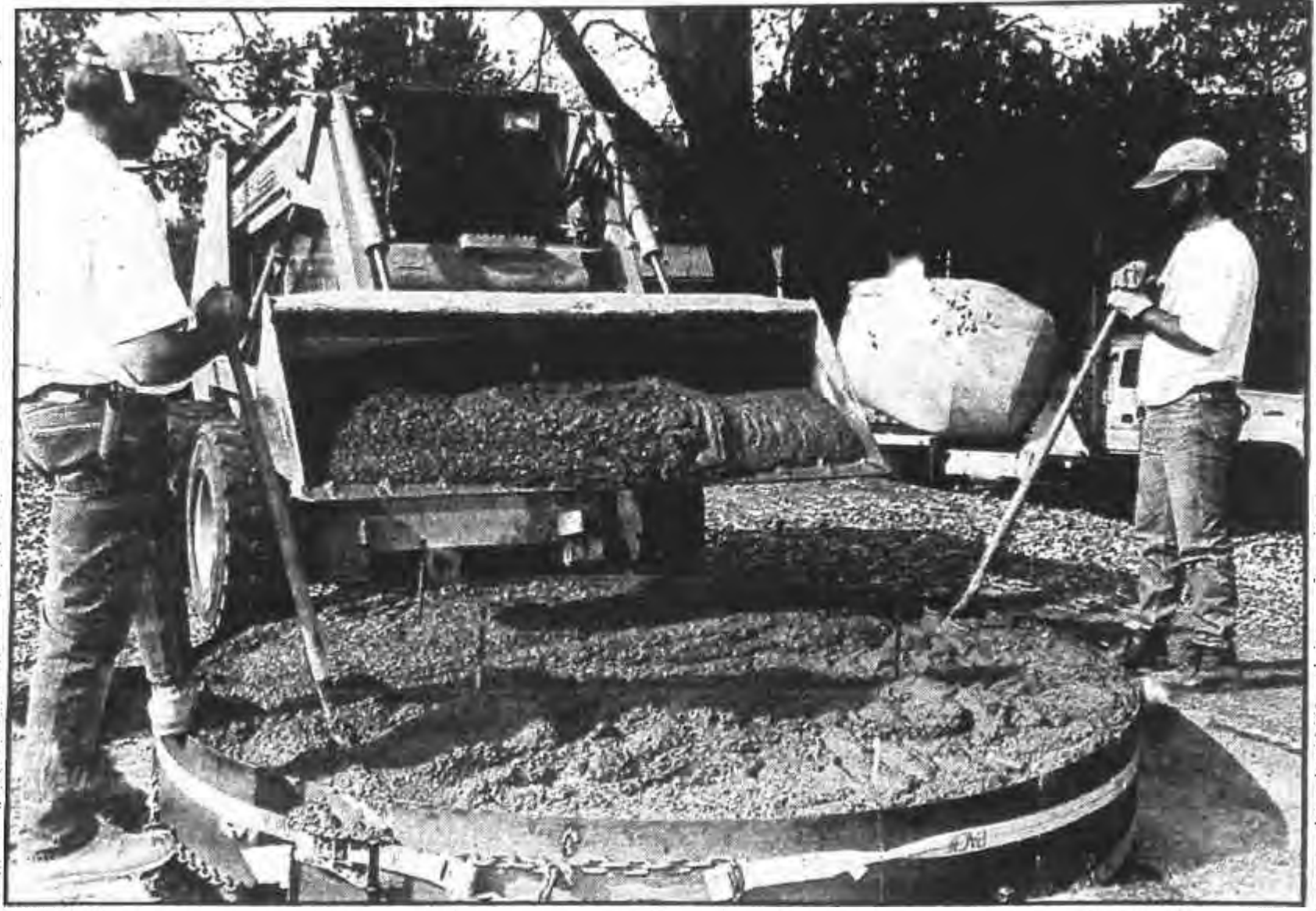
Bands participating in the construction of the Sandy Lake Memorial include: Lac Vieux Desert and Keweenaw Bay bands in Michigan; Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Courte Oreilles, Mole Lake/Sokaogon, Red Cliff, and St. Croix bands in Wisconsin; and Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, Leech Lake and Grand Portage bands in Minnesota. The bands have financially supported the Sandy Lake Memorial, provided input into the design and memorial text, and contributed grandfathers from the respective reservations.



Gigi Cloud, GLIFWC Intergovernmental Affairs litigation support specialist, taps grandfathers (stones) into the monument's base. Fred Ackley, Mole Lake and Tony Mannila, Bad River, also help set in the 294 grandfathers on the base pedestal. An additional 106 grandfathers were set into the second pedestal.

## On the cover

Luke DePerry, Red Cliff, discovered waiting, watching, and looking for signs of elusive deer are a major part of hunting when Uncle Gerry DePerry, Red Cliff, took him on his first hunt October 12th. No venison came home for the freezer that day, but knowledge of the woods and the hunt was stored in a young mind forever. (Photo by Sue Erickson)



Pouring concrete into the monument's metal form began at 1:07 p.m. October 12, 2000, following ceremonies and asemaa (tobacco) being put down. On the right, Bruce Goman, Mille Lacs Community Development Project Manager, assisted the contractors with the pouring and finishing of the concrete. Goman coordinated much of the technical work surrounding the actual construction of the memorial.

## Mikwendaagoziwag Run slated for December 2 start at Sandy Lake

Mikwendaagoziwag means remembrances in Ojibwa. In remembrance of those who died as a result of the 1850 Sandy Lake tragedy, a 150-mile run, starting at Sandy Lake, Minnesota and ending on Madeline Island, will begin with ceremonies on December 2, 2000 at Sandy Lake.

It was December 2, 1850 when partial annuities were finally distributed to representatives of the Chippewa bands who had been lured to Sandy Lake for annual annuity distribution. So, it was on December 2nd that many Chippewa people could finally begin their trip home, a trip which would claim about 230 lives in addition to the 150 who had already died of disease and other causes while waiting for annuities at Sandy Lake.

Tentative plans are to cover about 50 miles a day with an estimated arrival in Bayfield on December 4th. Organizers currently plan to spend the night of December 2nd at the Black Bear Casino Hotel near Carlton, Minnesota. On December 4th the run will cross over to Madeline Island, where ceremonies will be held.

As plans for the run take shape, the information will be posted on GLIFWC's website at [www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org).

Article & photos by Sue Erickson, Staff Writer



Watching as the Sandy Lake Tragedy Memorial monument takes shape were Eugene Van Zile and Fred Ackley, Mole Lake; Don Wedll and Leonard Sam, Mille Lacs; and James Zorn, GLIFWC policy analyst.

# Road hunters, wardens, and decoys

## Hunter education reduces violations, improves hunting safety

By **Charlie Otto Rasmussen**  
Staff Writer

**Danbury, Wis.**—Shooting this deer would yield nothing but foamsteaks and a fine, and the hunters seemed to know it.

Red brake lights flared up on passing vehicles and a few drivers reversed their pick-ups to get a better look at the buck lurking fifty yards off the blacktop; crowned with eight-inch spikes, the deer stood frozen in a Burnett County Forest cutover, peering through a broken veil of hip-high scrub oak.

Dressed in camouflage, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) Conservation Officer Jim Mattson and I watched from a nearby grove of jackpine. Mattson palmed his radio, ready to signal the enforcement team should someone take aim at the buck; I munched on the wintergreen plants that flourished under the pines and waited for the shooting to start.

Wrapped in an actual deer hide, the Styrofoam decoy looked like the real deal with its tail up, looking intently toward the road. Still, no one risked a shot and the decoy made it through the day without a scratch.

"There was a time when road hunters would see the decoy and just start shooting," said GLIFWC Enforcement Supervisor Ken Pardun. "Now people are much more cautious and make sure they're looking at a real deer. It's made

hunting safer and that's really what our goal is."

A successful education program is the key, Pardun said. Through on-reservation hunter safety classes, enforcement of hunting codes in the field, and public appearances, GLIFWC conservation wardens have made hunter safety a priority over the last sixteen years.

This past autumn, GLIFWC officers conducted hunter education classes at Mole Lake, Bad River, Red Cliff, and St. Croix. Since 1996, GLIFWC officers have certified 437 tribal hunters, along with an additional 435 state hunters.

GLIFWC wardens generally conduct decoy operations several times during the fall hunting season and step up enforcement when road hunting complaints are reported, Pardun said. This decoy set-up brought in four GLIFWC wardens from three reservations, including Lac Courte Oreilles, St. Croix, and Mille Lacs. Interchangeable antlers allow officers to present a different looking deer on each outing—a spike buck one day, becomes a forkhorn the next.

Today's spike attracted considerable attention, although there were relatively few hunters in our neck of the woods. While stylish sedans with Minnesota license plates raced by, woods-wise hunters in pick-up trucks spotted the decoy on several occasions. These times invariably brought on an adrenaline rush as Mattson scanned the ve-

hicles with binoculars, straining to spot the appearance of a rifle in the window. It's a hunter-becomes-the-hunted sort of thing, a woodland stakeout, in the campaign to make the deer woods safer for everyone.

Whether you're a treaty or state hunter, it is unlawful to discharge a gun or bow from a road right-of-way, or within 50 feet of the center of the roadway.

"The most common offense is transporting an uncased, loaded weapon," Pardun said. "People that do shoot feel pretty stupid when they realize they're shooting at a decoy."

In most cases, violators are surrounded by wardens before getting off a shot at old foamy, Pardun explained. But not always. Officer Vern Stone remembers a Bayfield County decoy episode several years ago when he became pinned down between shooter and deer.

"Jack Lemieux [GLIFWC warden] and I were getting two decoys set up on a county road, a doe and a buck. My job was to get the deer situated and hide back across the road while Jack parked the truck out of sight," Stone explained. "Just as I finished, Jack radioed and

said a car was coming, and all of a sudden it was there, coming through the trees."

Covered head to toe in camouflage, Stone followed his gut reaction and dove behind a low mound of earth only fifteen feet from the decoys. An instant later, three shots whizzed over his outstretched body, and two rounds thumped into the Styrofoam buck.

"It all happened very fast," Stone said. "I think they became suspicious, and they started speeding off. At that point I jumped up and identified myself as a conservation officer, and Jack came with the truck."

When the melee subsided, the GLIFWC officers cited two state hunters—one from Wisconsin and the other from Minnesota. Many GLIFWC officers are cross-deputized with the state of Wisconsin, enabling them to enforce both tribal and state conservation laws.

All in all, our outing was a day well spent in the woods. And the restraint demonstrated by the hunters we observed seemed to reinforce the understanding that education and enforcement have combined to make hunting safer.

## COPS grant boosts GLIFWC's enforcement capabilities

By **Sue Erickson**  
Staff Writer

**Odanah, Wis.**—The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) recently awarded the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission's (GLIFWC) Enforcement Division a \$172,000 grant. The good news came to GLIFWC in early September and was much welcomed by the division.

According to GLIFWC Enforcement Chief Gerald White, the dollars will go a long way in updating and replacing equipment needed by GLIFWC's warden force as well as provide additional training for GLIFWC officers.

In particular, COPS dollars will upgrade and replace the division's radio system. Four radio towers, including three Wisconsin towers at Mellen, Hayward, and Woodruff and one tower at Herman, Mich., will be replaced, as will 12 mobile radios used in patrol vehicles.

The grant also provides funds to fully equip all GLIFWC officers with cold water rescue suits and equipment, and to train one officer as a cold water rescue instructor. Currently, only one GLIFWC officer, John Mulroy, Mole Lake, is certified to teach cold water rescue.

All GLIFWC officers will also be re-certified as first responders through

grant dollars, White says. The grant allows for the purchase of five portable defibrillator units and for the updating of officers' first responder kits.

Frequently, enforcement personnel are first on the scene of accidents, whether on the highway, in the woods, or on the water, so skills in first response techniques and appropriate equipment can be critical, White says.

Funds to certify another officer in simulations and to send four officers to basic recruit training are also part of the grant, as are monies to upgrade the division's fleet of patrol boats.

Three additional inland boats equipped with efficient, environmentally sound, four-stroke motors will replace older boats in the fleet.

White is enthusiastic about the opportunities to upgrade the division as a result of the COPS grant.

"It's a great resource in a time when budgets are tight and will certainly contribute to enhancing the capabilities of our off-reservation patrol," White said.

GLIFWC wardens monitor off-reservation treaty seasons in the ceded territories of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, an area approximately equivalent to the state of Wisconsin.

Most GLIFWC wardens work out of satellite offices on member tribes' reservations and patrol regions adjacent to those reservations during treaty seasons.



In the gray early morning, GLIFWC Conservation Officer Jim Mattson sets up a decoy along a Burnett County road. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

## Kessenich graduates from basic recruit training

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) warden Chris Kessenich completed the basic recruit training program at the Chippewa Valley Technical College, graduating in July 2000, after completing the 400 hour training requirement. He also recently completed a one week Firearms Instructor training course at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Kessenich is one of GLIFWC's full-time conservation officers stationed at the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation.

# GLIFWC fisheries crew wrap-up Mille Lacs assessments

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer

**Onamia, Minn.**—In an effort to develop a better understanding of the Lake Mille Lacs walleye fishery, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) inland fisheries staff conducted electrofishing and trawling surveys this past year, supplementing Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) assessment efforts.

The move to increase and diversify data about the Mille Lacs walleye population was sponsored by GLIFWC after two consecutive years of uncommonly low trawling catch rates by MDNR fisheries crews.

"These low trawling catch rates did not correlate very well with MDNR's experimental gill-net data collected during the same time period," said Joe Dan Rose, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries section leader. "So, we wanted to explore the usefulness of electrofishing as an alternative survey method and look at trawling in different areas of the lake."



Assisted by this U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service trawling boat, GLIFWC conducted a survey of walleye numbers on Lake Mille Lacs in August. (Photo by Joe Dan Rose)

## St. Croix aquaculture to focus on Atlantic salmon and yellow perch production

By Sue Erickson  
Staff Writer

**St. Croix reservation, Wis.**—It was 1987 when the St. Croix Band of Chippewa first conceived of fish farming (aquaculture) as a tribal business. Thirteen years later, the building for the re-circulating aquaculture facility is up, and the tribe hopes to be operational by summer 2001, producing yellow perch and Atlantic salmon for market, a projected total of 3.3 million pounds of fish annually.

The 150,000-square-foot building, located near Loon Creek on the St. Croix reservation in Danbury, will house hatchery and rearing facilities, processing and storage facilities, and also a laboratory and administrative offices.

It was a long time coming, according to Dick Hartman, St. Croix tribal planner, who has worked with the project since its inception. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) issued the permit in the fall of 1999 following a full-scale Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) examining the impact of the proposed enterprise. Hartman says the tribe responded to all environmental issues, most of which focused on water use.

The business projects employing 25 full-time people at the start, Hartman

says, adding another ten to twenty full-time positions once it is fully operational. The business will take some time to build to full production capacity. For one, time must be allowed for rearing, seven months for yellow perch and about 18 for Atlantic salmon.

Once in full swing, the fish will be culled and harvested on a daily basis.

The tribe selected Atlantic salmon because much of the business is now going to foreign countries, such as Sweden, Norway and Chile, due to dwindling abundance of the fish in the United States, Hartman says.

Likewise, the crash of the yellow perch population in Lake Michigan and decreasing abundance in other of the Great Lakes makes it difficult for commercial fishing to fill the demand for this species.

Hartman noted that yellow perch have increased from \$3.00 per pound to a current market price of \$7.00 - \$8.00 per pound in recent years, which is indicative of the demand. The operation will raise about 2.2 million pounds of yellow perch annually.

Groundbreaking for the new building took place in May. Since that time the structure and all the sub-surface work has been completed. Installation of all the mechanical equipment remains to be done over the winter months.

While it may take several years to realize the significance of the data, GLIFWC surveys may identify a correlation between electrofishing catch rates and walleye year class strength, Rose said.

GLIFWC surveys kicked-off with three days of electrofishing in May, followed by trawling in August with assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and another round of shocking in late September with help from the Fond du Lac band's electrofishing crew. All fish were live-released back into the lake.

During the spring and fall shocking runs, 99% of the Mille Lacs shoreline was surveyed—length measurements were taken from all the walleye and scale or spine samples were collected from a portion of the catch for aging purposes. In the spring, three shocking crews caught a total of 992 walleye over three nights. Aging hasn't been completed on this sample, however, based on length, around one-third were Age 1.

Preliminary data from the fall shocking run shows approximately 4,760 walleye were collected for a catch rate of 61 per mile. By comparison, one-half of the shoreline was shocked in the fall of last year, bringing in 1,917 walleye, or 47 per mile. "The 2000 year class appears to be stronger than the previous year," said Neil Kmiecik, GLIFWC Biological Services director.

Although GLIFWC inland fisheries staff are seasoned electrofishers, trawling presented a relatively new way for them to gather information about fish populations. Support came from the USFWS at Ashland, Wis., who provided a trawling boat and technical assistance to survey previously overlooked parts of the lake for Age 0 and Age 1 walleye. A total of 15, five minute trawls were conducted in north and northwest areas of the lake, yielding only 24 walleyes.

"This preliminary data indicates that trawls can catch walleye in other areas," Rose said. "However, since catches were low, further GLIFWC trawling may not be beneficial as a supplement to state trawling surveys."

Fishery assessment data is combined with harvest information from state and tribal fishermen to create mathematical models of the size and structure of the Mille Lacs walleye population. These models are the foundation used by fisheries managers to determine harvestable surplus levels.

"The modeling process allows biologists to evaluate the status of the fishery without having direct measures of population abundance from mark-recapture studies, which are relatively easy to conduct on smaller lakes, but would be difficult for a lake the size of Mille Lacs," said GLIFWC Data Analyst Rick Madsen.

Rose said that GLIFWC plans on continuing spring and fall electrofishing at Mille Lacs on a regular basis.

## Graduate student taps GLIFWC data for walleye study

**Odanah, Wis.**—University of Minnesota doctoral candidate Michelle LeBeau worked with GLIFWC staff this past summer, gathering data for a possible walleye study to assess how state length regulations affect walleye populations.

LeBeau said she is interested in determining what impact slot sizes and minimum length regulations have on overall walleye growth. Younger walleye may be "piling up" and possibly causing a stunting effect, she said.

LeBeau's research will likely focus on four lakes in northeastern Wisconsin counties: Squirrel (Oneida), Butternut (Forest), Squaw (Vilas), and Kentuck (Vilas). GLIFWC has collected fisheries assessment data from these lakes up to 13 consecutive years, which makes them ideal candidates for her research.

With assistance from Data Analyst Rick Madsen, LeBeau perused GLIFWC's store of walleye data and reviewed spine samples for signs of changing growth rates. In addition to her work at GLIFWC, LeBeau was an intern for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at Ashland. LeBeau is an enrolled Lakota from South Dakota.

—Charlie Otto Rasmussen



Michelle LeBeau

## Environmental strategies for aquaculture symposium

Slated for December 3-6 at the Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, Minnesota, a symposium on environmental strategies for aquaculture will be held in conjunction with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

For an agenda or additional information contact: <http://MIDWEST2000.FWS.GOV> or Ron Knuunen, Michigan Sea Grant at (906) 228-4830

# The sweet taste of success

## A renowned chef reveals the secrets of preparing perfect venison—no matter what the cut.

By Tom Dickson

St. Paul, Minn.—Venison can be one of the most succulent, delectable dishes you set on the holiday table. Prepared correctly, a slice of venison should drip with juice, yield to a butter knife, and taste sweet on the tongue.

So why does so much of it taste like cooked hockey glove?

Ken Goff, executive chef for the Dakota Restaurant in St. Paul, knows the reason. Considered one of the country's top indigenous-food chefs, Goff has been featured in *Gourmet* magazine, in *The New York Times*, and on the Discovery Channel's "Great Chefs" series. An expert on cooking wild game, Goff has learned that different parts of a deer call for different cooking techniques.

"Many cooks don't understand that cooking methods that always apply to certain cuts of venison will almost never apply to others," says Goff. "If you know which cuts to cook using quick, high, dry heat and which to cook in liquid over low heat for a long time, you'll get the best possible flavor from your venison."

Goff brings a passion for wild game, particularly venison, to his kitchen at home and at work. "It's fantastically flavored and much more interesting than commercial meat," he says. Though not a hunter, he prepares venison harvested by friends and regularly serves New Zealand farm-raised venison dishes, such as venison loin with blueberries, to his customers.

### Venison basics

In some respects, says Goff, cooks can view venison as they do beef. Both are the dark red meat of large grazing animals. And the cuts of both animals are similar: A sirloin of venison is a steak that comes from the lower back of the animal, as does beef sirloin.

But that's where the deer and the cow part company—and where cooks need to understand the fundamental differences between the two meats. According to Goff, beef can be distinguished from venison primarily by its tasty fat, which is marbled throughout the meat. The fat of venison, on the other hand, tastes like boiled leather when cooked. It is found only outside of the meat and should be trimmed from all cuts. Lacking fat within the meat, uncooked venison has less moisture than beef does.

Though less fat content makes venison easier to dry out when cooking, it also makes a serving of venison leaner than a similar-sized one of beef. Venison has roughly one-half the fat by weight of beef.

More important, in Goff's view, is that venison has "more and better flavor than beef." Heavy with fat, beef has a mild, rich taste. Lacking fat, venison is "tangier and more intense," he says. That sweet tang of deer meat comes from the copious blood, which also gives raw venison steaks their rich, burgundy color. "Dark meat like venison has more capillaries, so there's more blood in the tissue," Goff says. "Blood is sweet. If you accidentally prick your finger and suck it, you can taste that sweetness."

The longer you cook venison, Goff explains, the more bitter it becomes. "That's what people call the 'gamy' taste," he says. "It's the same bitter taste as overdone liver, compared to the sweet taste of liver cooked medium rare."

It's a cook's job, he says, "to keep the venison sweet."

### Hot and fast

If the meat in question is one of the tender cuts found on a deer's loin (T-bone, club, rib-eye, sirloin, or porterhouse steaks) or upper rump (rump roast), your job couldn't be simpler: Cook venison at high heat—the quicker the better. "Cook it no more than medium rare," Goff says. "That way you save the juices, which saves the sweetness."

Isn't there a risk of getting sick from eating rare meat? Not if the animal was dressed and butchered properly, says Goff. "For a piece of game to be unhealthy, something had to happen to the animal after it died, such as fecal matter getting onto the surface of the meat," he says. Goff advises hunters to avoid puncturing the intestines when field-dressing deer, because this is where fecal and other contaminants are concentrated. "If you get any contaminants on the meat, wash them off with snow or water as soon as possible," he says.

### Slow and moist

Unfortunately, relatively little of a deer's total weight is composed of tender cuts from the loin. "Most of a deer's bulk is the legs and shoulder," Goff says. "These are weight-bearing muscles that have a lot of tough ligaments and connective tissue."

When pan-fried or sautéed, cuts from the shoulder, front legs, and lower back legs stay tough and chewy, which is one reason many hunters turn much of their deer into venison sausage. He says even the densest shoulder roast can be made tender and succulent by slowly cooking it with moist heat.



©Walter Kuranda

To break down the strong, connective tissue, tough cuts generally call for cooking a long time (two or more hours) at low temperatures in liquid by either stewing or braising. In stewing the meat is seared briefly at a high heat, then completely submerged in wine, broth, or other liquid. In braising, the meat is only partially submerged.

Although slow-cooking softens the venison tissue, it makes the meat bitter by overcooking the juices. Goff's simple solution is to add something acidic, such as vinegar, tomatoes, or wine, and something sweet, such as onions or fruit, to temper the bitterness that develops during cooking.

### Color and sizzle

Goff says that by applying these cooking basics, even beginning cooks can prepare juicy, tender venison dishes no matter what cut they pull from the freezer. By following a few other easy tips, a cook can make a great meal even better.

"I like to add color and beauty to any dish," he says. "And to do that, you need to buy colorful and beautiful ingredients."

As Goff prepares venison dishes, he applies a rainbow of condiments such as diced red pepper, chopped chives, cut corn kernels, dried cranberries, and slivered almonds. "I'll add whatever seems right at the time," he says. "If I've got some big blueberries, I might put those on the side, or with a wild rice side dish I might mix in pepper and corn to give it those nice red and yellow colors."

Aesthetics also explains why Goff sears venison as a first step to most dishes. Also known as browning, searing—charring the meat surface with high heat—doesn't seal in the juices, as many cooks believe, Goff says. "In fact, if you sear it too long, you'll actually lose moisture by overcooking," he says. "What searing does is give the exterior that bit of charred taste that we like. It also looks good, and, if something looks good, the eater will be predisposed to enjoy it. Searing also creates a nice aroma and sizzling sound."

Goff keeps side dishes simple but exciting. Instead of the traditional noodles, for example, he might spoon his venison stroganoff over large, crunchy croutons made of day-old French bread sliced 1-inch thick and fried in butter. "Add some cooked carrots on the side, serve with a little bottle of red wine, and a dish like this would be fancy enough for company food," he says. "But really it's just glorified peasant cooking."

Goff recommends laying out all measured ingredients (for example, half-cup finely diced onion) before you begin cooking. "This will allow you to proceed with the recipe at the pace it requires," he says. He also recommends using heavy pans for sautéing and browning meat and vegetables and cooking at the highest temperature the burner allows. "That means you have to work quickly, but you'll see it's worth it," he says. Goff uses a 50-50 mixture of clarified butter (melted butter minus the milk solids) and canola oil for cooking, but says any light vegetable oil will work.

The three recipes below are for a tender cut, a medium or tough cut, and a tough cut.

### Venison with Onions and Balsamic Vinegar

1 to 1 1/2 pounds trimmed loin or rump steak (can be in several pieces)

Salt and pepper

3 tablespoons clarified butter or light cooking oil

1 to 1 1/2 cups thinly sliced red or yellow onion

1/4 cup balsamic vinegar

1/2 cup beef stock or water

4 tablespoons whole, cold butter

1. In a frying pan, heat 2 tablespoons clarified butter or oil over high heat. Meanwhile, lightly season all sides of meat with salt and pepper.

(Continued on page 21)



This whitetail was photographed near the Sylvania Wilderness in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

# Ricing recollections...

## Wisconsin wild rice crop down—Minnesota harvest good

By Peter David  
GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—The seed is gone now. Some has been knocked and parched, winnowed and bagged, and sits waiting on a pantry shelf for the day when it will give its nourishment, and the recollection of its harvest, to a gathered family.

Some is already hundreds of miles away, being carried southward in the digestive tract of a plump, ring-necked duck that is making the most of a cold tailwind. And some has settled into the ooze near the decaying root mass of its mother plant, to pass a quiet winter in wait, preparing for a moment in the following spring when it will either cross the threshold towards germination, or somehow detect that conditions are not quite right and opt to take its chances in a subsequent year.

If you went out to harvest this gift from Gichi-manidoo this year, and you lived in Wisconsin, you may well have come home from the lake planning to stock up on potatoes. It was a year of slim pickings. Many of the lakes that people look to first had little to offer this year.

Totogatic, for example, never had much of a crop, as high water early in the year seemed to discourage germination. Clam Lake did have one initially, but heavy rains in early July drowned the plants just as they were trying to emerge from the surface. Similar variations on the theme occurred throughout the Wisconsin ceded territory.

Those who persevered in their search for productive beds often were ultimately successful, as a number of other beds (whose names shall remain unprinted) still managed to put out a good crop. However, ricers who found these spots were often reminded that we are not the only ones to whom this gift was given, as rice worms seemed to out-weigh the rice in some places.

It is possible that the great abundance of these moth larvae was an undesirable by-product of the mild winter we experienced in 1999-00, which may have increased the over-winter survival of this species. The mild winter may have also contributed to the relatively poor crops seen on some of Wisconsin's more southern



Wild ricers pole through the thick rice beds of Sandy Lake near McGregor, Minnesota. Minnesota lakes generally produced a better crop than in Wisconsin waters this past fall. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

rice beds, as rice seed is adapted to wintering through hardy northern conditions, and may even require these conditions to help the seed break dormancy.

Interestingly, across the border in Minnesota, the crop overall was much better. The heavy summer rains that damaged some Wisconsin beds were fairly localized and didn't appear to impact Minnesota beds. Less mild winter conditions may have also played a role. The availability of Minnesota seed helped Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission continue its wild rice restoration program. Numerous cooperators helped plant approximately four tons of seed this fall.

This year's crop already has biologists wondering a bit about next year. This was the third year in a row that the Wisconsin rice crop has been below average. In addition, in the last two years, many rice seeds had not waited to "take their chances" in a subsequent year, but had taken the chance, and lost. They germinated and sent their leaves upward, only to be drowned when lake levels jumped after early summer downpours. At least on some beds, seed banks are likely in a relatively depleted condition.

Whether this depletion is biologically significant, or is within the range that rice can readily overcome, remains to be seen. However, this isn't the first challenge that manoomin has had to face, nor will it be the last, and hopefully with a little luck, the cedar sticks will have plenty of work to do next year.



As archeologists from the US Army Corps of Engineers excavate the future Sandy Lake Memorial site in the background, ricers bag their wild rice harvest from Sandy Lake. Kenneth Taylor, Jr. (foreground) from McGregor and Bruce Turner, White Earth, sell their green rice to processors at Mille Lacs. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)



The Bad River Drum and around 60 supporters welcomed participants from "A Walk to Remember" on August 25 at Birch Hill, near the eastern edge of the Bad River reservation. The walkers were completing a 1,200 mile spiritual journey around Lake Superior to promote environmental protection of the lake. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

# Wilson Flowage reconstruction receives USDA Honor Award

## GLIFWC one of seven partners

**Park Falls and Rhinelander, Wis.**—On Monday, June 5, 2000 the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and its partners were among those honored at the 54th Annual United States Department of Agriculture Honor Awards in Washington DC.

Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, presented the prestigious award in recognition of a seven-member partnership that made possible the reconstruction of the Wilson Flowage dams. Receiving the USDA Honor Award is the highest distinction possible. It denotes excellence and is the crowning achievement for a project that

has already been recognized at the regional and national levels within the Forest Service.

The project grew out of a concern for the 266 acre Wilson Flowage found southeast of Park Falls on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Created by two dams in series along Popple Creek, it has been under Forest Service management since 1987. Inspections of the dams showed them to be substandard and potential safety hazards.

Furthermore, the control structures, which allowed the water level in the flowage to be manually raised and

lowered, were old and ineffective. If the flowage was to survive, the dams and water control structures would have to be replaced. But financing such a costly project was beyond the means of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest alone.

The Forest Service team began crafting a diverse partnership that resulted in over three-quarters of the funding coming from sources outside the agency. Each of the partners has demonstrated a commitment to the conservation of natural resources. Ducks Unlimited has a history of supporting wetland conservation and management, and has been a long time partner of the Forest Service. Safari Club International is also dedicated to habitat conservation.

This project marked their first partnership with the Forest Service in Wisconsin. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency dedicated to conservation, supported the project through their wetland conservation program. Silver Creek Sportsman's Club has been active in conservation projects locally in Taylor and Price counties.

The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission joined the partnership to assist with a project within the ceded territory of the Lake Superior Band of the Chippewas. Finally, the National Forest Foundation, a non-profit organization established by Congress to assist the Forest Service, matched a large share of the others' contributions.

There are a number of notable accomplishments associated with the planning and implementation of the dam

reconstructions. Completing the appropriate agreements with each of the partners and coordinating the exchange of funds often challenged the team to creatively navigate bureaucratic channels. Despite a number of administrative hurdles, the team successfully assembled the partnership and completed the work on this quarter million dollar project within a single fiscal year.

The design of the dam structures also deserves notice. In recent years, the Dams Division of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has become increasingly concerned with the safety of dams within the state. This has resulted in stricter regulations and monitoring.

Reconstruction of the Wilson Flowage dams achieved many objectives. The new dams are safer, more reliable, and allow for management of the wetland resource. This will ultimately improve opportunities for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

The majority of the project was funded through partner contributions, reducing the cost to the Forest Service. Perhaps most importantly, the Forest Service strengthened its relationships with its partners, preparing the ground for future collaborations.

Through the generosity of these organizations and the hard work of the Forest Service team, Wilson Flowage continues to provide shallow and deep marsh habitat for waterfowl, bald eagles, ospreys, and northern pike.

For more information contact Dean Granholm at 715-748-4875 or e-mail [dgranholm@fs.fed.us](mailto:dgranholm@fs.fed.us).



US Forest Service construction workers pour the concrete footing for the new water control structure at Wilson Flowage. (US Forest Service photo)

# Ottawa National Forest commends KBIC for leadership and vision in trumpeter swan restoration

**L'anse, Mich.**—Keweenaw Bay Tribal Biologist, Mike Donofrio became interested in the restoration of the trumpeter swan in the mid-1990's, and, after discussions with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and US Forest Service (USFS), Ottawa National Forest, became convinced that it was something that should be pursued.

Trumpeter swans once occurred in the Western UP and throughout a large part of the Northern U.S. and Canada. They are the largest waterfowl species in North America, with adults reaching 40 pounds, 4 feet in height, with a wingspan of 8 feet. They were extirpated from Michigan and many other areas by 1900, partly due to market hunting for their skins and feathers.

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) Tribal Council approved the trumpeter swan restoration project in 1997, and Donofrio sought funding and partners for a 3-year swan introduction effort.

The first release of swans was in 1998, with additional releases in 1999 and 2000. In total, approximately 40 swans were released over the 3-year period. Prior to this effort, there had



Two juvenile trumpeter swans paddle out into Sucker Lake near Watersmeet, Michigan after a May 1999 release organized by tribal, federal, and state biologists. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

been no release of trumpeter swans in the Western Upper Peninsula (UP). This effort fits nicely into MDNR's trumpeter swan restoration plan of restoring at least three different trumpeter swan populations across Michigan by 2000, for a total of approximately 200 swans.

Seney National Wildlife Refuge in the Eastern UP has participated in trumpeter swan restoration for many years, and now has a growing population of breeding trumpeters. Other

smaller trumpeter swan populations have been established in various locations in the Lower Peninsula.

Monitoring results from 2000 have indicated that several of the swans released in 1998 and 1999 have returned to the Western UP, some directly to the lakes at which they were released.

The USFS is encouraged that some of these birds will form breeding pairs and eventually breed on Ottawa National Forest lakes, or other nearby lakes

in the region. This is truly the beginning of a success story for restoration of a native species to the Western UP.

Partners in the Western UP trumpeter restoration program included: KBIC (coordination of overall project, purchase of swans, supplied monitoring and office equipment, supplied some personnel for monitoring); GLIFWC (provided guidance and advice on overall project); Bureau of Indian Affairs (provided funds to KBIC under Circle of Flight program); Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University (raised swans from Alaskan eggs and supplied juvenile birds to KBIC); USFWS (supplied funding for radio transmitters); USFS-Ottawa National Forest (supplied personnel to monitor released swans, identified swan release sites, supplied miscellaneous equipment and office space for monitoring personnel, shared cost of flight to transport swans); US Coast Guard (transport of birds); Michigan DNR (aerial flight monitoring of swans when needed); UP Power Company (agreed to release of some swans at Prickett Flowage in 1999 and 2000); Institute for Basic Life Principles (allowed use of their airstrip for landing aircraft that the transported swans). This project has truly been a cooperative effort, spearheaded by Donofrio and KBIC.

# Gathering princess pine

Lac du Flambeau, Wis.—A cool mid-October wind snakes through a maze of maples and oaks plucking off the few remaining crimson and amber leaves, depositing them onto the woodland floor. Patches of princess pine form irregular rings of greenery among the fallen leaves, appearing like islands of miniature forests.

It is princess pine that Heather Bickford and her mother-in-law Charlene Bickford, both tribal members from Lac du Flambeau, search for as they drive slowly down a gravel road. Eventually, Heather stops the car at a familiar location—a location she and Charlene visit every autumn.

As the two women climb out of the car, Heather's 19-month-old son, Justice, sleeps soundly in his car seat. Today's gathering will have to occur near the road and the car harboring the sleeping child.

Charlene started harvesting princess pine some years ago when she used to join her husband gathering balsam boughs. Instead of wrestling with the heavy boughs, she decided to spend her time gathering the more manageable princess pine. Her sons often joined her.

Her husband would then drive down to Merrill to sell the season's harvest. The harvest meant additional income for the family budget, and the boys received a little extra spending money. Unfortunately, Charlene, who has a worsening condition of rheumatoid arthritis, can no longer gather very much at any given time.

Nonetheless, she still enjoys helping her daughter-in-law with the process. Of course, she appreciates the money earned. But, more than that, she enjoys spending a beautiful autumn day outdoors with family and friends.

After two hours, Heather and Charlene have gathered enough princess pine to create a number of large bouquets, each held together by rubber bands. Heather hears Justice start to cry and hurries to the car. After Justice has been comforted, the women decide to quit for the day and head home for lunch.

While packing up, they notice big clumps of princess pine they had missed. They remark how that seems to happen every time they go out gathering. Most likely, that oversight, whether or not intentional, allows them to keep visiting the same location year after year.

## What is princess pine?

Princess pine (also referred to as ground pine) is a member of a group of primitive vascular plants called club mosses. It vaguely resembles a pine tree, except that it measures less than a foot tall. It remains green year round.

It grows best in moist, nutrient-rich hardwood forests, but occurs in a variety of habitats and soil types throughout the ceded territories. It can often be found growing in clusters because it reproduces primarily by developing aerial shoots from an underground stem or rhizome. Reproduction from spores occurs less frequently.

The florist industry likes to use its vivid green herbage in wreaths and other floral displays. This provides an opportunity for tribal members and non-Indians to supplement their incomes by gathering and selling princess pine.

Princess pine actually consists of three different species that look almost identical. These species include *Lycopodium obscurum*, *L. dendroideum*, and *L. hickeyi*; with *L. obscurum* being most common in this area. All three species are harvested.

Colleen Matula, Ottawa National Forest Botanist, completed a study investigating princess pine growth rates and the effects of harvest. She concluded that, by following certain guidelines, gathering can proceed without significant impacts to the princess pine populations.

These guidelines include gathering only the aerial portion of princess pine without disturbing the underground rhizome and gathering less than 50% of a population within a given year. In addition, harvesting should not occur anytime before September to allow for reproduction by spores.

## Northern forest restoration workshop: Shaping a vision

Ashland, Wis.—During the third week in September, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, GLIFWC, and the University of Wisconsin, Madison Arboretum hosted a two day workshop at Northland College on the topic of northern forest restoration.

Participants included tribal, federal, state, and local natural resource managers; researchers; environmental non-profit and for profit professionals; and nursery business owners.

The workshop focused on the history of northern forests, what northern forest restoration means, and other various related issues.

The northern forest, in general, is relatively young having been established only since the retreat of the Wisconsin glacial sheet approximately 10,000 years ago. Over many centuries, the upland sites evolved into plant communities dominated by hemlock (*gaagaagimizh*), yellow birch (*wiinizik*), sugar maple (*aninaatig*), and white pine (*zhingwaak*) on the richer, more moist sites; and red and white pine on the drier, sandier sites.

The wet lowland sites became dominated by tree species such as northern white cedar (*giizhik*), black ash (*aagimaak*), black spruce (*zhingob*), and tamarack (*mashkiigwaatig*). White birch (*wiigwaas*) and aspen (*azaadi*), as they do now, quickly colonized areas disturbed by wind throw or fire.

Towards the end of the 19th century, loggers cut thousands of acres of timber leaving behind slash piles that later became the fuel for intense, sweeping fires. By the first part of the 20th century, the northern forest had been greatly altered.

Though trees have since grown back, many people do not believe that the northern forest has truly recovered. The current forest differs from the pre-harvest forest with respect to a number of characteristics.

Two of these characteristics include species composition—more aspen and less hemlock, yellow birch, and white cedar in the present day forest; and structure with currently fewer tip-up mounds and less decaying woody debris. These differences have in turn modified the habitats and populations of various animal species.

So, how is northern forest restoration accomplished? What actions need to be implemented to initiate northern forest restoration?

Various speakers discussed restoration techniques focusing on both passive and active management. An example of passive management includes setting aside areas to support old-growth forests. Active management includes techniques such as planting appropriate native trees and understory plants.

Jim St. Arnold, GLIFWC Administration for Native Americans (ANA) program manager, discussed the role of tribal traditional ecological knowledge in restoring the northern forest. He described an ANA grant which was recently received by GLIFWC, the goal of which is to document the stories and wisdom of tribal elders regarding their experiences in gathering and utilizing wild plants and employing traditional land management techniques.

Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC wildlife section leader, reported on deer and their potential effects on the northern forest (e.g., herbivory impacts to certain species such as northern white cedar, Canada yew, and trillium). He provided information on the establishment of a new consortium of researchers, resource managers, and policy makers which will help direct research on deer ecology and management.

Other speakers discussed strategies being developed for increasing the availability of propagated native plants for land managers and owners interested (See *Shaping a vision*, page 9)



Heather Bickford, Lac du Flambeau, displays a bouquet of princess pine, harvested from the forest floor. Heather and her mother-in-law Charlene Bickford, Lac du Flambeau tribal member, make harvesting princess pine an autumn ritual.

Articles and photo by:  
Karen Danielsen,  
GLIFWC forest ecologist



# Elders share knowledge about plant use

**Odanah, Wis.**—Elders from Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) member tribes have been meeting with Jim St. Arnold, Administration for Native Americans (ANA) program director, to discuss traditional, non-medicinal uses of plant in meetings that last from two to five hours.

"We have had some very awesome meetings with elders," St. Arnold said. "We have been collecting information on plants and hearing some great stories about the past."

"Barb Mantilla from Keweenaw Bay remembered how she and her mother gathered hazelnuts one year when she was young and sent a bag of them to her brother stationed in the South Pacific during World War II," Jim said, "and an elder from Watersmeet talked about a plant he knows that will keep your hair black."

St. Arnold and other staff at GLIFWC have met with elders from the Keweenaw Bay, Lac Vieux Desert, Bay Mills, Lac du Flambeau, and Lac Courte Oreilles reservations to date. He plans on meeting with elders from the remaining six reservations in the near future.

"We are planning on holding a series of meetings with the elders from

each community," St. Arnold said. "This will help us in gathering as much information as we can."

As part of a two year grant from ANA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a key part of the project is to gather information from elders regarding traditional uses of plants, harvesting areas, and perceived threats to plants.

Information gathered will be archived and placed on a CD for use by tribes and their membership. There are also plans to develop a harvest calendar and informational display for use at schools and conferences.

"Information is being gathered through a process that identifies Traditional Environmental Knowledge or TEK," St. Arnold said. "This process acknowledges respect, spirituality, and the knowledge that has been passed down from generation to generation as more than anecdotal."

"It identifies a procedure for collecting information, utilizing the information, and crediting the information with the source," he continued.

Many First Nation communities throughout North America are identifying the TEK process and the need for the sharing, collecting, and archiving the knowledge that our elders have.



Elmer LeBlanc (right) and Wayne Tadgerson, Bay Mills, share stories and plant information with GLIFWC. (Photo by Jim St. Arnold)

## Harvest opportunities ahead Upcoming off-reservation, treaty seasons

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

Seasons may vary some from state to state, or from tribe to tribe. However, some of the opportunities for off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering in November 2000 through February 2001 are as follows:

### Wisconsin 1837, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

- Waterfowl hunting
- Wild plant gathering
- Deer/Bear hunting
- Trapping
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Firewood and balsam bough gathering in national forests
- Netting
- Winter ice fishing in inland waters: unattended lines/spearing through the ice

### Minnesota 1837 Treaty ceded territory

- Waterfowl hunting
- Wild plant gathering
- Deer/Bear hunting
- Trapping
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Netting
- Winter ice fishing in inland waters: spearing/netting/hook and line

### Michigan 1836, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

- Commercial fishing
- Waterfowl hunting
- Wild plant gathering
- Deer/Bear hunting
- Trapping
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Netting
- Hook and line fishing
- Firewood and balsam bough gathering in national forests
- Winter ice fishing in inland waters: spearing/hook and line

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

## Shaping a vision

(Continued from page 8)  
 ested in initiating restoration projects. Another speaker warned of the potential impacts of invasive exotic species on northern forests and described the coordinated efforts of various agencies and organizations, including GLIFWC, to promote the containment of these problematic plants.

The workshop ended with participants separating into smaller work groups to identify specific actions items. For example, one action item involved

developing an internet website to provide current information on northern forest restoration and to encourage communication between individuals interested in this topic.

Overall, the workshop furnished a stimulating and enlightening forum to raise questions, debate ideas, and generate future plans. All the participants agreed that this workshop marked only the first, but no less significant, steps toward defining and implementing northern forest restoration.



Flanked by area USDA Forest Service officials, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Supervisor Lynn Roberts (3rd from left) addresses tribal representatives at the 1st annual Tribal/Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) meeting on October 4 at Odanah, Wis. The meeting provided a forum for the tribes and Forest Service to discuss issues relating to the MOU which establishes protocols for tribal gathering and campground use on National Forests in the 1836, 1837, and 1842 ceded territories. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

## Supreme Court to rule on tribal court jurisdiction

The outcome of a Supreme Court decision could impact the jurisdiction of tribal courts across the country.

The Supreme Court will hear from four Nevada wildlife officials who claim to be immune from lawsuits in tribal courts over the seizure of bighorn sheep head trophies from Floyd Hick's home on the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone reservation.

Hicks filed suit against the officials as individuals in tribal court. A federal judge and an appeals court upheld the tribal court's jurisdiction. However, the state now has appealed to the Supreme Court. The decision will ultimately lay down a guideline on the ability of a tribal court to rule over

nonmembers of a tribe when dealing with an incident on the reservation.

The Supreme Court is expected to review the case in February. The ruling will be very significant, Melody McCoy of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) told Native American report (NAR). "When the Supreme Court rules it is the law of the land. This decision will affect all the tribal courts," McCoy said.

The state will argue that the officials are protected under state sovereignty, Wayne Howell of the Nevada's attorney general's office told NAR. "The state doesn't feel the state workers should be tried in tribal court."

(Reprinted from Native American Report.)

# Wild turkey numbers increase at LdF

## First full winter will test birds' hardiness

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen  
Staff Writer

Lac du Flambeau, Wis.—After nearly one year, Lac du Flambeau's (LdF) wild turkeys are poised to face their greatest challenge to survival—winter in the big woods. Deep snow, minimal agriculture, and abundant predators will test the turkey's mettle in the coming months.

Around one-half of the 31 birds released on the reservation last January and February made it into the spring breeding season and produced four to six broods, said Larry Wawronowicz, LdF Natural Resources director.

"We've been getting calls on a regular basis from people all over on turkey sightings," Wawronowicz said. "Reports of both adults and young birds in broods are coming in across the community."

Since being turned loose on the 92,000-acre reservation last winter, the birds have dispersed in every direction and showed up as far away as Springstead—more than a dozen miles from the release site, Wawronowicz said. Area wildlife are enjoying a bumper acorn crop and turkeys are routinely spotted or heard gobbling on oak ridges, he added.

"If we have a rough winter, that will be the true test," Wawronowicz said. "We're not going to do any supplemental feeding. It's up to the birds to make it. But many people feed deer in this area, and I imagine the turkeys are going to find those piles."

The dramatic snow melt that occurred in mid-February eased the tran-

sition from southern Wisconsin farmland to northern forest. The birds were trapped with rocket nets by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and LdF Natural Resources staff near the lower Wisconsin River and trucked north into a landscape of contiguous forest, wetland, and water.

After locating the remains of several adult gobblers in months following the release, Wawronowicz and his staff questioned the flock's ability to reproduce with only a few males remaining from the transplant group.

"I was concerned because we didn't have more than a couple of toms left," Wawronowicz said. "But we learned that the juvenile males will breed the hens if there is no competition from the older gobblers."

Wawronowicz figures that the two surviving toms and three jakes handled breeding responsibilities last April.

Reports indicate there are between four to eight young turkeys—or poults—per brood. That translates to around 30 juveniles joining approximately fifteen adult turkeys as winter sets in.

Should the population continue to expand, Wawronowicz said that the tribe may pursue trapping and tagging birds on the reservation to better understand how they utilize the northwoods habitat.

The project is a cooperative investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and LdF, with GLIFWC staff providing support. State and tribal biologists hope to determine the habitat limits of wild turkeys at northern latitudes and explore the viability of establishing a huntable population.

## WI off-reservation deer harvest by tribal registration station

(figures as of 11/1/00)

Registration Station	Antlerless	Antlered
Bad River	43	53
Lac Courte Oreilles	296	187
Lac du Flambeau	288	284
Mole Lake	102	41
Red Cliff	95	82
St. Croix	52	43
Mille Lacs	15	11
Fond du Lac	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>701</b>

## WI off-reservation bear harvest by tribal registration station

(final figures)

Registration Station	# bear harvested
Bad River	4
Lac Courte Oreilles	0
Lac du Flambeau	2
Mole Lake	6
Red Cliff	9
St. Croix	5
Mille Lacs	0
Fond du Lac	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>

# Ceded territory news briefs

## Nicolet Minerals' parent company bought

Rio Algom Limited, Nicolet Minerals' parent company has been bought by Billiton, a mining company based in the United Kingdom. Billiton is one of the world's primary producers of aluminum, and also produces significant amounts of nickel and cobalt. It has operations in Brazil, Colombia, South Africa, Australia, Canada and Suriname and employs about 33,000 people. Billiton will likely be evaluating Rio Algom's assets over the next few months, including assets related to the Crandon mine project.

## Agencies seek consistency in fish aging techniques

GLIFWC's Great Lakes fisheries staff attended a workshop on aging Lake Superior fish this fall. The workshop was designed to develop a guide to aging Lake Superior fish in order to standardize aging techniques used by tribal, state, and federal agencies.

Sponsored by the Lake Superior Technical Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, participants included tribal, state, and federal technical personnel who presented and discussed various techniques currently used to age fish.

Aging is an important component of Statistical Catch at Age (SCAA) models used to describe fish populations in Lake Superior; and therefore, consistency in aging over time by the various agencies is important.

## Hearings scheduled on proposed power line

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission's (PSC) final Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed 250-mile power line through Wisconsin is complete and currently under review. A series of public hearings have been scheduled throughout the state, with a technical hearing at the PSC in Madison on January 3, 2001.

Public hearings scheduled in the ceded territory will be held at both 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- Nov. 28 — Rhinelander, Holiday Inn
- Nov. 29 — Tomahawk, Tomahawk Elementary School Auditorium
- Dec. 1 — Wausau, Ramada Conference Center
- Dec. 4 — Superior, The Billings Park Club
- Dec. 6 — Hayward, Lac Courte Oreilles Convention Center
- Dec. 7 — Ladysmith, Veterans Memorial Association

## Senate bill aimed at Great Lakes

Governors of the eight Great Lakes states would retain authority to set rules for withdrawing water from the lakes under a bill that has cleared the U.S. Senate. The provision is part of the Water Resources Development Act. It now goes to the House.

A version of the water law enacted in 1986 authorized the governors to prevent the diverting of water from the lakes to points inside the United States. The Senate provision makes clear the governors' authority covers proposed diversions to other countries as well.

# First hunt

(Continued from page 1)

Later in the day both teams decided to walk in the woods, and scout around for a prey that didn't seem inclined to walk near the waiting hunters.

It was mid-afternoon, when Ryan spotted a deer about forty yards away as they were walking down a forest road.

"Is it a buck or doe?" Dad softly asked, peering into the woods for a glimpse of the critter he had not yet seen.

"A doe," Ryan whispered.

"Shoot it," was the response.

Ryan raised his shotgun. The doe remained still. He took aim, targeting a broadside shot at the lungs. His shot shattered the silence. Without a backward look, the doe turned and fled, giving the hunters only a quick glimpse of a quickly vanishing white tail.

Such are the ways of hunting—patience—sudden opportunity—escape—sometimes a kill.

Uncle and Luke sighted no deer that afternoon. They walked the woods for a spell, Uncle acquainting Luke with the area, noting various landmarks,

so Luke could begin to understand his way in the woods. That's what it's all about, after all, helping a young man find his way.

They returned to the stand to quietly wait again, but the forest seemed empty. Uncle had to nudge Luke, whose eyelids drooped as he sat propped in the stand. It had been an early morning start, and it's not to say that many an experienced hunter hasn't had a doze in the woods.

The hunters headed for home late afternoon, empty-handed, but two boys had learned a lot in one day—practical tips about traversing the woods, gun-handling, patience, watchfulness, solitude and silence and, maybe something more about Dad and Uncle.

In twelve-year old terms, not being given to elaboration, "It was fun. Maybe we'll go out again this weekend."

Someday soon, they'll be out again. It will never again be the first hunt, but one these times, it will be the first kill.

(Luke is the son of Karen and Richard DePerry, Red Cliff and Ryan is the son of Judy and Jon Gilbert, Ashland.)

# Aabanaabam Conference

## GLIFWC and friends look back

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Lac Courte Oreilles, Wis.—Aabanaabam means to “turn and look back” in Ojibwa. It signifies a time to stop the perpetual forward motion, pause, and take a look back at the past from which we have emerged. As such, GLIFWC’s Aabanaabam Conference this fall was a brief hiatus, a time-out to recall, examine, and share memories of the struggles from which current exercise and management of off-reservation treaty rights were born.

Intended as an opportunity to tap into the collective memory held in the minds and hearts of numerous individuals involved in the affirmation and exercise of treaty rights, the conference provided a forum to record experiences not already part of the written record—stories of individual experiences.

The conference also served, in part, as a homecoming and as an opportunity to look back at the tremendous strides made over the past sixteen years—strides made as a collective and unified endeavor by GLIFWC’s member tribes, individual tribal members and leaders, GLIFWC staff, and diverse treaty supporters.

A continually tended, spiritual fire, lit a day prior to the beginning of the Aabanaabam Conference, burned throughout the three-day conference at the Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Convention Center, September 20-22. The fire was tended by Buck Barber, Rusty Barber, Rick Barber, and Tom Beaudin, all from LCO.

Adjacent to the fire, camp cooks, Sharon Nelis and Sirella Ford, kept a steaming pot of venison stew and coffee brewing over a cook fire. Occasionally, the smell of fresh fry bread enticed folks to the outdoor cook tent, which offered a place of more traditional food, hospitality, casual conversation, and storytelling.

LCO and the Ojibways of Onigaming drum songs opened and closed each day, as did prayers provided by Tobasonakwut, Ojibways of Onigaming; Eddie Benton-Benai, LCO, and Eugene Begay, LCO.

An open mike session, moderated by Patty Leow, UW-Madison and former newscaster, opened the story-telling sessions. Story-telling ran well into the evening of September 20th and resumed the morning of September 21st. Storytellers’ names were entered into a drawing for prizes, including a 1999 limited edition Pendelton blanket, Wiigwasijiimaan, based on Earl Nyholm’s birch bark canoe built on Madeline Island in 1997.

Emmanuel (Doc) Poler, Mole Lake, won the blanket on a lucky draw. Doc had shared humorous stories from his off-reservation spearfishing adventures.

Stories ranged from those about spiritual support of treaty rights, to acts of courage resulting in treaty litigation. They ranged from humorous to tragic and covered times prior to GLIFWC, the initial formation of GLIFWC, and a spectrum of events that followed. Stories were also shared by Canadian visitors of hardships endured by tribal members being deprived of treaty-reserved rights in Ontario.

Following the open-mike session, talking circles were formed, each with a specific topic area. Stories continued within the circles, again drawing out the many experiences encountered in asserting court-affirmed treaty rights and developing tribal, self-regulatory capacities in off-reservation resource management.

Circle groups focused environmental issues, off-reservation enforcement, harvest and management of the treaty fishery, the legal and political front, and wildlife and wild plant harvest and management.

A memory-jogging video, incorporating scenes from landings, such as Butternut Lake, brought back the sights and sounds of many Wisconsin spring spearfishing seasons—a flashback to times past which left the room silent for minutes after it was over.

For many, it brought back vivid memories of the bitter and dangerous social struggle endured between 1985–1991 as tribal members exercised treaty rights under extreme duress. For more recent GLIFWC staff, it brought a shocking insight



Tobasonakwut, spiritual leader, Ojibways of Onigaming, Ontario, provided an opening prayer for the Aabanaabam Conference on September 20th at the Lac Courte Oreilles Convention Center.

into the struggles tribal members and GLIFWC staff encountered during those years. As one staff member commented, “That video should be mandatory viewing for every new GLIFWC staff member!”

### GLIFWC recognizes supporters, staff

The Aabanaabam Conference also gave an opportunity for GLIFWC to recognize some folks who have worked quietly side-by-side with GLIFWC over the years and shown outstanding support to GLIFWC and Ojibwe treaty rights.

Although many could qualify, Fred Ackley and Fran Van Zile from Mole Lake, and Leo LeFemier, from Red Cliff, were recognized as individuals “who have always been there for GLIFWC when they are needed” since GLIFWC was formed. Special mention was made of their assistance in Washington, D.C. in 1998 when many tribal representatives gathered for the Supreme Court hearing on the Mille Lacs Treaty case.

Robert Jackson, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Lakes Region biologist, was also recognized for his active and multi-faceted support of GLIFWC, tribal natural resource management programs, and public education initiatives.

Appreciation was shown to several GLIFWC staff members working steadfastly “behind the scene” in supportive roles. Recognized were Annette Crowe, accountant; Rick Madsen, data analyst; Kim Campy, Enforcement administrative assistant; Gerry DePerry, GLIFWC deputy administrator; Mike Plucinski, Great Lakes fishery technician; Ken Rusk, LCO warden; John Mojica, Mille Lacs inland fisheries technician; and Lynn Plucinski and Sue Erickson, GLIFWC public information office.



Lac Courte Oreilles Vice-Chairman Mic Isham welcomes GLIFWC and conference participants to Lac Courte Oreilles.



The 1999 limited edition Pendelton blanket, Wiigwasijiimaan, based on Earl Nyholm’s birch bark canoe built on Madeline Island in 1997 was won by Emmanuel (Doc) Poler, Mole Lake. Doc had shared humorous stories from his off-reservation spearfishing adventures. Above, Gerry DePerry, GLIFWC deputy administrator, presents the blanket to Doc Poler.

# Some untold stories shared during Aabanaabam Conference

Masinaigan shares one of the many stories related at the Aabanaabam Conference. This story was told by Henry Buffalo, Jr., GLIFWC's first executive administrator. Buffalo was also instrumental in the formation of GLIFWC's forerunner, the Great Lakes Indian Fisheries Commission, in 1982.

## The power of silence

The story sort of began for me basically with a couple of individuals, my dad, Henry Buffalo, Sr., and Dick Gurnoe, and it was part of the story with respect to the coming together of the tribes to create an organization that would become a voice for tribal governments dealing with resource areas. (It) really began with them attending, never saying anything, but attending, meetings of an organization that was called the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. And this organization was an international organization that was made up of the United States and Canada, and on its board it had representatives from all the state governments and the federal governments of both countries. This organization was very important to many of the tribes in the Great Lakes because it was an organization making decisions about the resources that many of the tribes had depended upon historically.

And I often remember sitting down and hearing from my dad and Dick Gurnoe and others that they had begun to attend these meetings. They did not have the

professionals assisting them [biologists, etc.] because this was a very technical kind of organization. All the state governments had their professionals that were part of it, and they were all talking about their various policies and how they were going to implement the policies that were going to impact these resources.

And so for many, many years I heard from my dad and Dick Gurnoe and others that there is an organization making decisions about the resources that belong to us because of these treaties and that we need to find some way, some way better than simply Dick and dad sort of showing up and sitting down and just keeping an eye on them and bringing materials back from these meetings. But more importantly, [we needed] a recognized way to have a say in the decisions that were made about these resources.

At the time, we had examples already in place of Indian fish commissions, and those were up in the Northwest and the Pacific Northwest and the Columbia River. So, I began contacting and discussing their histories with them to determine exactly what it was that we would need to do to duplicate that. And it did all come together in June 1982 when the chairman of Red Cliff at that time, Tommy Joe Gordon; chairmen from the Minnesota tribes, Grand Portage, Jim Hendrickson and from Fond du Lac it was Bill Houle and from Bad River Vern Stone. We had Fred Dakota from Keweenaw Bay and Wade Teeple from Bay Mills. It was those tribes who came together in June of 1982 to create the Great Lakes Indian Fisheries Commission.

In 1982 we were invited to participate in the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, which was the US/Canada commission. About two years after we were participating with them, the US Secretariat was a fellow by the name of Carlos Fetterolf and Carlos Fetterolf was visiting with me one day and he had been in this position for a long time. We had, of course, been talking with each other for a couple of years. He felt very comfortable with me and our friendship and where our relationship was, so he pulled me over one day asked me how my dad was doing. Unfortunately, around that time my dad had just passed away, and I informed him of that. He must have been feeling a little bad about that, but then he told me a story.

He said you know that for years and years and years your father and Dick Gurnoe used to come to these meetings, and he said the very first time they came to these meetings the whole place was "abuzz." He said that they knew that the fishing disputes that were going on in the United States were up in the Northwest. They knew of the fishing disputes that were going on in the state of Michigan over the 1836 Treaty, and so this gave people some concern as to why it is that these two Indians were showing up at their meetings.

He said you know that one of the most amazing things that he observed over this time is that even though they were there, they never said a word. He said that my dad would come down in front in the morning sessions and sort of take this place and just listen and look. Then in the afternoons, he would go in the back and Dick Gurnoe would come down in front and just sort of watch over and observe these people and what they are talking about and how they make their decisions with regard to the resources in the Great Lakes.

He said, "You know their presence was felt." Every state official was talking about the fact that these two people were there, and they were absolutely, totally curious as to what it was that they wanted, but neither Dick nor my dad ever told them what it was they wanted.

I think part of the reason was, they told me later, that they had no idea what the heck this organization did, but they thought it was important and they thought it was important enough to spend what little money they had at Red Cliff to continue to attend these sessions.

So we have an example there of how powerful silence can be and how powerful these leaders and how much an impact these leaders can have without saying anything. I think what was important, at least from my perspective, is that they, indeed, did sort of pave the road for the work that I was involved in later in creating the technical capability to truly participate within this organization. They paved the way, they smoothed over the bumps, and they made it easy. I still can't figure out how they did all that without really saying a hell of a lot.



Henry Buffalo, Jr., GLIFWC's first executive administrator.



The talking circle on environmental issues chose to take the group outside and enjoy the sunny, fall afternoon.



Visiting from Ontario, Canada, Joseph Big George, Ojibways of Onigaming, shared some words before his drum group provided a song at the opening of the conference.



# Mitigonahbay: Spirit of the wood

## A gift from the South

Mitigonahbay (spirit of the wood) came to GLIFWC at the conclusion of the Aabanaabam Conference on Friday, Sept. 22, arriving unexpectedly during closing ceremonies. Negaunegabo (Eugene Begay), a spiritual person from Lac Courte Oreilles, passed Mitigonahbay to GLIFWC, telling all present that Mitigonahbay represents the spirits in the trees and the bones of our ancestors.

To help understand this gift, Begay explained, "Those spirits have been there a lot longer than any humans living today. They see and know things from a long time ago, times preceding today. If you want to know what happened in the past, before the time of the oldest person alive today, talk to the spirits in the trees."

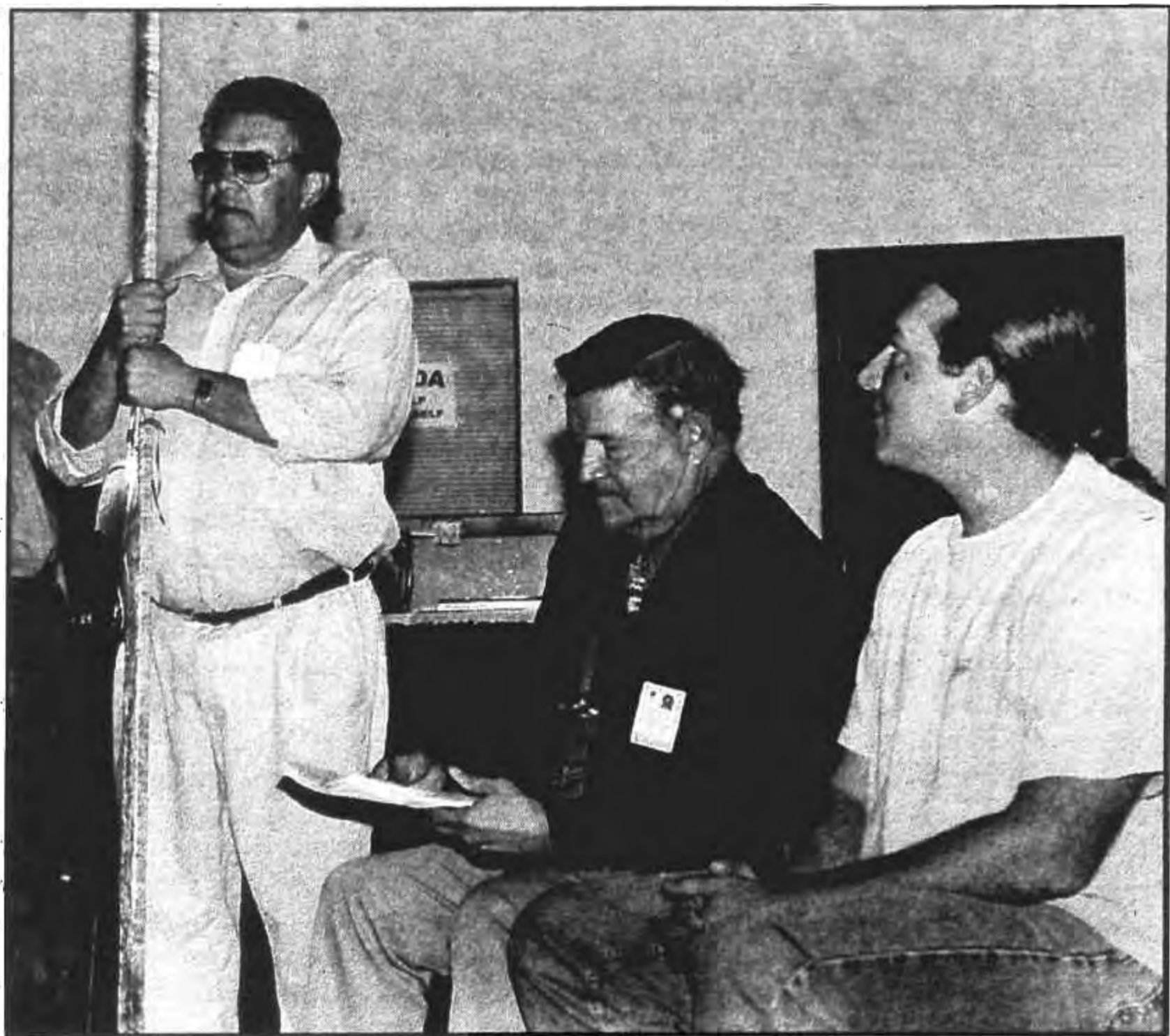
Begay received Mitigonahbay from an Anishinaabe person, who received it from a South American aboriginal. The aboriginal's people also recognize and respect the wood spirits. Begay reminded GLIFWC that he was only the messenger carrying Mitigonahbay, a gift from the spirits, and that Mitigonahbay should be kept visible in the office and taken to important meetings.

"The presence of that Spirit will be there all the time, taking care of the organization and people that work here," Begay said.

Mitigonahbay is the fourth spiritual gift to GLIFWC over the years, each representing one of the Four Directions. The first was the Treaty Staff which came from the West, carried from Pipestone, Minnesota to the Lac du Flambeau reservation. This was the staff the Waabanong runners carried to Washington D.C. in 1998. Next GLIFWC received a pipe, which came from the North. As part of the Waabanong Run to the East, a runner's pipe came to GLIFWC, and now Mitigonahbay has arrived from the South.

And so, the Aabanaabam Conference, GLIFWC's time of reflection, concluded with a great spiritual gift arriving to accompany the organization into the future.

**Conference articles by: Sue Erickson, Staff Writer**  
**Conference photos by: Charlie Otto Rasmussen & Jim St. Arnold**



*Mike and Fred Tribble, LCO, joined conference participants during the closing circle on September 22. LCO challenged the State's citation against the Tribble brothers for ice fishing violations, giving birth to the case which led to the Voigt Decision in Wisconsin. Fred Tribble holds Mitigonahbay while he speaks. Next to Fred are his brother Mike Tribble and Mic Isham, LCO vice chairman.*



*Larry Deragon, Red Cliff, takes the mike during a talking circle on wildlife and plant management issues. Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC wildlife biologist, was one of the talking circle's leaders.*



*Jim Zorn, GLIFWC policy analyst, hands Bob Jackson, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Midwest Regional Office biologist, a GLIFWC jacket in appreciation for his long term support of GLIFWC's programs.*



*Sirella Ford, Sharon Nelis and Delores Martin, GLIFWC staff, share a laugh in the cook tent where Sirella served hot fry bread to accompany Sharon's delicious venison stew during the Aabanaabam Conference.*



*Joe Dan Rose and Jim Zorn present GLIFWC Accountant Annette Crowe with a birch bark basket, recognizing her years of work "behind the scenes" at GLIFWC.*

# Conference looks at indicators to assess health of Great Lakes ecosystem

By Ann McCammon Soltis  
GLIFWC policy analyst

**Hamilton, Ont.**—The fourth biennial State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) was held on October 17-19 in Hamilton, Ontario. The focus of SOLEC 2000 was "Implementing Indicators."

A suite of indicators was proposed and debated at SOLEC 98; this was the first opportunity for participants to report on what the indicators are telling us about the state of the Great Lakes.

SOLEC participants reported on 31 indicators covering a wide spectrum of the ecosystem, from forest fragmentation, to fish contaminants, to non-native species. The indicators covered three different scales—the basin-wide scale, individual lake scale and the local scale. A document describing each of the indicators is available, by contacting Ann McCammon Soltis at the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

Five presentations during the second day of the conference highlighted actions on the local scale. One of those

presentations was given by GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist Peter David. David addressed about 500 conference participants in a speech describing the importance of manoomin (wild rice) to GLIFWC's member tribes, GLIFWC's wild rice program, and the potential of wild rice as an environmental indicator.

"The speech seemed to be very well received," noted GLIFWC Biological Services Director Neil Kmiecik, "and it looks like there is an interest in further evaluating whether wild rice would be a good indicator of ecosystem and wetland health. Whether or not

wild rice is added to the indicator list, it will remain an important part of GLIFWC's resource management program."

In the afternoon, approximately 25 people attended a breakout session intended to provide a more in-depth look at wild rice. David described GLIFWC's work on wild rice and provided additional detail for interested individuals.

"Participants in the breakout session were interested in a variety of issues," says David. "These include re-establishing wild rice in other parts of the Great Lakes basin, the conditions under which rice seeding is most likely to be successful, and identifying research needs."

Also during SOLEC 2000, GLIFWC Administration for Native Americans Program Director Jim St. Arnold addressed a crowded breakout session on Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK), also known as Naturalized Knowledge Systems. Three speakers discussed how specific ecological projects and programs have used TEK.

The EAGLE project, which looks at the effects of environmental contamination on native communities in the eastern Great Lakes, blends western science with TEK in order to achieve a holistic approach to health.

A project at Walpole Island used TEK to identify the locations of traditional hunting and gathering areas. Finally, St. Arnold spoke about the use of TEK in GLIFWC's work and in the court cases that reestablished treaty reserved rights in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The session on TEK was very well attended, indicating a sincere interest by SOLEC organizers in exploring ways to incorporate TEK into the SOLEC indicator process.

## GLIFWC fisheries crew check historic spawning reefs for return of wild lake trout

By Sue Erickson  
Staff Writer

**Keweenaw's North Shore, Mich.**—Blessed by the temperate fall weather, the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission's (GLIFWC) fisheries crew spent a productive month performing lake trout assessments in the Michigan waters of Lake Superior, from the Michigan/Wisconsin border to Marquette, Michigan.

While assessments are not yet complete, Great Lakes Fisheries Section Leader Bill Mattes has not observed any notable changes in the lake trout population. However, he was pleased to see a whoppin' 26 1/2 lb., 42" lake trout in one of the assessment nets set on the West North Entry reef, which lies in the heart of heavily fished management unit, MI-3.

The crew has been setting nets on several reefs where spawning lake trout were fished before the decline of the species. Since many Lake Superior lake

trout populations are now considered to be rehabilitated, fishery managers are checking for the return of wild fish to old spawning sites.

Reefs at Little Girls Point, West North Entry, and Manitou Island have not been checked since the '70s, Mattes says. GLIFWC's crew found low numbers of native lake trout at the reefs this fall.

The crew sets 2,250 feet of graded, large mesh gill net at each reef. The net is designed to capture a sampling of various fish sizes, giving fishery managers a broader picture of the spawning population at each location.

The GLIFWC crew also set nets at Union Bay, Little Grand Marais and Eagle River Shoal reefs, which were last checked in the late '90s. The picture at those reefs looks positive, Mattes said, with both native and hatchery lake trout using the reefs.

Other sites for assessment nets will include Eagle Harbor, which has not been looked at since the early '90s, and Buffalo and Big Bay reefs, which

GLIFWC crews have been watching for the past twelve years.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MIDNR) is working cooperatively with the lake trout assessments this fall. GLIFWC provided tags to the MIDNR to tag lake trout captured on the Presque Isle reef near Marquette. The goal is to tag 500 fish at that site and then track where they are caught over the non-spawning season.

In addition to population estimates and tracking movement, GLIFWC is performing fecundity studies this fall, which is checking the lake trout females for egg numbers. This year the number of eggs per female has ranged between 2,100-6,670, Mattes says.

Data collected during fall assessments is analyzed, interpreted annually, and shared with the MIDNR and GLIFWC's Lakes Committee tribes.

Mattes and Mike Plucinski, Great Lakes fishery technician, were assisted during fall assessments by Ed Leoso, Bad River Natural Resources Department, and Rustene Sheppard.

# Thousands of sturgeon fingerlings start new life in the Bad River

By Sue Erickson  
Staff Writer

**Odanah, Wis.**—Fishery managers from the Red Cliff and Bad River Tribal Hatcheries released approximately 2,000 four-to-seven inch lake sturgeon fingerlings into the Bad River this fall.

It didn't take long for the little, snake-like creatures, their destinies unknown, to disperse in their river home once released from the hatchery truck.

Replete with microscopic, coded wire tags, the tiny sturgeon represented a culmination of an experimental stocking project involving tribal, state and federal cooperators.

The coded tags, injected into the fingerlings with assistance from staff at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, will help fishery biologists determine the rate of survival based on the number of tagged fish recaptured in subsequent years.

In July 300 two-to-four inch fingerlings were released and in early September, 600 four-to-six inch fingerlings were released by the Bad River Hatchery.



Red Cliff hatchery manager, Greg Fisher, displays two fingerling sturgeon before releasing them into the Bad River. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Fall assessments have captured a total of five sturgeon captured, according to Bad River Tribal Biologist Rick Huber. Two are from the Bad River Hatchery; one is from the Red Cliff Fish Hatchery; and two were naturally-reproduced fish.

It was this spring that Bad River, Red Cliff and GLIFWC fisheries staff joined forces to collect eggs from adult spawning lake sturgeon in the Bad River, one of two Lake Superior tributaries in U.S. waters remaining with naturally-reproducing lake sturgeon populations.

The fertilized eggs were hatched at the Bad River and Red Cliff hatcheries and reared. This spring, Red Cliff Hatchery hatched and released about 13,000 fry and the Bad River Hatchery released about 10,000 fry near the lower Bad River falls. However, both hatcheries reared some fry to fingerling size for later stocking, because fingerlings have a better survival rate.

The lake sturgeon stocking effort responds to a growing concern over the decline of lake sturgeon in Lake Superior. Development, such as dams, impede lake sturgeon from reaching spawning beds in some river systems, contributing to several factors causing the decline of this prehistoric fish.

Next spring, fishery managers hope, once again, to collect eggs and continue stocking. Its ultimate success will only be known through future lake sturgeon population assessments.

According to Henry Quinlan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the project is based on the Lake Superior Lake Sturgeon Committee's rehabilitation plan. One component of the plan is to find a source for lake sturgeon eggs to be used for stocking. (See Sturgeon stocking, page 15)

# 1836 tribes, Michigan negotiate new Great Lakes fishing agreement

By Jennifer Dale, for Masinaigan

**Brimley, Mich.**—The 2000 Consent Decree, under which 1836 tribes will regulate their treaty fishery, went into effect Sept. 7. After two years of negotiations, the historic document was signed by seven governments: Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the United States and the state of Michigan.

The new agreement is the product of changes that occurred over the past 15 years. Since 1985, the fishery and its users changed significantly. Two new 1836 tribes, Little Traverse Bay Band and Little River Band, gained federal recognition. The tribes developed an effective tribal system of regulation, conservation and enforcement, becoming involved in every aspect of the fishery. Fish populations changed and moved over time. As 2000 approached, the tribes felt entitled to share the massive areas that had been restricted to state-licensed fishers.

The 1985 Consent Decree took a zonal approach to user allocations. In the 2000 Decree, the zonal approach was dropped. The lakes are still placed on a grid system, but management will be accomplished by fish species.

At the heart of the decree is the rehabilitation of lake trout. Due to a number of factors, biologists have never been able to achieve their target mortality rate for lake trout. Biologists think that by reducing those factors affecting mortality—such as fishing and sea lamprey predation—natural reproduction in Lakes Huron and Michigan could be achieved.

To that end, the new agreement reclassifies deferred areas as primary rehabilitation zones. These zones are subject to target mortality rates in order to control historical spawning sites and lamprey predation, increase lake trout abundance, and provide more fish for all users.

Total allowable catches (TACs) will be calculated and used to achieve target mortality rates. Under the new agreement, the size limit for sport fishers is increased, while some tribal fishers will convert from gill nets to trap nets.

This move also allows expansion of small boat gill net fisheries for the new tribes, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (Manistee area) and Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (Petoskey area), both recognized in 1995.

A major breakthrough in the difficult seven-sovereign negotiation was the state commercial fishers' offer to sell their trap net fishery to the state. The trap net fishery would be furnished to tribal fishers to convert from gill net gear to trap net gear, which pleased the state a great deal. Approximately 14 million feet of gill net from Lakes Michigan and Huron will convert to trap net by 2003.

The 1836 treaty ceded fishery is split 50-50 between the tribes and the state; each will develop management plans for areas where each has exclusive fishing

## White River lake sturgeon study funded

By Sue Erickson  
Staff Writer

**Odanah, Wis.**—In spring 2001, resource managers will be monitoring the abundance of lake sturgeon in the White River. This cooperative study is funded through a \$15,000 grant to the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Management Program.

This project was conceived by the Aquatic Community Committee of Lake Superior's Binational Program and the Lake Superior Technical Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

GLIFWC staff will be working with the Bad River Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the project.

Lake sturgeon will be captured with large mesh gill nets and dip nets

and checked for PIT, floy and monel tags, using a scanner much like those at the grocery counter to record PIT tag numbers.

Biological information will be recorded on the captured fish, including length, weight and girth, and locations of capture and recapture will be referenced for the development of GIS maps and models in the future.

Data collected will be compiled, analyzed and shared with the Aquatic Community Committee of Lake Superior's Binational Program and the Lake Superior Technical Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Lake sturgeon are classified as a "Species of Special Concern" by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and also classified as "Threatened" in Michigan.

In order to develop and implement plans to protect and rehabilitate lake sturgeon more information on their numbers and habitat is required.

## Sturgeon stocking

(Continued from page 14)

Cooperators in the Bad River lake sturgeon stocking project include; the Bad River and Red Cliff tribes, GLIFWC, the USFWS Office of Fisheries Assistance, Ashland; the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, and the Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office.



Bay Mills Indian Community Chairman Jeff Parker signs the 2000 Consent Decree at a ceremony near Brimley, Michigan on August 7. Also pictured (left to right): Bay Mills Attorney Kathryn Tierney, mediator John Bickerman, and Judge Richard Enslen, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. (Photo by Bucko Teeple.)

territories. This also means that more assessments may have to be conducted in order to effectively manage the resource.

To oversee the treaty fishery, the 2000 Consent Decree names an Executive Council with biological and law enforcement standing committees. The Technical Fishery Committee is a consensus committee with more structure and well-defined roles than its predecessor, the Technical Fishery Review Committee. The law enforcement committees remain the same, but will also be responsible for organizing more group patrols.

A new entity, the Citizen Advisory Committee, was established to provide insight and feedback on problems, issues, and concerns related to the agreement.

A mutual development, coordinated workplan, minimum staffing level commitment, and a toll-free phone line for complaints, paid for by tribes and staffed by MDNR, were also mandated by the new Decree.

The Consent Decree was signed August 7, 2000 in a special ceremony atop a Bay Mills Indian Community bluff overlooking Lake Superior.

Two years ago, the parties began negotiating a new agreement, with mediator John Bickerman coming onboard the last year.

Bickerman said at the ceremony that he found the experience "extraordinary." Bickerman added that the most important consequence of the negotiations is the relationships parties built through the process.

Negotiators avoided a court battle by committing to weekly negotiation sessions. The 1985 Consent Decree expired in May, but the parties were able to agree to fishing under status quo regulations through the 2000 fishing season and obtained an extension from the Court.

"An interesting dynamic occurred," said Bickerman. "The core group decided not to let negotiations fail."

At the signing ceremony, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Enslen threw away his prepared speech and addressed the assembly from his heart. He characterized the new Consent Decree as far different from the last, at once more positive and less negative by offering opportunities to all and requiring continued cooperation.

He both advocated for and explained his decision to employ alternate dispute resolution, where parties resolve conflict:

"People build trust. They grow friends on the other side of the table," he said. "Negotiations can be so lengthy, emotional, and difficult. There's a sense of relief when it is over. There's no false sense all the problems will disappear. The only one who can resolve dispute is you."

(Editor's note: Jennifer Dale is the Editor of the Bay Mills News, Brimley, Michigan.)

### Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority replaces COTFMA

The Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) gathers all 1836 treaty fishing tribes under its wings and takes on a larger scope in regulation. Two new committees have been established under CORA: the Great Lakes Resource Committee (GLRC) and the Inland Lands and Waters Resources Committee.

The GLRC serves as the inter-tribal management body for the treaty fishery in 1836 treaty waters, invested with broad powers to carry out its charge and the Inland Lands and Waters Resources Committee oversees inland resources and habitat in the 1836 treaty-ceded area.

# Lamprey symposium highlights pheromone as control measure

By Jennifer Dale  
for Masinaigan

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.—Exciting new pheromone research presented at a recent symposium may give fishery managers the edge they need to control sea lamprey in the Great Lakes.

SLIS II—the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Sea Lamprey International Symposium—was held Aug. 13-18 in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. and Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. Those involved in lamprey control throughout the Great lakes attended, along with specialists from as far away as Australia.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Biologist Gary Klar, head of

the Sea Lamprey Control Program, helped organize the event. According to Klar, the event summarized what has happened since SLIS I in 1979 looked at current and future management.

Pheromone research is “probably the newest piece of science being worked on right now,” said Klar.

Scientists presenting their research on pheromones included Dr. Weiming Li, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, and Dr. Peter Sorensen, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at the University of Minnesota. The group also looked at technological advances in barriers, assessments and lampricides, he said.

Numerous working sessions were held during the weeklong symposium.

Klar estimated that the 18 oral presentations with supporting articles added up to 50 to 60 works to be published in a special volume of the *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Science*.

Klar, who hopes the publication will go to press next summer, thinks the volume will set the tone for lamprey control over the next 20 years.

Mark Ebener, fishery biologist at Inter-Tribal Fishery Assessment Program, has been deeply involved with sea lamprey control for the past 15 years.

He is co-authoring articles for the upcoming volume, evaluating the consistency of individual observers of sea lamprey wounding on lake trout, and estimating the number of lake trout deaths by sea lamprey in the Great Lakes basin. He will also present a 20-year case history of Lake Huron.

“COTFMA has always been a strong supporter of the program,” said Ebener, referring to the Chippewa Ottawa Treaty Fishery Resource Authority.

Ebener said the symposium “provided a good overview of where the program is at the turn of the century and provides future direction of sea lamprey control.”

Ebener pointed to Lake Huron as a trouble spot where sea lamprey control

is still a struggle due to the St. Marys River, a major spawning site for the invasive exotic. He said that control in the other Great Lakes is “well on its way.”

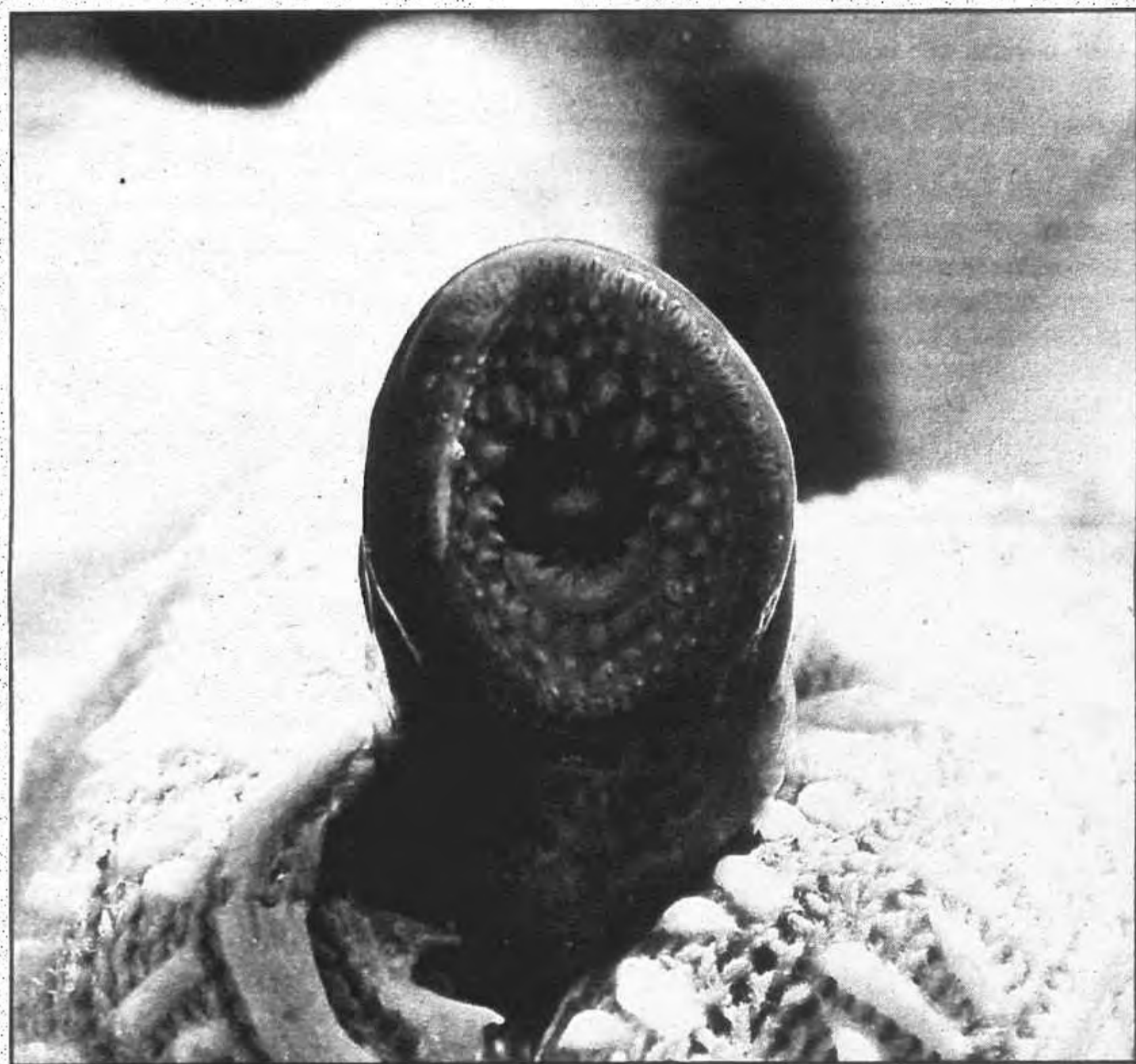
The work presented on pheromones was “groundbreaking, some of the most interesting work at the conference,” he said. “It has potential use as part of a whole integrated package of sea lamprey control.”

There are several areas for possible use. According to Ebener, larval sea lamprey emit bile acids that adults sense and use as spawning location cues when they return to streams to spawn. Klar said the adults could be directed to these spawning areas for control, or directed away to areas where they are not able to reproduce.

Males emit pheromones in order to attract females. Pheromones could be used to direct adults where they can be controlled, said Ebener, or, as suggested by Klar, to disrupt reproduction.

Sterile males have been used in the past to disrupt reproduction. It’s possible that male pheromones could also be used in the development of a “super sterile male” that could out-compete normal males.

(Editor’s note: Jennifer Dale is the Editor of Bay Mills News, Brimley, Michigan.)



Sea lamprey attach to fish with a sucking disk and horny teeth, leaving huge scars and killing many. (Staff photo)

## Zebra mussel found in Prescott area of the lower St. Croix River

St. Paul, Minn.—The St. Croix River Zebra Mussel Task Force was disappointed to find zebra mussel reproducing in the lower St. Croix River from Bayport to Prescott, Wisconsin.

The Task Force completed a set of dives this summer, and results from sample analysis indicate adult zebra mussels have established themselves in the river and reproduced for the first time.

Unfortunately, the colonization of zebra mussels threatens native mussels in the lower St. Croix, particularly the Higgin’s eye pearly mussel and winged mapleleaf mussel, both federally endangered species.

“We were surprised the distribution of young-of-the-year zebra mussels is so widespread,” said Jay Rendall, Exotic Species Program coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). “And the discovery is really disappointing because the

St. Croix is such a unique resource and considerable effort has been invested to avoid this situation.”

Preventative measures such as boating restrictions have been initiated and will continue. Other preventive options are being considered.

The St. Croix River Zebra Mussel Task Force represents an interagency effort to prevent the spread of the non-native mussel in the river system.

Task Force members include: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, MDNR, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission, St. Croix Marina Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Minnesota Sea Grant.

(Information excerpted from a St. Croix River Zebra Mussel Task Force news release, August 23, 2000.)

## An “alarming” discovery for ruffe

Duluth, Minn.—Eurasian ruffe release a potent pheromone when they are injured that repels other ruffe and could be useful in controlling this exotic fish. University of Minnesota Sea Grant researcher Peter Sorensen and his colleagues reported their findings in the latest issue of the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*.

They found that damaged ruffe skin emits an odor, or alarm pheromone, repugnant to other ruffe that dramatically suppresses their swimming and feeding activities.

“In large laboratory tanks, ruffe avoid the alarm pheromone upon contact,” said Sorensen, professor of fisheries and wildlife at the University of Minnesota. “Clearly, this cue has potential for managing ruffe. The key remaining question is how effective it will be in the large open spaces of the lake,” he said.

Peter Maniak, Ryan Lossing, and Sorensen, all with the University of Minnesota, have been studying pheromones—chemical signals that pass between organisms of the same species and are detected by an animal’s sense of smell.

Fish commonly use pheromones to coordinate activities, such as mating and schooling, in waters that are often turbid, vast, and relatively featureless. Alarm pheromones signal the presence of potential danger.

“To the best of my knowledge, no one is actively managing ruffe right now,” said Sorensen. “They have given up for lack of ideas or funding.” Since the alarm pheromone is non-toxic, specific, and easy to collect and apply, Sorensen hopes it will re-inspire efforts to manage ruffe.

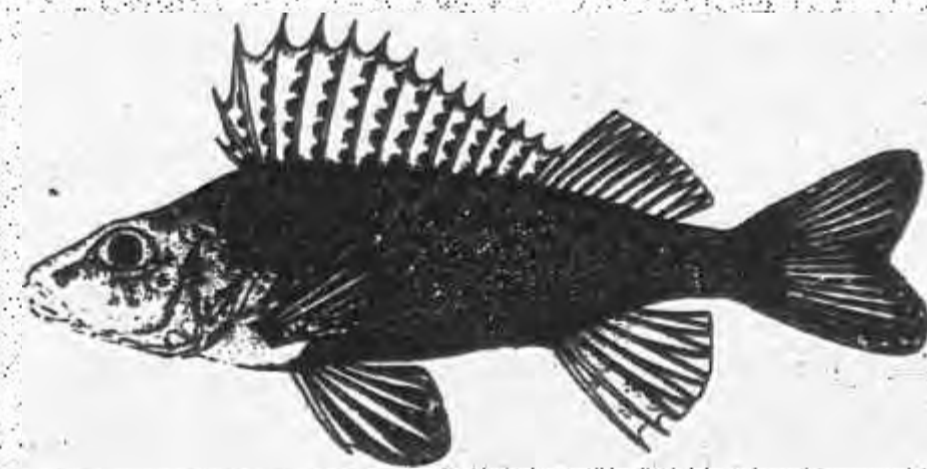
Authorities in Alpena, Michigan, have approached Sorensen about using the alarm pheromone to exclude ruffe from areas where they are not wanted, such as docks where ships take on ballast water. Sorensen has also identified a ruffe sexual attractant that might be used in conjunction with the alarm pheromone.

The perch-like Eurasian ruffe became part of the fauna in the Duluth-Superior harbor in the early 1980’s. Presumably, they crossed the Atlantic Ocean as accidental passengers in the ballast tanks of cargo ships.

Within a decade of their detection, Eurasian ruffe became the most abundant fish trawled from the bottom of the harbor. Their impact on native aquatic species remains unclear but is under investigation.

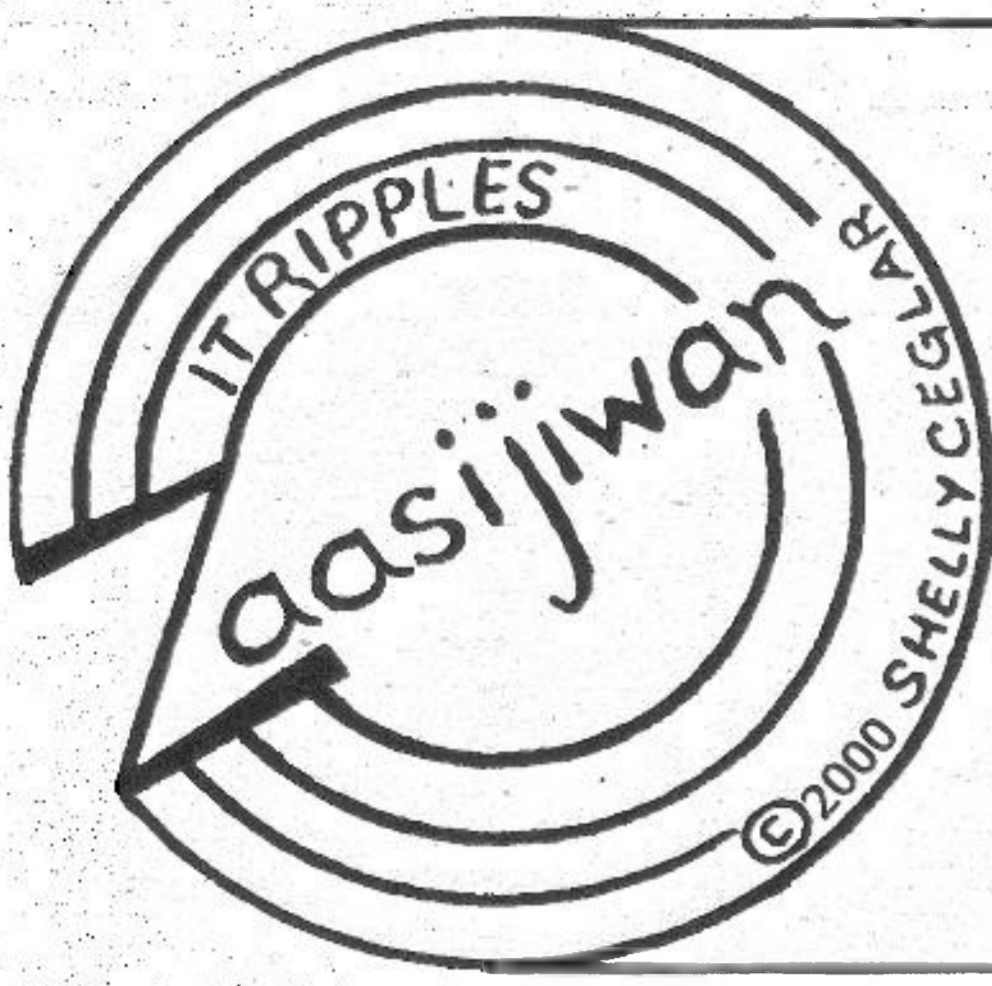
Currently, ruffe have spread along Lake Superior’s south shore to the Fire Steel River, east of Ontonagan, Michigan; to several harbors along the north shore to Thunder Bay, Ontario; and to Alpena, Mich., on Lake Huron.

For more information contact Minnesota Sea Grant at (218) 726-6191 or seagr@d.umn.edu



River ruffe.





# Biboon — It is Winter

Biboon. Biboong, aaniin waa-ezhichigeyeg? Wii-shooshkwaagime, nindaanis. Niwii-aagimose. Wii-shooshkwaada'e, ningozis. Wii-akwa'waa, nindede. Mewinzha, gii-pimidaabiiba'igo, nimishoomis. Da-aadizookewag, ingiw aadizookewiniwag.

(It is winter. When it is winter, what will (want to) you all do when it is winter? She will (wants to) ski, my daughter. I want to snowshoe. He wants to skate, my son. He wants to fish through the ice with a spear, my father. Long ago, he did drive along in a sleigh, my grandfather. They shall tell traditional stories, those storytellers.)

## Bezhiig—1

### OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Aaniin — as in father

Awesiiyag — as in jay

Gii-zhigak — as in seen

Zoogipon — as in moon

—Short vowels: A, I, O

Adikwag — as in about

Izhaa — as in tin

Minose — as in only

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

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

### Past & Future

Speaking in the past tense?

Use the tense marker "Gii-": Did.

Speaking in the future tense? Use the tense markers "Wii-, Ga- or Da- "Will, Want to or Shall. Hyphenate to the verb.

Gisinaa—It is cold. Gii-kisinaa. It was cold.

Zoogipon—It is snowing. Da-zoogipon.

—It shall definitely snow (future).

Izhaa—S/he goes.

Ningii-izhaa agwajiing. I did go outside.

Niwii-izhaa agwajiing. I want to (will) go outside. (not as definite as Da-/Ga-, Wii is used more because we can't tell the future.)

**Pattern: Personal prefix/tense mark verb.** A verb beginning with G, Z, D, J, B has a slight sound change. See examples.

## Niizh—2

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

A. Megwaayaak ina, gigii-waabamaag ingiw awesiiyag?

B. Biboong, apane niwii-waabamaa gijigijigaaneshii.

C. Agamiing, ningii-waabamaa a'aw amik.

D. Da-giikajiwag ingow gaagaagiwag.

E. Wii-Nibaa-animi'e-giizhigak ina, giwii-ganawaabamaag ingiw adikwag?

F. Dagwaaging ikwe gii-nandawishibe.

G. Apegish waa-minoseyeg.

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

## Niswi—3

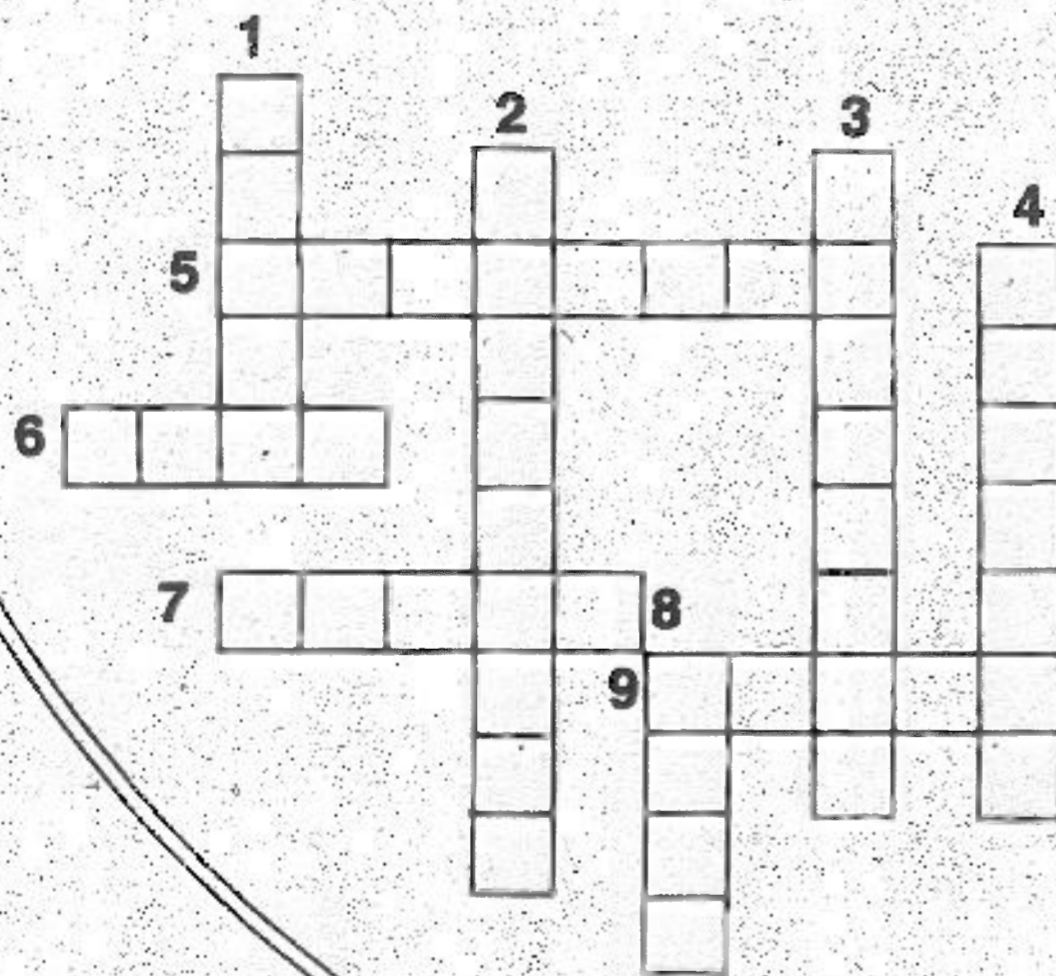
### IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. S/he laughs.
2. My daughter.
3. Long ago.
4. It is cold weather.
8. Woman.

Across:

5. S/he snowshoes.
6. Beaver.
7. S/he sleeps.
9. S/he goes.



## Niiwin—4

Tense Markers for Future and Past Tense Speech.

- Nibaa—S/he sleeps. Mawi—S/he cries.
- Baapi—S/he laughs.
- Gii-nibaa—S/he did sleep/slept.
- Da-nibaa—S/he will definitely sleep
- Wii-nibaa—S/he will/wants to sleep.
- Giwii-nibaamin—We all want to sleep.
- Niwii-maw—I want to cry.
- Gigii-maw—You did cry.
- Gii-paabiwag—They did laugh.
- Ninga-paab—I shall laugh.

**Goojitoon! Try it!**  
Translation below.

1. Ni \_\_\_\_\_ mawimin.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ nibaawag.
3. Adoopowining, nin \_\_\_\_\_ paabimin.
4. Nin \_\_\_\_\_ nibaa midaaso diba'iganek ashi aabita.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ nibaa izhaad Nookomis endaad dibikak.

Gii-  
Wii-  
Da-  
Ga-

### Translations:

**Niizh—2** A. In the woods, you did see them those wild animals? B. When it is winter, always I will (want to) see him/her a chickadee. C. At the lakeshore, I did see him a beaver. D. They shall definitely feel cold, those ravens. E. When it will be Christmas (sleeping-praying-day), will you want to watch them those reindeer (or caribou)? F. When it is fall, the woman, she did hunt ducks. G. I hope you all will get along well.

**Niswi—3** Down: 1. Baapi. 2. Nindaanis. 3. Mewinzha. 4. Gisinaa. 8. Ikwe. Across: 5. Aagimose. 6. Amik. 7. Nibaa. 9. Izhaa.

**Niiwin—4** 1. We did cry. 2. They want to sleep. 3. At the table, we did laugh. 4. I shall definitely sleep when it is 10 o'clock and halfway (10:30). 5. She shall definitely sleep when she goes to my Grammas home when it is night.

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

# Interior appropriations bill gives Indian programs 11% increase

## Includes \$104.5 million for law enforcement

By Brigid Maher and Megan Taylor for Masinaigan

### Funding for Indian programs

The House and Senate are both rushing through the final budget plans they need to pass before heading home to campaign. Before the 106th Congress adjourns, they must pass 13 spending bills and most of them are near completion. Overall, Indian programs have fared relatively well; but as usual, funding never meets the actual needs in Indian country. Here is a run-down of some of the bills.

The President proposes his budget to Congress early in the year, then the House and the Senate each come up with their own version and then meet to work out the differences. These meetings are called conferences, and the budgets from these meetings go to the President to sign into law, providing funds to the various programs for the next year.

This year, the President requested an overall increase of \$2.1 billion for federal programs to assist American Indians and Alaska Natives. The majority of Indian programs fall under the Interior Appropriations Department.

The Interior Appropriations bill was signed by the President October 11 with an overall 11 percent increase in Indian programs. This funding includes Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Services (IHS) budgets. Included in the increase was \$293 million for school construction to replace decaying BIA facilities, more than twice the funds from last year. Funding for IHS operations increased by 9 percent to \$2.2 billion.

The Transportation Appropriations includes funding for the Indian Reservation Roads program. The Senate and House amounts differ and are both less than the money currently allowed for the programs and much less than what the President requested. This appropriation is still pending.

The Commerce, State and Justice Appropriation (CSJ) includes funding for law enforcement programs. Along with Interior programs, these monies go to fund tribal courts, jail construction, law enforcement personnel through COPS grants, juvenile delinquency programs, and alcohol and substance abuse programs, among others.

This bill allows \$104.5 million, almost \$70 million less than the President's request, but combined with Interior money, the funding amount is a little higher

than last year. Credit for this increase is due to tribal leaders and advocates working hard to keep funding for Indian law enforcement programs.

On the commerce side, the final bill included no funding for specific programs for any certain population, including Indian programs. This completely wiped out the Native American Economic Development program. Last year Congress allowed \$362 million, and this year the President wanted \$408 million. The same happened with Small Business Administration funding—no special sections for Indian programs. These programs were mostly loan and business start up funds.

The CSJ bill also includes a disappointing turn for funding tribal conservation programs. The grant for state wildlife programs had small portions set aside for tribal programs, but they were lost in last-minute negotiations. These critically needed recurring funds go to states and tribes and need to have an equitable amount allotted. The bill has yet to be signed by President Clinton who can insist that the funds for Indian conservation programs be restored before he signs.

The Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Appropriations included block grants at the President's requested level for housing loan guarantees and training and technical assistance programs. It also includes statements allowing the EPA to award cooperative agreements to tribes or intertribal groups to work with the EPA to implement federal environmental programs for tribes.

### Education and health care bills

Congress first authorizes programs—says that they agree that money can be spent on programs. Then Congress appropriates money—actually dedicates funds to be spent. This past year, the Elementary and Secondary School Act (which contains provisions for Indian education) and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act were both scheduled for reauthorization. Congress failed to complete work on these bills, so the issues on these will have to be taken up again in the next Congress.

### House passes high-priority Indian country legislation

The House had been holding a number of bills and needed to vote on them this year or else all the work done would have to start again in the new Congress. Responding to requests from tribal leaders, the House did actually pass two important bills to send to the President and four more to the Senate for approval.

The first is the Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments. The bill amends parts of the original law that were unconstitutional. The act repudiates allotment policies, fixes the effects of continued fractionation of Indian lands, limits the unneeded loss of trust lands and significantly enhances tribal government self-determination and economic development efforts.

It limits the inheritance of allotments by non-Indians to a life estate only and directs the Secretary of Interior to take tribal views into account when deciding which fractional land to acquire under the land acquisition pilot project.

After three years, the Secretary of Interior must submit a report on how the project can be changed for even greater control by tribal governments. The President is expected to sign this bill, a substantial win for Indian land issues, soon.

The Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act makes several changes including more job training and employment programs to be placed into one single funding track. This bill will also go to the President for signature.

The House passed four bills on to the Senate for approval. The Indian Tribal Justice Technical Amendments will provide grants to tribal justice systems and tribal members for technical and legal assistance. The Indian Arts and Crafts Enforcement Act allows Indian crafts organizations, tribes and individuals to bring charges against counterfeiters. It also gives incentive to the Indian Arts and Crafts Board (IACB) to prosecute cases since some of the money won in lawsuits would go back to the IACB for operations.

The Indian Tribal Regulatory Reform and Business Development Act established a federal authority of 21 people to figure out and fix obstacles to investment and the creation of wealth in Indian communities.

Lastly, the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion and Tourism Act will create an Office of Native American Business Development within the Department of Commerce to work to bring federal programs for economic development to Indian lands.

The 106th Congress is scheduled to adjourn in late October or early November. The 107th Congress will return to Washington to begin work in January.

All of these bills are available on-line and can be tracked through the Library of Congress' website at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

(Editor's note: Brigid Maher and Megan Taylor work in the HONOR Advocacy Office in Washington, D.C. If you have questions or comments, please contact the HONOR Advocacy Office at 202-546-8340; e-mail [honor@dgsys.com](mailto:honor@dgsys.com).)



Funding for tribal law enforcement programs within the Commerce, State and Justice Appropriation designates monies to fund tribal courts, jail construction and law enforcement personnel through Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants. GLIFWC was recently awarded a COPS grant to replace the Enforcement Division's radios and radio towers. Above, GLIFWC Warden Jim Mattson stationed at Mille Lacs communicates with his partner while monitoring the treaty off-reservation deer season. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)



# Gray wolf reclassification proposal addresses several tribal issues

Odanah, Wis.—The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) proposal to reclassify the gray wolf under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) would reclassify gray wolves from an endangered to a threatened species in the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment (DPS). This DPS includes Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin, although the gray wolf has already been reclassified to a threatened status in Minnesota.

The proposal designates four distinct populations of gray wolves in the continental U.S., including the Western Great Lakes, Western, Northeastern and Southwestern, each designated as a "distinct population segment" (DPS).

The proposal reclassifies the gray wolf population from endangered to threatened in three of the DPSs, with the exception of the Southwestern Gray Wolf DPS.

The proposed change in classification is based on increased gray wolf

numbers, expanded gray wolf range, and notable achievements under gray wolf recovery plans.

In addition to the four DPSs, several areas are designated as "nonessential experimental populations" under the proposal.

The proposal also addresses several tribal issues. Among the proposed actions are: 1) the authority of federally recognized American Indian tribes to designate individuals to take wolves within the reservation; 2) a priority that applies to the salvage of dead specimens for traditional, cultural, or spiritual purposes by Indian tribes along with scientific study.

The inclusion of the special conditions for tribes recognizes the importance of the gray wolf to tribal culture and tradition.

The proposed changes have been open for a period of public comment closing on November 13, 2000.

(Information excerpted from USFWS press release, 8-28-00)

# A Jack of many trades and master of all

## Lemieux leaves GLIFWC for tribal position

By Sue Erickson  
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Responding to a call from his tribe, Bad River Area Sgt. John (Jack) Lemieux, resigned from the GLIFWC warden force after fifteen years of service to establish a police department for the Bad River tribe.

Lemieux's service with GLIFWC began in the spring of 1985, making him a veteran of the treaty struggles in Wisconsin and the hard duty required during the numerous spring spearing seasons.

Prior to joining the conservation enforcement staff at GLIFWC, he was a conservation officer for the Bad River tribe and also worked part-time for the state during the first off-reservation deer season in 1984.

At that time he refused an offer to work full-time for the state because it required he forgo the exercise of his treaty rights. He opted for GLIFWC and has served GLIFWC well through the years, not only as a conservation officer, but also as a highly qualified instructor in diverse, enforcement-related skills.

Lemieux is a state-licensed police officer. He is also state certified as a Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT) instructor, a firearms instructor, and a use-of-force instructor. He is also a certified instructor for ice rescue, ATV use, boat safety, and hunter education. In addition, he is a licensed EMT through the Ashland Fire Department and teaches EMT and first responder classes part-time at WITC—Ashland campus.

As a firearms instructor, Lemieux assisted GLIFWC's warden force in a transition from the use of wheel guns to semi-automatic hand guns and has provided DAAT training to the entire warden staff.

In his new position as Bad River's Police Chief, Lemieux is building the Bad River River Police Department from the ground floor up. The police department may ultimately become the Bad River Public Safety Commission, Lemieux says, to serve as an umbrella for safety related services needed by the tribal community.

While building the police department, Lemieux is also the Bad River Fire Chief. One of his immediate goals in this capacity is to upgrade the ambulance service.

While missed as a member of GLIFWC's Conservation Enforcement Division, good wishes follow him as he undertakes new challenges on behalf of the Bad River tribe.



Jack Lemieux



Participating in an informational meeting on the proposed federal reclassification of the gray wolf were Tom Dolittle, biologist, Bad River Natural Resources Department (BRNRD); Ron Refsnider, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Ervin Soulier, BRNRD director, and John Leonard USFWS tribal liaison. (Photo by Peter David)

## Now available: GLIFWC's 2000 poster *Gikinawaabi*

"...for it is the elders who carry the knowledge of these things that you want to know."

—The Mishomis Book by Edward Benton Benai

Gikinawaabi means to learn through observation in Ojibwa. The poster depicts a traditional elder-youth relationship, with young people learning skills by watching their elders and listening to their words. It is in this way that the Ojibwe people have passed down knowledge for generations, and it is important to continue this relationship so that the teachings and skills unique to the Ojibwe people continue to survive.

Respect for the elders as teachers and mentors is emphasized strongly in Ojibwe communities. The elders are keepers of the stories and keepers of the teachings which are central to the Ojibwe culture and lifeway. By listening and by observation, youth learn about important traditional values and about the many skills critical to survival.

The *Mishomis Book* by Edward Benton-Benai relates many important Ojibwe teachings and stories from the standpoint of Mishomis, or grandfather, as the teacher. In the book, the Creator sends Original Man to Nokomis, his grandmother, for answers to his many questions. The story goes as follows:

"We ended our teaching last time when the Creator separated the paths of Original Man and wolf. After this happened, Original Man walked the Earth and observed the many miracles that were around him. He did not understand many of the things he saw so he asked these questions of his Grandfather, the Creator.

The Creator answered, 'Across a vast lake lives your No-ko'-mis (Grandmother). She is not from the world you have walked; she has the wisdom of the spirits. Go to her lodge, for it is the elders who carry the knowledge of these things that you want to know.'"

Mishomis continues to tell that once Original Man found Nokomis' wee-gi-wahm', he stayed with her and learned many things:

With the birchbark he gathered, Nokomis made buckets and sealed them with be-gew' (sap or pitch) so that they could be used to haul water. With the Ah-gi-mak' (ash wood) he gathered, Nokomis made fine woven baskets for storing things. With the animal skins he provided, Nokomis made clothes for them. She made fine moccasins for their feet. She used woodashes and the brains of Wa-wa-shkesh'-she (the deer) to make the leather soft. She used roots to give her dyes to make the clothes beautiful...

In the winter, as they would sit about in the wee-gi-wahm' trying to stay warm, Nokomis would tell Original Man many stories. He had many questions for her about the mysteries of the universe, and she answered them the best that she could.

It is with respect to our elders, that GLIFWC dedicates the 2000 poster to the elders, our teachers.

For more information contact GLIFWC's Public Information Office, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, Wisconsin 54861; phone (715) 682-6619 or e-mail pio@glifwc.org. First copy is free, each additional copy is \$2.00 each. (If you receive a poster, be sure to look for a variety of hidden images in the picture.)

## With an Eagle's Eyes New GLIFWC video available

GLIFWC's new 25 minute video, *With an Eagle's Eyes*, discusses Ojibwe treaty rights, tribal sovereignty, and tribal, off-reservation natural resource management. The video provides an historical overview on the Ojibwe treaties and the reservation of hunting, fishing; and gathering rights in ceded territories. It also explores the many facets of contemporary, treaty resource management, such as fishery management, wildlife and wild plant management, and environmental and legal issues which impact traditional harvest. The video is available through GLIFWC's Public Information Office for \$8.00 each.

# Supplying venison to Wisconsin's needy

## Wisconsin deer donation program

By Jonathan Gilbert, Ph.D., GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

**Odanah, Wis.**—There is little doubt that the northern Wisconsin deer population is very large and that a large harvest is required to bring the population down to manageable levels. This was recognized by both state and tribal deer biologists when antlerless deer quotas were determined in the spring.

The quota harvest needed to bring the population to goal is so large that even an unlimited hunt during both the tribal season and the state 9-day gun season would be insufficient to significantly reduce the population size.

Simultaneously, there is not enough motivation to shoot multiple deer in one year. "I just do not have enough freezer space" or "My family could never eat more than two deer" are common reasons given by hunters not to harvest multiple deer.

The Wisconsin Deer Donation Program is one answer to the above problem. If a hunter brings a deer to a deer processor participating in the program, the processor will butcher the deer and donate the venison to a local food shelf or food pantry program.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will reimburse participants for the processing costs. In this way deer hunters can help address two problems—over-population of deer and local food shelf needs.

### What must hunters do?

In order to participate in this program, hunters must locate a processor who is participating. A list is reprinted to the right. Contact your local tribal deer registration, or go to the WDNR website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/e/hunt/deer/donation](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/e/hunt/deer/donation).

Call the processor to see if they have the capacity to handle your deer prior to dropping it off. All deer must be legally harvested and registered prior to December 31, 2000.

## October Zone T hunt yields 30K northern deer

**Odanah, Wis.**—The effort by state and tribal wildlife officials to reduce Wisconsin's white-tailed deer herd got a boost October 26-29 when hunters harvested 67, 241 antlerless deer during the first of two Zone T seasons.

State-licensed hunters in northern Wisconsin accounted for nearly half of the total gun kill, bagging 30,063 deer in management units largely within the ceded territory.

"I'm surprised that hunters killed so many deer in the north," said Jonathan Gilbert, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission biologist. "I didn't expect people to be that interested in an antlerless-only deer hunt."

Statewide, four northern Wisconsin counties claimed the highest harvest numbers during the special firearms hunt: Oneida, Vilas, Bayfield, and Douglas counties.

While there are obviously fewer deer available for treaty harvest, Gilbert said the special hunt has positive implications for tribal members. Overgrazing by rising deer numbers is threatening some tree and plant species. "Hopefully by reducing the northern deer herd, there will be a substantial recovery in understory plants used for food, medicine, and other utilities," Gilbert said.

Furthermore, treaty hunters have enjoyed good hunting in the first half of the four month season and are on track to set a possible harvest record this year, Gilbert explained.

An additional antlerless Zone T gun hunt is slated for December 7-10, less than two weeks after the regular state firearms season. (COR)

### What must food shelf programs do?

If there is a local food shelf program in your area and they wish to receive venison from a local processor under this program, they must contact the appropriate person in the county. The local county contact person will then make sure that the food shelf program will receive a share of the donated venison.

### What must a deer processor do?

A local deer processor who is interested in participating in the Deer Donation Program should call the local county contact person and place their name on the list of available processors.

There are guidelines established by the US Department of Agriculture which may include an inspection requirement.

This Wisconsin Deer Donation Program is a great idea. It can bring together people to help solve several important issues. It is a chance for deer hunters to provide something back to the needy people in their communities. It is a chance to share the bounty of this great land.

Perhaps it is an idea which should remain after the Zone T hunts go away. After all, hunger will not decline with a declining deer herd.

## Processors participating in the Wisconsin deer donation 2000 program

County	Participating Processors	Phone Number	Local County Contact	Phone Number
Burnett	A&H Country Market C&R Store Riverfront Meat Market	(715) 635-8429 (715) 635-2888 (715) 656-3330	Cindy Blonk	(715) 349-2186
Forest	Corner Store	(715) 336-2969	USDA Rhineland	(715) 369-5221
Langlade	Arrowood General Store Edelman Meats Hwy. 45 Locker Plant	(715) 489-3501 (715) 623-7686 (715) 623-3554	USDA Rhineland	(715) 369-5221
Lincoln	Geiss Meat Service	(715) 536-5283	USDA Rhineland	(715) 369-5221
Marathon	Country Fresh Meats Custom Meats Smith Brothers Meats Zilmean's Meats	(715) 446-3467 (715) 443-3734 (715) 223-2777 (715) 845-5123	USDA Rhineland	(715) 369-5221
Marinette	Farm Fresh Meats Liljestrand's One-Stop	(715) 732-4242 (715) 732-4152	Greg Cleerman	(715) 732-7783
Oneida	Lake Tomahawk Meat Mkt. TJ's Butcher Block	(715) 277-3337 (715) 356-5259	Nancy Hollands	(715) 362-5941 ext. 3
Price	Country Sausage Makovsky Custom Meats	(715) 339-3631 (715) 428-2733	John Obadal	(715) 339-2550
Rusk	Barney's Grocery Store Minkoff's Meat Market	(715) 353-2271 (715) 532-5063	USDA Rhineland	(715) 369-5221
Sawyer	Whiskey Ridge Sport Shop and Procession	(715) 945-2414	Dale Olsen	(715) 634-6463
St. Croix	Cody's Meat Market Deer's Food Locker Inc. Ross's Glenwood City Locker	(715) 246-2315 (715) 269-5118 (715) 265-4833	Kyle Kulow	(715) 634-2874 ext. 132
Vilas	BJ's Butcher Shop	(715) 479-4456		
Washburn	A&H Outpost Links IGA Country Foods Spooner Food Country IGA	(715) 635-8429 (715) 466-2262 (715) 635-2007	Cindy Blonk	(715) 349-2186

# Making the best of your venison

(Continued from page 5)

2. Add meat to pan and brown on all sides, 1 to 3 minutes depending on size of pieces. Cook meat in separate batches if necessary to avoid crowding in pan. Remove meat to a cutting board.

3. Add remaining 1 tablespoon clarified butter or oil to pan and sauté onions until nicely browned.

4. Add vinegar and cook until pan is dry. Add stock or water and bring to a boil, stirring to scrape glaze from pan bottom. To this sauce add a pinch of salt and pepper.

5. Add 2 tablespoons cold butter to sauce and whisk in. Remove from heat and whisk in remaining butter.

6. Slice meat thinly (1/6-inch) across the grain. Place slices on plates and pour sauce around. Serve with wild rice and a cooked vegetable, such as carrots. Serves four.

## Venison Swiss Steak

1 1/2 to 2 pounds trimmed round or chuck steak (cut into 3/4-inch-thick slices)

Salt and pepper

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

3 tablespoons clarified butter or light cooking oil

1 1/2 cups thinly sliced red or yellow onion

2 tablespoons tomato paste or 1 cup tomato puree

1 1/2 cups beef stock or broth

Enough water to cover

1. Preheat oven to 300° F.

2. Mix salt and pepper into flour. Dredge meat in flour to coat well. Shake off excess.

3. At high setting, heat 2 tablespoons clarified butter or oil in a large fry pan or low-sided, flat-bottomed casserole.

4. When the butter or oil is very hot but not smoking, add meat and brown on all sides (roughly 2 minutes). Cook meat in separate batches if necessary to avoid crowding in pan. Remove meat from pan and set aside.

5. Add remaining butter or oil and sauté onions.

6. Stir in tomato paste or puree, stock or broth, and pinch of salt and pepper. Add steaks and position in a single layer. Cover with water.

7. Bring to a boil, cover tightly, and bake in oven for 2 1/2 hours.

8. Remove from oven. Place steaks on plates. Serve with mashed potatoes. Pour sauce from pan over everything. Serves four.

## Venison Stroganoff

1 1/2 pounds trimmed chuck, cut into 3/4-inch cubes

Salt and pepper

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

3 tablespoons clarified butter or light cooking oil

3/4 cup thinly sliced red or yellow onion

1 1/2 cups sliced mushrooms

1 tablespoon tomato paste or 1/2 cup tomato puree

1 1/2 cups beef stock or broth

Enough water to cover

3 tablespoons sour cream

2 tablespoons whole butter

1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley (optional)

Follow steps 1-4 of Venison Swiss Steak recipe.

5. Add remaining butter or oil and sauté onions 1 to 2 minutes until just softened.

6. Stir in mushrooms and cook 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in tomato paste or puree, stock or broth, and pinch of salt and pepper. Add meat. Cover with water.

7. Bring to a boil, cover tightly, and bake in oven for 2 1/2 hours.

8. Remove from oven. Stir in sour cream and whole butter. Serve over egg noodles, mashed potatoes, or homemade croutons. Sprinkle with parsley. Serves four.

## Goff's Advice on

### Aging meat

Let game hang in cool (33-45 F) temperatures for several days. During aging, says Goff, enzymes break down the cell tissue in the meat, making it more tender. The process is often used to tenderize older deer, which have tougher meat.

"The enzymatic activity also makes the flavor stronger and more complex." Goff says that less moisture is lost by aging a deer with the skin left on. "If you take the skin off before aging, cover it with several layers of cheesecloth to keep insects off."

### Butchering

Goff recommends that hunters butcher their own deer. "It's not that hard, and you know you're getting back the deer you killed and kept clean and not someone else's." If you take it to a butcher, he recommends asking for packages to be labeled with the specific cut. "You don't want packets that just say 'steak.' It matters what kind of steak it is. There's a big difference a chuck steak—which isn't even really a steak—and a porterhouse steak."

### Trimming

"If it's white, take it off," Goff says. He recommends trimming all fat and the thick, white connective tissue called silver skin. The thin, translucent silver skin can stay on the meat.

### Cutting

"Cutting across the grain results in more tender venison because the long, strong strands of protein are shortened."

### Bone in vs. bone out

It's a matter of trade-offs," Goff says. "The bone gives it more flavor, but it makes for a more unwieldy piece of meat. Many people think venison already has enough flavor without the bone. It's up to the individual."

## Venison Basics

### Tough cuts

From the neck and from the shoulder of deer older than 3 years: neck roast and chuck roast. Cooking: These cuts are best cooked slowly in moist heat, by browning first, then braising or stewing with the addition of sweetness and acidity to balance the bitterness.

### Medium cuts

From the lower rump and upper back leg (the round) and from the shoulder of deer younger than 3 years: round steaks and roasts. Cooking: These can be cooked quickly at high heat if tenderized by pounding thin to break down the tough tissue or if sliced thin after cooking. Otherwise, they are best braised or stewed.

### Tender cuts

From the backstrap: T-bone, club, rib-eye, sirloin, porterhouse, tenderloin. From the upper rump: rump roast. Cooking: To get the most flavor from these cuts and keep them tender, cook them rare to medium rare by pan frying or sautéing briefly over high heat.

### Trimmings

Small pieces left over after butchering and trimming fat and silver skin. Cooking: Trimmings from the tender and medium cuts can be sautéed and made into stir fry. Trimmings from tough cuts work best in stews. Trimmings from the shanks and between the ribs can be made into sausage when combined with an equal portion of pork fat or pork shoulder and spices, such as sage (breakfast sausage) or anise (Italian sausage).

(Tom Dickson is the staff writer for the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, St. Paul. Reprinted from the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer and the DNR Web site.)

## Prayer to a deer slain by a hunter

I had need,  
I have dispossessed you of beauty, grace, and life.  
I have sundered your spirit from its wordly fame.  
No more will you run in freedom  
Because of my need.

I had need.  
You have in life served your kind in goodness.  
By your life, I will serve my brothers.  
Without you I hunger and grow weak.  
Without you I am helpless, nothing.

I had need.  
Give me your flesh for strength.  
Give me your casement for protection.  
Give me your bones for my labours,  
And I shall not want.

—Excerpted from *Ojibway Heritage*, by Basil Johnston



Gerry DePerry, Red Cliff, teaches nephew Luke DePerry and Ryan Gilbert to lay down asemaa before the hunt. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

# GLIFWC staff recognized for achievements in natural resource management at NAFWS conference

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Lac Courte Oreilles, Wis.—Three Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) staff received recognition during the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) Great Lakes Region Annual Conference, held September 11-14 at the Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Convention Center.

Among those recognized were GLIFWC Executive Administrator James Schlender, GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist Peter David, and GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Technician Henry (Butch) Mieloszyk, each for outstanding performance in their respective areas.

## Tribal Elected Leader of the Year

NAFWS awarded James Schlender the "Glen Miller Tribal Elected Leader of the Year Award," first established in 1994. The award is based on outstanding leadership in the development of tribal natural resource programs and support of treaty hunting and fishing issues.

NAFWS recognized Schlender's leadership in the development and overall supervision of GLIFWC's comprehensive, off-reservation natural resource management program in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin ceded territories. Schlender has served as GLIFWC's executive administrator since June 1986, demonstrating a deep commitment to the advancement of tribes in the areas of treaty rights protection and natural resource management.

Prior to coming to GLIFWC, Schlender held the offices of vice-chairman and secretary/treasurer for three consecutive terms on the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board. He also served as the LCO tribal attorney from 1978-1981 and was the first chairman of the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF).

In previous years several tribal leaders who have served on GLIFWC's Board of Commissioners and/or VITF have also been recognized with the Glen Miller Award. The award went to Tom Maulson, Chairman of GLIFWC's Board of Commissioners and the VITF in 1996; to Fred Ackley, former Mole Lake VITF representative, in 1997; and to Mic Isham, LCO commissioner, in 1998.

## Biologist of the Year

The "William Eger Biologist of the Year Award," established in 1990, was presented to Peter David, GLIFWC wildlife biologist. The award recognizes outstanding achievements in the field and in assisting other tribal programs throughout the region.

David was recognized primarily for his wild rice work, including pioneering wild rice enhancement techniques, research, and assisting other tribes in reseeding efforts. He has also effectively worked with state and federal agencies and with the Circle of Flight programs.

## Grant funds GIS maps of lake trout spawning beds

By Sue Erickson  
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Checking out historic lake trout spawning sites is part of the duties for Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) fisheries crew during annual lake trout assessments in Lake Superior.

However, soon they will have a new tool to help track where current spawning occurs as compared to historic sites.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps of Lake Superior lake trout spawning and nursery areas are being designed through a \$15,585 grant awarded to GLIFWC from the Environ-

mental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Protection Office.

Using a 1982 publication, *The Atlas of Spawning and Nursery Areas of Great Lakes Fishes*, Volume II, Lake Superior, to identify historic sites, GLIFWC will prepare a GIS coverage of known spawning and nursery locations for native fish species.

Once the GIS coverage is complete, GIS maps will be prepared and distributed through print, CD-ROM, and web sites.

The GIS maps will provide a foundation tool for state, federal, tribal and international resource managers to use as they develop intergovernmental habitat monitoring, protection, and rehabilitation strategies.



Three GLIFWC staff were recognized by the Great Lakes Region of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society during their annual conference at Lac Courte Oreilles this fall. From the left, Henry (Butch) Mieloszyk, GLIFWC inland fisheries technician, received the Great Lakes Technician of the Year Award; James Schlender, GLIFWC executive administrator, received the Glen Miller Tribal Leader of the Year Award; and Peter David, GLIFWC wildlife biologist, received the William Eger Tribal Biologist of the Year Award. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

David came to work for GLIFWC in 1986. His areas of responsibility include wild rice, waterfowl, upland game birds, and wolves.

Since 1986 David developed a reseeding program which annually plants three to six tons of rice into 20-30 lakes within the ceded territories. The program's goal is to increase wild rice distribution and abundance. In conjunction with reseeding efforts, up to 40 lakes are surveyed annually for wild rice density. The information provides a database on wild rice lakes and associated environmental factors, allowing David to track the wild rice crop on individual lakes over time.

In the area of waterfowl, David has forged relationships with professionals from the Mississippi Flyway Council and promoted the role of tribal management of migratory birds, working with the Circle of Flight program on numerous wetland restoration and rehabilitation projects.

Previous recipients of the award from GLIFWC include: Thomas Busiahn, former Biological Services director, in 1991; Neil Kmiecik, Biological Services director, in 1994; Jonathan Gilbert, wildlife section leader, in 1996; and Joe Dan Rose, former Bad River biologist and current inland fisheries section leader, in 1997.

## Great Lakes Technician of the Year

Henry "Butch" Mieloszyk received the "Great Lakes Technician of the Year Award" based on outstanding support of tribal fisheries programs.

Mieloszyk has been with GLIFWC since 1984, so has been an integral part of the inland fisheries program from the start. He assisted with building the first electrofishing boat, helped set the first fyke nets off-reservation and was one of the electrofishing crew threatened with arrest when GLIFWC first began assessing off-reservation lakes.

A veteran of thousands of nights spent on off-reservation lakes during both spring and fall walleye population surveys, Mieloszyk's knowledge of the fishery in lakes speared by the tribes is comprehensive.

Mieloszyk was commended for his ongoing commitment to the protection and preservation of treaty rights and the natural resources and as an outstanding, long-time employee of GLIFWC.

Mieloszyk was the first technician from GLIFWC to receive the award.

## Conservation Officer of the Year

Also recognized with the Patricia Zakovec Conservation Officer of the Year Award was Lt. Allen Neveaux, 1854 Authority enforcement supervisor and former GLIFWC warden. Neveaux, a Bad River tribal member, has served with the 1854 Authority in Minnesota since 1990 and currently supervises three conservation officers. Prior to joining the 1854 Authority staff, Neveaux worked as a GLIFWC conservation warden stationed full-time at the Mole Lake reservation.

Neveaux and his staff enforce off-reservation, treaty codes in the 1854 Treaty ceded territory in the northeastern arrowhead region of Minnesota, spanning approximately 5 million square acres.

As a conservation officer, Neveaux is cross-deputized with the state of Minnesota and is a licensed peace officer in the state. He is a certified instructor in firearms, both for youth and for law enforcement personnel. He is certified as an armor technician and to instruct hunter safety, snowmobile safety, and long rifle use.

# Raymond Anderson, a friend to the tribes, walks on

By Jonathan Gilbert, Ph.D.,  
GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

On September 26, 2000 Dr. Raymond Anderson, professor of wildlife at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, passed on to the spirit world. Ray was a great friend of the tribes and will be missed in this world.

Ray had a long and accomplished career. He has been deeply involved in

many different projects working with many different species of animals from prairie chickens to American marten to elk to black bears. He earned a Ph.D. in wildlife ecology from UW-Madison and taught for many years in the College of Natural Resources at the UW-Stevens Point.

I would like to talk about Ray from a personal perspective and especially as he interacted with the Ojibwe Indian tribes in Wisconsin.

I first met Ray Anderson in 1984 in Glidden, Wisconsin at an annual meeting of wildlife biologists and managers from the USDA Forest Service (USFS) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). This meeting, called the USFS/WDNR "love in," brought together biologists and managers from the northland to talk about current projects or issues.

I was invited as the new biologist working for the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (and later GLIFWC) to give a presentation on treaty rights and impacts on wildlife resources. I had been on the job for two months and had benefitted from hearing several talks on this subject mostly by tribal attorneys. I prepared my talk, including the views of the attorneys, and walked into the lion's den that day.

As I started talking, I heard murmurs coming from the audience. Soon there was loud conversation coming from adjacent rooms. I wasn't sure what they were talking about, but I soon learned as I finished my talk and asked for any questions. Whoosh—they came out...very accusatory and angry questions about commercialization, shining, lack of wildlife on reservations—the whole nine yards.

As I struggled to compose myself in the face of this onslaught, a kind voice came from the front row. Here was a gentleman who was defending the tribes, their practices and their treaty rights. He spoke with understanding, tolerance and patience. He helped me get through that terrible day. He was Ray Anderson.

This began a 16 year friendship with Ray, a relationship which was about friends sharing their love for the outdoors, their respect for education and the environment, their wish to "do that which is right for the wild ones." It was also a mentoring relationship where Ray took me under his wing to provide advise and council when needed.

Ray was involved with the tribes in the Voigt treaty litigation case. He was the tribes' outside wildlife expert who was there to provide unbiased evaluations of our wildlife management proposals. He was very useful as an expert and provided some of the more memorable moments.

One example occurred when the WDNR was trying to establish a "biological" reason for a hunting season limited to particular months of the year. Ray was asked by a Department of Justice lawyer if there was a time when deer should not be hunted. Ray replied, "Hell, lady, I don't care when a deer is shot. Just tell me how many deer you want and I'll tell how many one can shoot. When a deer is shot is irrelevant."

Ray and I worked together on several graduate student projects. The most successful project involved the investigation of fishers and American marten in the Nicolet National Forest working with student John Wright. Ray was the major advisor, at least on paper. He was very willing to let John and I work out the details of the project, and he then discussed them with us. In this way Ray encouraged independence in his students.

Ray had a passion for the reintroduction of extirpated wildlife species.



©Ken Edwards

Perhaps his most well known effort was the reintroduction of elk to northern Wisconsin.

Ray was instrumental in resurrecting a plan which was originally rejected by the WDNR. He took the idea of reintroducing elk on the Chequamegon National Forest in Bayfield County and implemented it near Clam Lake. One of the highlights of this reintroduction program was the early involvement of Ojibwe people.

There are stories which are told on some Ojibwe reservations of the people who used to hunt elk from that tribe. There are historical records of elk bones and antlers being found near Indian encampments. Clearly, the elk was a part of the northern ecosystems prior to European settlement.

As Ray was making plans for the reintroduction, he asked an elder from the Lac Courte Oreilles tribe to come to the introduction site on the National Forest and conduct a welcoming ceremony.

Gene Begay brought his pipe and his tobacco to the forest site and prepared the land to welcome these creatures back. Many believe that this project has succeeded so well because of this ceremony. It is to Ray's credit that he had the foresight and cultural awareness needed to take this extra step.

Ray also had a long history of black bear research in Wisconsin. Makwa is an important animal for the Ojibwe people. It is a clan animal and is revered by many in Indian Country. Ray conducted research on the reproductive capacity of bears by visiting hibernating female bears, and documenting any reproduction. This included counting, sexing and marking cubs or yearlings.

I accompanied Ray on many of the den site visits. I was always impressed that Ray made an effort to place tobacco near the den as a sign of reverence for the creature and the clan it represents. This was not done in the public eye, but rather as a quiet gesture while Ray was alone.

Ray will be missed by us in Indian Country. He was a good friend, a good biologist, a good teacher and a person who always treated me and the people I work for with respect and honor.

Even though he has passed, his legacy will live on in the animals he worked with. Everyone who ever sees a marten, hears an elk bugle, or is fortunate enough to capture a fisher, will have Ray Anderson to thank. Miigwech, Ray!



Devoid of needles, this 300-year-old white pine giant finally succumbed to natural causes after surviving generations of incredible changes to its environment. It's home has been in the modern day Flambeau River State Forest (FRSF) near Winter, Wisconsin, where it emerged as a sapling in the early 1700s and grew to a height of 130' with a trunk circumference of 13' 2". The old white pine died of natural causes, such as numerous lightning strikes and insect infestation.

Forest managers became concerned about falling limbs and the eventual toppling of the rotting tree and had planned a ceremony before felling the tree. That decision was reversed, with state forest officials deciding ultimately to let the tree stand and close off the area in the interest of public safety.

However, in early August someone felled the old giant, a situation which is still under investigation. A 14' log was saved and will eventually be on display in front of the FRSF office in Winter and three other "cookies" were sliced to go to area communities. The remainder of the tree was too rotten to preserve. (Photo by Sue Erickson)



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# Masinaigan

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