

Masinaigan

A Chronicle of the Lake Superior Ojibwe

Published by the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

Fall 2000

Zone T deer hunting arrives in October Tribes weigh benefits, pitfalls of special hunt

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Masinaigan staff

Odanah, Wis.—Treaty deer hunters may find blaze orange-clad company on many Wisconsin public lands this fall with the arrival of Zone T units throughout much of the ceded territory. In addition to the regular state gun deer season, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has established two special antlerless gun hunting seasons in management units—dubbed Zone T units—where white-tailed deer (waawaashkeshi) numbers have soared above population goals.

"It's become an extreme situation with populations as high as 100 to 200% above established overwinter population goals," said Jonathan Gilbert, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) Wildlife Section Leader.

Three consecutive mild winters in Wisconsin have allowed the deer herd to mushroom to an estimated 1.7 million animals. Hoping to bring deer numbers to within 20% of overwinter population goals, the DNR has instituted antlerless only, firearms hunts on Octo-

ber 26-29 and December 7-10 for state licensed hunters.

"For the average hunter going out during the tribal season, nothing special needs to be done," Gilbert said. "But I strongly encourage hunters to wear blaze orange as a safety precaution during the Zone T hunts."

Ojibwe deer hunters exercising off-reservation treaty rights are not required to wear blaze orange clothing, except during the state nine-day deer hunting season.

As car/deer collisions climbed steadily over the past few years, along with chronic agricultural and ecological damage, state and tribal wildlife managers concluded that a special hunt was required to rein in break-away deer numbers throughout Wisconsin. Cedar, hemlock, and wild plants, like orchids and lilies, are all experiencing stress due to overgrazing by abundant deer populations.

Where are all those deer?

While tribal representatives recognize the general need to trim the northern Wisconsin deer herd, there is growing concern that a massive harvest (See Zone T, page 3)



Special antlerless gun deer hunts for state licensed hunters are slated for October 26-29 and December 7-10 in many deer management units. The white-tailed deer population is far above the overwinter goals established by wildlife managers. Known as Zone T, these unique hunts are designed to bring the booming deer herd under control. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Fall hunting, trapping and wild rice forecasts, see pages 14-17.

Juvenile walleye surveys scheduled on Mille Lacs Committee of tribal, state biologists examine Minnesota 1837 fishery

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Masinaigan staff

Carlton, Minn.—Fisheries managers are planning an aggressive round of surveys on Lake Mille Lacs this summer and fall to assess walleye populations. The Minnesota 1837 Ceded

Territory Fisheries Technical Committee (FTC) met on July 11-12 at the Black Bear Casino Convention Center to share recent harvest data and coordinate survey efforts on the popular east-central Minnesota lake.

A variety of survey methods including gillnetting, electrofishing, and trawling are planned for later this year,

according to Neil Kmiecik, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) Biological Services Director.

"Juvenile walleye surveys by GLIFWC fisheries crews this fall will help the committee better understand how strong the 2000 age class is," Kmiecik said. "It gives us some idea of what to expect as this age class becomes adults in 3-4 years."

While the MDNR has conducted annual walleye surveys on Lake Mille Lacs for many years, additional information from GLIFWC fisheries crews is intended to fortify the database on juvenile walleye, Kmiecik said.

With technical assistance from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, a GLIFWC crew is scheduled to trawl for juvenile walleye for one week in August. Trawling is an effective survey method that involves dragging a net along lake bottom to capture suspended fish.

Fisheries crews plan on returning four to six weeks later to conduct an electrofishing survey of the entire shoreline of Mille Lacs, again looking for juvenile walleye. Kmiecik said that for three GLIFWC shocking boats, it will likely take three nights to complete the survey.

The FTC is made up of tribal, GLIFWC, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) fisheries biologists. Formed after the Mille Lacs band's 1837 Treaty rights were affirmed in Minnesota in 1996, the committee analyzes statistical models that represent the size and age structure of Mille Lacs walleye populations and determines the harvestable surplus—the amount of walleye that can be safely harvested by state and tribal fishermen.

"Setting the harvestable surplus is probably the most important and difficult task this committee does," Kmiecik said.

Managing the 1837 Minnesota treaty fishery is an exceptionally complex proposition. Head-spinning discussions of statistical methodology, harvest calculations, and data reliability command these meetings, yet the participants always seem to find time for levity. And while the meetings between tribal and state biologists is sometimes heated, all parties recognize the common objective.

"The goal is to be open and honest, to share the best biology possible to best manage Mille Lacs Lake and other lakes with treaty harvests," said Jack Wingate, MDNR Fisheries Research Manager.



A view from above an electrofishing boat. GLIFWC crews plan on conducting a shocking survey of the entire Lake Mille Lacs shoreline this fall. (Photo by COR)

“Walk to Remember” rallies support for Lake Superior protection

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Masinaigan staff

Odanah, Wis.—Seeking to fortify public support for protecting the Lake Superior environment, a group of American and Canadian walkers are journeying around the big lake on a mission that is both spiritual and methodical.

Community by community, “A Walk to Remember” raises local awareness on Lake Superior issues. Anishinaabe ceremonies meld with tried and true peaceful activism as the walkers work their way through each town carrying the Protect the Earth staff.

“People have responded positively, communities have responded positively,” said Al Hunter, of Rainy River First Nation in Manitou Rapids, Ont. “The circle of people is coming together, coming together into one community, drawing the Lake Superior community together.”

Hunter is one of several walkers committed to traveling the entire 1,200-

mile route and typically performs ceremonies as the group unites with people living around the lake.

“It’s a wonderful experience to be there,” said Bob Olsgard, Lake Superior Alliance. “It’s really exciting to see the people from these small communities so excited about sharing in this ceremony.”

Olsgard recently returned to Wisconsin after walking a four-day leg in Ontario where the group was beyond the reach of cellphones and e-mail messages.

A satellite phone donated by a communications company was a welcome addition to talk with supporters in the U.S., but it has proven challenging to get calls through to the walkers, Olsgard explained.

As the group made its way east along the north shore, First Nation people provided tremendous support for the walkers, Olsgard said. At the Pic River reserve, walkers were greeted by community members who brought a drum to the road and sang an honor (See Walk, page 9)



Teofilo Martin Salas carries the Protect the Earth staff across the Bad River shortly after “A Walk to Remember” began on Waverly Beach, Lake Superior on June 29. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Muskie harvests helpful, but not all lakes are the same

Dear Editor:

Charlie Rasmussen’s article, *Wallhangers and eaters: Muskies in northern Wisconsin* was timely and it raised several excellent points regarding angling and spearing muskellunge in northern Wisconsin. I would like readers to also keep in mind several overlooked corollaries to go with Rasmussen’s well done piece.

I write this letter from a muskie fisherman’s perspective, having had over twenty years of muskie fishing experience in northern Wisconsin. I attend local muskie club functions and read pertinent literature on the topic of muskies and other sport fish. Since 1993 I have been a muskie guide in northern Wisconsin. Also, the only home I have ever known is northern Wisconsin.

One great point often overlooked, that Rasmussen made, is that there can be such a thing as a lake with *too many muskies*. In this case, stunted growth rates will occur. In such an environment, spearing and angler harvest is appropriate to reduce the competition for food. Thus, for anglers to release every muskie and vehemently oppose spearing on these types of lakes would not be logical.

I have fished many lakes that Rasmussen alludes to in recent years and have often asked myself, “Where are the big muskies of 20 pounds or more?” I know the histories of these waters and I am aware that these lakes (generally smaller, fertile, and tending to be weedy) have produced trophies decades ago. Now, they tend to produce mostly smaller fish, the muskies being basically stuck in a stunted cycle. Big fish in many of these environments have become an endangered species. What happened is that anglers over the years removed the big fish segment of the population. Spearing some fish out of these lakes would help to reduce the intense competition for food.

However, spearing muskies, especially trophy muskies out of lakes that are basically sterile (deep and clear) is quite another issue. In such an environment,

there are definitely *not too many* muskies and taking too many fish out of such lake types may jeopardize the fragile trophy segment of the muskie population. Concerned parties and agencies should take a *critical biological* look at exactly how many big fish are taken out of these lake types. If too many big muskies are taken out by spearing, ice spearing, or angling, the resource will suffer and all parties will have to stomach the bitter consequences. Interestingly, Canada is painfully aware of what angler overharvest of trophy fish can do to a muskie fishery.

One topic that Rasmussen didn’t directly address in the article was the breakdown in harvest data between open water spearing and wintertime spearing. What type of impact is winter spearing having on the muskellunge resource?

Note, that although Rasmussen is accurate in stating that muskie fishing in northern Wisconsin is very good, the trophy muskie population on any given northern Wisconsin water is *never* very high. Therefore, trophy fishing today, in a sense, is sorta the way it always has been—it’s very tough. You really have to pay your dues. Rasmussen’s article also made reference to the fact that just because you are going out spearing, like angling, is no guarantee of muskie success.

Rasmussen further points out that some anglers are still caught in basically a critical, unwavering 1980’s mode that tends to fuel intolerance and racial tensions. I would like to point out that I happen to be white and have many Native American friends, some of whom spear muskies. I would not hesitate taking any of these individuals open water fishing in my boat. I would hope they would do the same for me.

The Ojibwe help maintain their culture by passing on traditions of hunting, gathering, fishing, spearing and trapping. This is done by teaching the younger generation the methods of their forefathers. In our increasingly mechanized society, there is a danger that this culture will be lost. This is where elders and other tribal members can pass on these Ojibwe traditions.

Finally, I would like to raise concern over the possible spearing overharvest of large muskies and selling the trophies simply to be placed in bars or restaurants. I don’t know how much this actually happens, but such practices, I would guess are not in the spirit of traditional Ojibwe culture. I would think this resource concern should be an inter-agency priority, because trophy muskie are a concern to all peoples of northern Wisconsin.

Sincerely,
Len Carlstrom, Hayward, Wis.

Editor’s note: Winter muskie spearing generally occurs around the Lac du Flambeau and Lac Courte Oreilles reservations. According to GLIFWC creel surveys, around 150 to 200 muskies are harvested through the ice annually. Tally this figure with the average spring harvest, and you have 400-plus muskies going under the fillet knife every year. Most of these are three-footers.

As for muskie bounties, they’re very uncommon, but such arrangements have occurred. While selling a muskie is not illegal, it is highly frowned upon by tribal conservation wardens as well as many people in Ojibwe communities. Typically, someone connected with a local business or resort has expressed a desire for a wallhanger. For reasons unrelated to traditional Ojibwe practices, a few of these orders have been filled.

Mügwetch, for your letter. COR

On the cover

Marvin Eno, Fond du Lac tribal member, completes one of the many makkakoon (containers) he creates from wiigwaas (birch bark). Eno harvests the wiigwass from the ceded territories along with a variety of other materials needed to complete the baskets such as basswood for sewing strips. (See story, page 8)

Correction

Masinaigan incorrectly reported the Wisconsin off-reservation muskie harvest as 1,410 fish during the spring 2000 spearing season. The actual harvest figure is 325 muskies. The 1,410 was the combined tribal declaration, not actual harvest.

Zone T deer hunt

(Continued from page 1)
on public lands may adversely affect Ojibwe treaty hunting opportunities.

At issue is the distribution of deer within the ceded territory. Deer tend to congregate on private land where hunter access is limited and feeding and baiting is common.

Treaty hunters are restricted to public lands, including Forest Crop and "open" Managed Forest Land, unable to exercise off-reservation hunting rights on private property—even if owned by the tribal member, or invited by a landowner.

"Although we don't have the hard data to back it up, lots of biologists and hunters agree that there seems to be more deer on private land than on public land," Gilbert explained. "That causes uncertainty among tribal members. Consider a situation where we end up with deer concentrated on lightly hunted private land and a greatly reduced population on heavily hunted public lands.

Are there going to be enough deer for tribal members to meet their needs?"

The Voigt Intertribal Task Force wondered the same thing and petitioned GLIFWC Executive Administrator James Schlender to write DNR Secretary George Meyer and open a dialogue concerning the possibility of limited tribal hunting on privately-owned lands to help reduce the overall northern herd size.

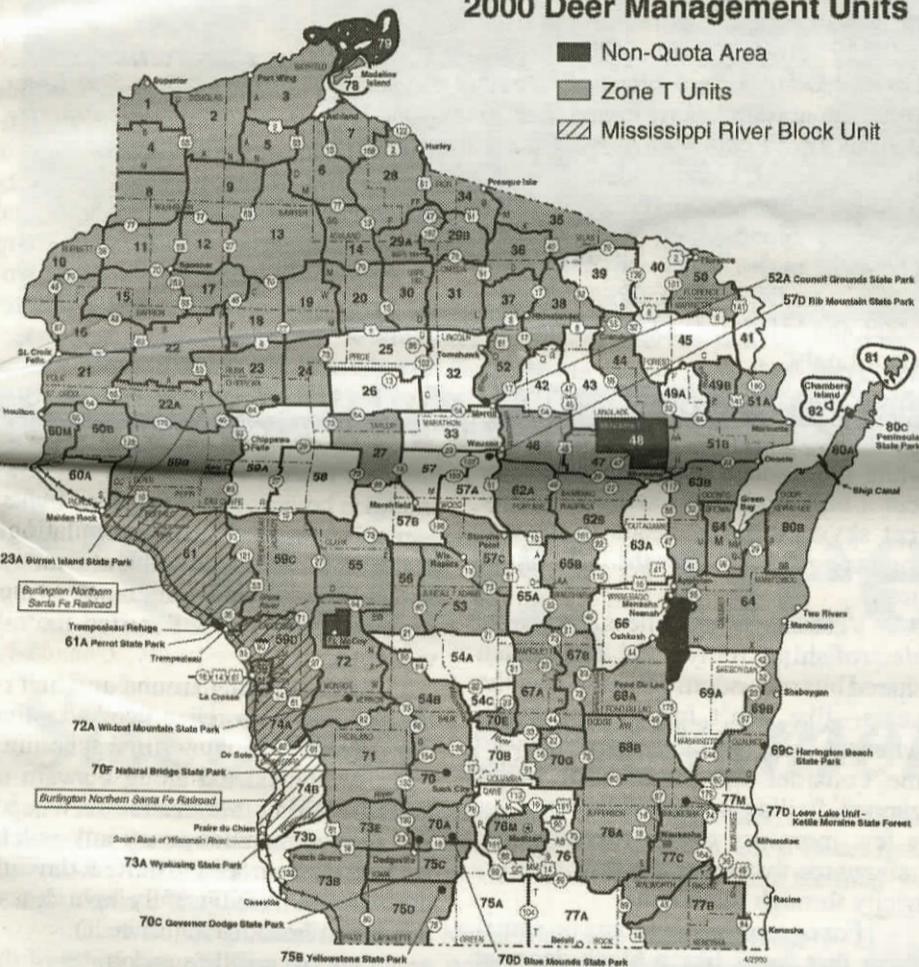
In any event, Gilbert plans on closely monitoring this fall's deer harvest and working with state wildlife officials to ensure that treaty hunters have good hunting opportunities in the future.

"There's no doubt that we need to reduce the deer herd. T-Zones have worked in the south, but this is uncharted territory in the north and biologists have no idea how it will work," Gilbert said.

Zone T hunts were first enacted in 1996 in select southern farmland units.

2000 Deer Management Units

- Non-Quota Area
- Zone T Units
- ▨ Mississippi River Block Unit



T-Zones cover most of the Wisconsin ceded territory. Special state gun hunts will occur in October and December for antlerless deer only. (Map reprinted with permission from the WDNR.)



Waawaashkeshi. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Ceded territory news briefs

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen

Michigan tribes reach agreement on 1836 treaty fishing rights

The United States government, Bay Mills Indian Community, and four other tribes have reached a settlement with the state of Michigan over fishing rights in the 1836 ceded territory, according to Washington mediator John Bickerman. The Consent Order of 1985 expired this past spring and was the last agreement between the state and the tribes regarding the scope of 1836 fishing in the Great Lakes.

All parties are bound by a confidentiality provision and details of the settlement won't be released until later in August after the final decree is filed with the court.

Lac Vieux Desert reduces walleye harvest, state bag limit increases

The Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewas (LVD) voluntarily reduced their walleye harvest from Lac Vieux Desert Lake in order to increase the daily bag limit for Wisconsin state anglers.

"We value the good relations we have with the local community and state natural resource agencies," said Jim Williams, LVD Vice-chair and Voigt Intertribal Task Force representative. "Working with the lake association and local residents, we reduced our harvest to up the Wisconsin bag limit and hopefully help out surrounding businesses."

Beginning in early July, the bag limit moved up from two walleyes daily to three for Wisconsin state-licensed anglers. Williams said the higher bag limit should encourage more tourists to visit the lake and lodge at local resorts.

Lac Vieux Desert Lake is situated on the Wisconsin-Michigan border; along with LVD, the Mole Lake Sokaogon band annually harvest walleye from the 4,260-acre lake each spring.

Elections at Mille Lacs ushers in new leadership

Melanie Benjamin defeated long-time Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Marge Anderson in elections last June. Benjamin's four-year term began in July after a swearing in ceremony at the tribal government center.

Experienced with tribal, state, and federal levels of government, Benjamin once served under Anderson as commissioner of administration.

Former site manager of the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Sandra Blake was also sworn in as the new District 1 representative. The Minnesota Historical Society is seeking applicants to fill Blake's vacated position. Interested persons may call the MHS job line at (651) 296-0542.

Groundwater safety issues delay Crandon Mine EIS

Concern by state and tribal officials over groundwater pollution at the proposed mine near Crandon has forced Nicolet Minerals Company to redevelop plans for dealing with contaminated water. Nicolet Minerals is seeking permits to construct an underground zinc and copper mine in northeast Wisconsin near the Sokaogon Ojibwe reservation.

"Any analysis by the state of the potential impacts of the proposed Crandon mine will probably be delayed by several months," said GLIFWC Policy Analyst, Ann McCammon-Soltis. "The Sokaogon and other tribes are very concerned about groundwater contamination from mining and will be closely scrutinizing the company's new proposals."

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is charged with drafting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that attempts to predict the social and environmental impacts of the proposed mine. Until the mining company demonstrates better ways to ensure groundwater safety after the mine is closed, the DNR will hold off on issuing a draft EIS for public comment.

Nicolet Minerals is a subsidiary of the Canadian mining firm, Rio Algom.

"Blasto" illness linked to fungus in soil and decaying vegetation

Tribal health officials in northern Wisconsin are advising the public that the fungal disease blastomycosis is prevalent from early spring until late fall. While the disease is uncommon, people who spend time outdoors near disturbed soil or along waterways may be at a higher risk of contracting it.

"Blastomycosis is more common in states bordering the Great Lakes, including Wisconsin," said Mark LeCapitaine, Bad River public health nurse. "The infection occurs through the inhalation of fungal spores."

Mild cases of blasto can appear similar to cold and flu symptoms, while more severe cases may include fever, cough, fatigue, muscle aches, or even abscesses on the skin. Since blasto symptoms are similar to other diseases, alert your health care provider of environmental exposures that may have put you at risk. Blastomycosis can be treated with antibiotics. Contact your local health care provider for more information. (See News briefs, page 9)

The secret world of dipnetting

Electrofishing goes into overtime on Siskiwit Lake

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Masinaigan staff

Cornucopia, Wis.—What lurks in shallows of inland lakes at night? Anyone who spends time along lake-shores can conjure up a pretty good image of what's out there.

By reading the sound of a splash or swirl, we picture a beaver, tail slapping the water or a bass inhaling a fly on the surface. Frogs peep and croak, and minnows zigzag before the beam of a flashlight. But to know the true breadth of

creatures which occupy the near-shore nighttime environment is the privilege of the dipnetter.

Generally found in pairs, dipnetters occupy the foremost portion of an electrofishing boat. Through the nastiest spring weather, tribal, federal, and state fisheries crews annually brave the elements to survey fish populations on inland lakes.

Dipnetters take up positions at dusk after the navigator fires up the generator that powers the lights, and relays an electrical current through spidery shocking booms and into the water. The shal-

lows are lit up like a ball park with two 500-watt halogen flood lights mounted on the bow. Rapid-fire electrical pulses immobilize fish and draw them toward the boat.

Using square nets mounted on epoxy glass poles, dipnetters swing into action as the boat cruises the shoreline, sweeping the fish species of choice from the lake into an aerated holding tank. When the tank is full, or the lake-shore has been covered—whichever comes first—the electrofishing crew examines each fish.

The amount of electricity channeled into the water is fine-tuned, depending on a variety of factors, including: water conductivity, temperature, substrate, and the size of fish targeted for survey. Generally, the more minerals and sediment there are floating around, the better the conductivity and the less amperage required to stun fish.

My first hands-on taste of dipnetting came in mid-June on Siskiwit Lake, the northern most inland lake in the Wisconsin ceded territory. Filling in for a Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) co-worker, I joined Mitch Soulier on an electrofishing boat piloted by Ed White. Juvenile walleye were this evening's target and Ed adjusted the control box accordingly.

While waiting for sunset, we admired a pair of bald eagles standing watch over a nest nuzzled in a massive white pine where thick green foliage met a bare limb that extended twenty feet skyward. The heads of several eaglets poked just over the brim of the nest.

Veterans of countless GLIFWC electrofishing forays, Ed and Mitch shared bits of wisdom garnered over the years—like don't fall in. Especially when the juice is on, Ed added. They let me consider the anguish of being zapped, flailing in knee-deep water for a few moments before revealing the safeguards that sever the flow of electricity through the booms.

For one, dipnetters stand on something that looks like a black doormat attached to a cable; if they should step off, or otherwise leave their feet, the juice is cut. A hand switch located in between the dipnetters offers another power-cutting option. The boat operator has three additional "kill switches" in case of emergency. Fortunately, we didn't need to use any of them. Except for that one time.

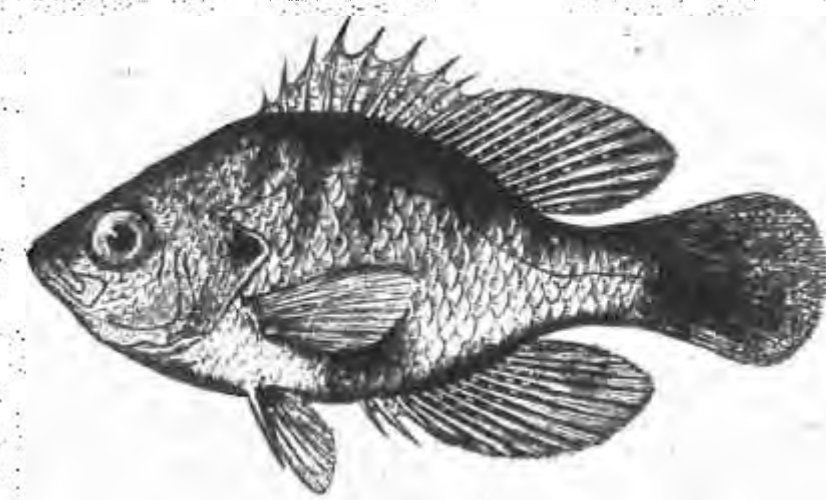
Extended survey

Since early May, GLIFWC inland fisheries staff have conducted weekly electrofishing runs on the 330-acre Siskiwit Lake to better understand juvenile walleye behavioral patterns.

After adult walleye have finished spawning, young four to twelve-inch fish move into the shallows to feed after sundown, said GLIFWC inland fisheries section leader, Joe Dan Rose. It is unclear, however, how late into the summer those fish utilize that area, he explained.

GLIFWC fisheries staff generally conduct mark and recapture population estimates for juvenile walleye on select, long-term study lakes within one to two weeks of completing spring adult walleye population assessments.

By extending juvenile walleye sampling activity beyond spring and



into the summer months, GLIFWC inland fisheries biologists hope to determine if a limited or extended window of opportunity exists for effectively sampling juveniles within shallow shoreline habitat.

By documenting juvenile walleye catch rates on a weekly basis, GLIFWC inland fisheries biologists hope to gain additional insights into any correlation that may exist between survey timing and relative sampling efficiency.

A revealing experience

Water clarity on Siskiwit is fair under normal, daylight conditions. Under the beam of 1000 watts of light in the evening, it gets much better. Submerged trees, green aquatic plants, and other organic structure comes into sharp view; manhole to Frisbee-sized spawning beds appear in the sandy substrate; minnows boil out of dense woody debris and dart out of sight.

We cruised the shoreline for some time before raising a fish, which turned out to be a plump pumpkinseed. A thick cloud of insects swarmed off the bow, intent on hovering over the flood lights; I quickly learned to breathe only through my nose. Several foot-long largemouth bass rolled up, offering me some scooping practice before we started finding walleyes.

After covering around one-half of the Siskiwit's shoreline, we had a few dozen small walleyes in the holding tank. As we skirted along a swath of green bulrushes, Mitch let out a "wuup," and flipped the emergency kill switch. A dark wad of brown moved through the water on the edge of the light. It was a muskrat heading for cover.

Our last wildlife encounter of the evening (not including the frantic black lab on the north shore that bolted from dock to dock to achieve optimum barking position on our passing boat) unfolded as we broke away from the mainland to survey an island shoreline.

We'd traveled something like half-way around the one acre island when the land seemed to move with the boat. And there they were. Goslings, and lots of them, waddling along the bank on the periphery of the halogen beam. Growing tall, yet still covered in juvenile fuzz, the young Canada geese were accompanied by a few adults. Ed steered the boat forward at a steady rate and the flock executed an about face, melting back into the darkness.

Back at the boat landing, Ed shut down the generator and Mitch and I swung the shocking booms around to the side of the boat. During "work up," they measured and recorded each juvenile walleye in the holding tank (58 in all) and marked never-before-captured fish with a fin clip.

On the ride home we listened to pow-wow music on WOJB radio and counted the swarms of deer lining Bayfield County Highway C. In the final tally, the deer edged out the walleye by a hair.



Mitch Soulier retracts one of the two shocking booms before an electrofishing run on Siskiwit Lake, Bayfield County. The booms are mounted off the bow and pass an electrical pulse into the water that briefly immobilizes fish. Along with Ed White, Soulier is an 11-year veteran of GLIFWC inland fisheries electrofishing surveys. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Doodem tee-shirts

Doodem (clan) tee-shirts are available through GLIFWC and feature the design used on GLIFWC's 1999 annual poster. The poster was drawn by Steve Premo, Mille Lacs artist.

The design depicts clan symbols running east and is dedicated to the Waabanong Run, which carried the Treaty Staff to Washington, D.C. in the fall of 1998 for the U.S. Supreme Court's hearing of the **Mille Lacs** case.

The design is done in browns, yellows, and reds and is imprinted on a natural, long-sleeved, 100% pre-shrunk cotton tee. Sizes M-3X are available at \$15.00 each.

Contact GLIFWC at (715) 682-6619; write: P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 or e-mail rwilmer@glifwc.org.

Safety First: A summer of precedents

Red Cliff and Bad River sign MOU with Coast Guard

Odanah, Wis.—A signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States Coast Guard and the Bad River and Red Cliff reservations, regarding commercial fishing vessel safety, began with a prayer by Red Cliff elder Leo LaFernier. LaFernier offered words of appreciation for the intergovernmental cooperation involved in the MOU and asked that this be only the beginning.

The pipe ceremony that followed burned a mixture of tribal and U.S. Coast Guard-offered tobacco together into a diffusing cloud, which Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) Deputy Administrator, Gerry DePerry, saw as a metaphor for the confluence of tribal and federal governments.

The focus of the MOUs are to define the procedures for the tribes and

the Coast Guard to share safety regulation enforcement responsibilities on tribal fishing vessels, a press release from the Coast Guard stated.

Though the MOU was primarily intended to increase the safety of Bad River and Red Cliff commercial fishing operations, the greater achievement of the MOU may be in the example it sets for tribal and federal government cooperation. "This is a new beginning," DePerry said, referring to LaFernier's opening remarks and also pointing out the significant date, June 21, the first day of summer.

Red Cliff Tribal Chairwoman Jean Buffalo-Reyes and Bad River Tribal Chairman Eugene Bigboy, Sr. each signed separate MOUs with the Coast Guard at the Odanah Community Center. The MOUs are the product of three years of collaboration between the bands and the Coast Guard, with GLIFWC mediating the dialogue.

The need for the MOUs became evident with increasing signs of the occupational hazards commercial fisheries face, such as the recent loss of the fishing vessel *Linda M* in Lake Michigan.

Admiral James Hull, who signed the MOU agreement on behalf of the Coast Guard, spoke on the significance

of the MOU at the signing ceremony: "The main value of the MOU is the increased safety it represents. The side benefit is increased cooperation between the Coast Guard and the Tribe."

Eugene Bigboy, Sr. emphasized the significance of intergovernmental cooperation involved in the MOU. "It shows the other government agencies that we have the ability to get together and work together," he said.

Jean Buffalo-Reyes called the MOU "a legacy" in that the MOU provides an inter-governmental solution that respects tribal sovereignty.

"If we are seeking sustainability, we must focus on the treaties as the essential foundation to build on...[the MOUs] are documents that provide connections to our original sovereignty," she said.

The signing ceremony, which GLIFWC Policy Analyst Jim Zorn moderated, included drum songs, speeches, a gift exchange, and a feast. During the gift exchange, the Coast Guard was presented with several handmade, traditional Ojibwe crafts. In exchange, the Coast Guard offered Red Cliff and Bad River reservations each an orange life preserver with the words "Partners in Safety" inscribed in gold lettering.



At a signing ceremony for the MOU regarding commercial fishing vessel safety, U.S. Coast Guard Admiral James Hull shakes hands with Bad River Tribal Chairman Eugene Bigboy while Red Cliff Tribal Chairwoman Jean Buffalo-Reyes looks on. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Articles by Tim Schwab, HONOR Intern

"Going deeper"

Siscowet assessments in Lake Superior

Keweenaw Bay, Mich.—The *Ojibwa Lady* idled courteously, allowing Lake Superior waves to draw her back toward shore while on-board, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) workers reeled in nets teeming with siscowet, or "fat" lake trout.

GLIFWC joins the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan Departments of Natural Resources, along with Canadian federal and tribal assessment agencies in this Lake Superior siscowet assessment, a follow-up to a similar 1996 survey.

The assessment was prompted by commercial fishers' increased reports of siscowet inhabiting in-shore areas, heretofore a "lean" lake trout habitat. The Lake Superior Technical Committee, part of the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, proposed project "Go Deeper" in 1996, which enlists agencies around Lake Superior to investigate deep-water siscowet, of which, prior to 1996, little was known.

"Historically, we only looked at water less than 45 fathoms. In this assessment we've expanded that to 100 fathoms," Bill Mattes, GLIFWC Great Lakes fisheries biologist, explained. Thus the siscowet assessment will also provide "a more comprehensive view of the lake as a whole and give a better idea about how different species of fish interact," according to Mattes.

The assessment examined siscowet populations at different depths with results showing that as water deepens beyond 350 feet, the siscowet generally increase in size. Siscowet exist in all depths of water, however.

Additionally, it was found that the mean age of the siscowet population is rather old—over 20 years—which is the result of sea lamprey control and smaller harvest numbers, according to Mattes.

The "Go Deeper" assessment will also examine the siscowet diet. Dietary information will be fed into a bioenergetics model to provide more information on Lake Superior food chains.

Mattes noted that everything from woodpeckers to corncocks to fishing lures have been found in siscowet stomachs in the assessments;

however, fish, like herring and chubs, make up the bulk of the siscowet diet. Another assessment will take place in four or five years, as part of a continuing effort to "Go Deeper."



Bill Mattes, GLIFWC Great Lakes fisheries biologist, displays a 'fat' lake trout, or siscowet, with its characteristic pot belly. This siscowet is part of a Lake Superior assessment aimed at increasing knowledge of the lake's deeper waters. (Photo by Tim Schwab)

While the average siscowet lake trout is around 20 years old, some exceptional individuals live twice that long—and longer. A GLIFWC Great Lakes survey crew recently captured a 27-inch, 40-year-old female that weighed a modest six pounds. Two healed-over sea lamprey scars were evidence that the fish had survived attacks that kill many other lake trout.

Open house for LaMP 2000 document

By **Tim Schwab**
HONOR Intern

Ashland, Wis.—Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland hosted an open house for the Lake Superior Binational Program (LSBP) on June 7, one in a series of open houses in communities in the Lake Superior basin.

Sponsored by Environment Canada and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the open houses are intended to publicize the Lake Superior Management Plan (LaMP) 2000 document.

Report calls for aggressive Great Lakes cleanup

An international commission that oversees the quality of the Great Lakes said the United States and Canada must become more aggressive in achieving a decades-old goal of cleaning up the lakes.

The International Joint Commission (IJC), in its 10th biennial report released July 26, claimed that efforts to clean up the shared waterway have been stalled and called for the two countries to increase their spending.

Additionally, the IJC said mothers living in the region should be warned about contaminated fish and the damage that invisible, tasteless toxins can do to a fetus or young child. Some of the substances that move from fish flesh to human tissue can remain in the body for years.

"It is clear that unless the United States and Canadian governments take the actions the commission now recommends, they will fail to achieve the purpose they set for themselves in 1978 to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem," the report states.

Carol Browner, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said she agrees with many statements the commission made and called on Congress to release \$50 million that is proposed for cleaning the lakes.

The report claims that the U.S. and Canada must become more aggressive about achieving goals they set 22 years ago under an amended version of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

In January, Vice President Gore announced plans for one of the biggest

The LaMP document details projects, plans, and progress in protecting and restoring the Lake Superior basin.

Representatives of LaMP 2000 committees spoke at the open house, presenting recent scientific findings and descriptions of the environmental actions being taken in the Lake Superior basin.

GLIFWC's Ann McCammon Soltis and Kory Groetsch, both committee members of Binational Program, helped organize the open-house and were on-hand as committee members of LaMP 2000 to answer questions.

infusions of cash proposed for Great Lakes cleanup efforts, about \$50 million. The proposal went to Congress, where it remains stuck.

Ms. Browner called the Great Lakes a vital resource for millions of people and said the promised money is evidence of how seriously the Clinton administration views the world's largest collection of fresh surface water.

"This is an incredibly important water body. I'm thrilled there is an IJC that is impassioned about it. I need all the allies I can get," she said.

Thomas Baldini of Marquette, Mich., who chairs the American side of the commission, said the organization recognizes progress that has been made but agreed the pace has slowed. "They're not going far enough, and they're not going fast enough to achieve the goals," he said.

The commission said the eight Great Lakes states and two lakeside provinces haven't targeted their fish consumption warnings to the families that make sport fish a large part of their diets.

The warnings "are not clear enough, and they're not getting to the people that need the information," said Mr. Baldini. A particular frustration, he said, is the states' preferred method of distributing the advisories: as another piece of information included with a fishing license.

If the family member who catches the fish isn't the one who cooks it, those warnings often get lost, said Commissioner Alice Chamberlain. "We need a simplified, clear warning in the case of children and women of child bearing years," she said.

Part of their contribution to the open-house included Erv Soulier, who presented the Bad River reservation's efforts to preserve and protect the Lake Superior basin.

Soulier, a member of the Binational Program Task Force and Director of Bad River Natural Resources Department, described for the audience six projects that Bad River is currently undertaking to protect Lake Superior and its landscape.

According to Soulier, 55% of the Bad River reservation currently is designated as conservation area, where nature is left untouched "to achieve its true evolutionary potential."

Soulier also noted the reservation's petition to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to raise water standards on the reservation above EPA national levels.

A question and answer period followed the presentation, and afterwards an informal reception afforded the public another opportunity to discuss the

LaMP 2000 document with committee members.

The LSBP, with representation from Canada and the United States, established the LaMP to help direct their goal of reaching a zero discharge status (in which nine critical pollutants are removed) in the Lake Superior basin. The LaMP 2000 has undertaken a broad ecological survey to generate a comprehensive understanding of the Lake Superior basin environment.

The LSBP committees published reports for the first time on aquatic communities, terrestrial wildlife communities, habitats, human health, and developing sustainability in the LaMP 2000 document. The LaMP document is updated every two years with the next publication in 2002.

Further information about LaMP 2000 can be found at: www.Epa.gov/glnpo/lakesuperior/. Information is also available by contacting: Kristina Bell, US EPA, WG 163, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago IL 60604-3590.



Erv Soulier, director of Bad River Natural Resources, discusses Bad River's environmental condition at an open house for the Lake Superior Management Plan 2000 document. The LaMP 2000 document details projects, plans, and progress in protecting and restoring the Lake Superior Basin. (Photo by Tim Schwab)



A riverlet of water flows into Lake Superior. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Mercury in the wind

Coal-fired power plants and the mining/smelting of ore are the two largest sources of mercury to the Lake Superior Basin. Emissions (i.e., mercury released into the atmosphere) from these sources are currently not regulated by state or federal agencies.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently investigating the necessity of regulating one of these sources, coal-fired power plants.

The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) has submitted comments to the EPA urging them to take regulatory action to severely limit the release of mercury from coal-fired utilities. Other inter-tribal agencies as well as individual tribal governments have also written letters to the EPA expressing their concerns.

Mercury released into the atmosphere locally, nation-wide, and internationally during the burning of coal and smelting of mined ore is deposited in and around Lake Superior.

That mercury is converted to methyl mercury by certain types of bacteria. Methyl mercury, the most toxic form of mercury to mammals, accumulates in the muscle tissues of top predator fish like walleye, northern pike and siscowet trout.

The EPA will make this critical decision by December 15, 2000.
(Submitted by Kory Groetsch, GLIFWC environmental biologist.)

Gift of the wiigwaasi-mitoog

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

June brings signs of summer as the winds warm and leaves unfold, turning from a soft pale green to a darker hue. June also brings a few 'Shinaabs (Anishinaabe) into the northern forests checking the status of the wiigwaasi-mitoog or birch trees, 'Shinaabs like Marvin Eno, Fond du Lac, and Marvin Defoe, Red Cliff.

They look for signs of the wiigwaas (birch bark) loosening from the tree, indicating it is time to harvest. Eno watches the birch in his own backyard for indications the bark is ready. "When the leaves become firm and stiff, then you know the bark is about ready," he says.

Harvesters take bark just when the tree is expanding, making its annual growth ring. Cut at the right time, wiigwaas almost pops off the tree, Eno explains.

Flexible, durable, water-resistant, wiigwaas is a valuable gift to those who know how to use it. The Ojibwe people historically relied on it for multiple uses, crafting the necessities for life, both large and small, from the versatile material.

Wiigiwaaman (Ojibwe houses), makakoon (food containers), and jimaan (canoes) were all constructed from wiigwaas. Ojibwe craftsmen knew to look for certain types of bark suitable for each project.

Today, only a few Ojibwe retain the knowledge and skills of their ancestors in using wiigwaas. Eno and Defoe are among them. Much of their art has developed through trial and error, but

both have found help from a few elders willing to share knowledge they received from the elders before them.

Eno, a retired postal worker, took up birch bark crafting about ten years ago. "My first five baskets were so ugly," he says, laughing. But he got help by using baskets made by Mike Shabiash, his brother-in-law's father. Using Shabiash's baskets as templates, his own baskets improved. He also uses Shabiash's cradleboard as a model for those he constructs today.

Eno makes a great variety of makakoon, covered and uncovered, and many different sizes of winnowing baskets from wiigwaas. This is not to mention a multiplicity of items he creates from nature's products, such as fans, wild rice knockers, lacrosse sticks, flutes, and lamps.

Defoe has been constructing birch bark canoes for about 25 years, beginning in 1976 for the Bicentennial. Like Eno, Defoe chuckles at his first attempt. "It looked like a canoe, but I don't think it would float," Defoe says. However, he was not to be deterred and sought information through reading and talking with a few remaining Ojibwe canoe builders, such as George McGeshick and Walter Carribeau.

Currently, Defoe is building a canoe at the First American Prevention Center, Red Cliff. Once completed, Defoe says it will be used as part of the Prevention Center's program to encourage traditional harvesting, such as wild rice gathering and spearfishing.

This fall Defoe anticipates building a canoe at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe School, providing instruction in the art of canoe construction as part of the school's curriculum.

Both Defoe and Eno spend many hours "shopping" in Mother Nature's great forests for supplies. While this may sound idyllic, the forest doesn't always offer the air-conditioned, bug-free conditions of Wal-Mart, nor large signs indicating where specific supplies are located.

Rather, heat, mosquitoes and flies can make a day of gathering fairly uncomfortable and the search for materials exhausting.

Locating the right bark often requires checking many trees. "I can look at 200 trees before I choose one suitable for a canoe," Defoe says. "One tree to

make one canoe is preferable; but such a large tree is difficult to find today." Only one of his 30 canoes has been constructed from the bark of one tree.

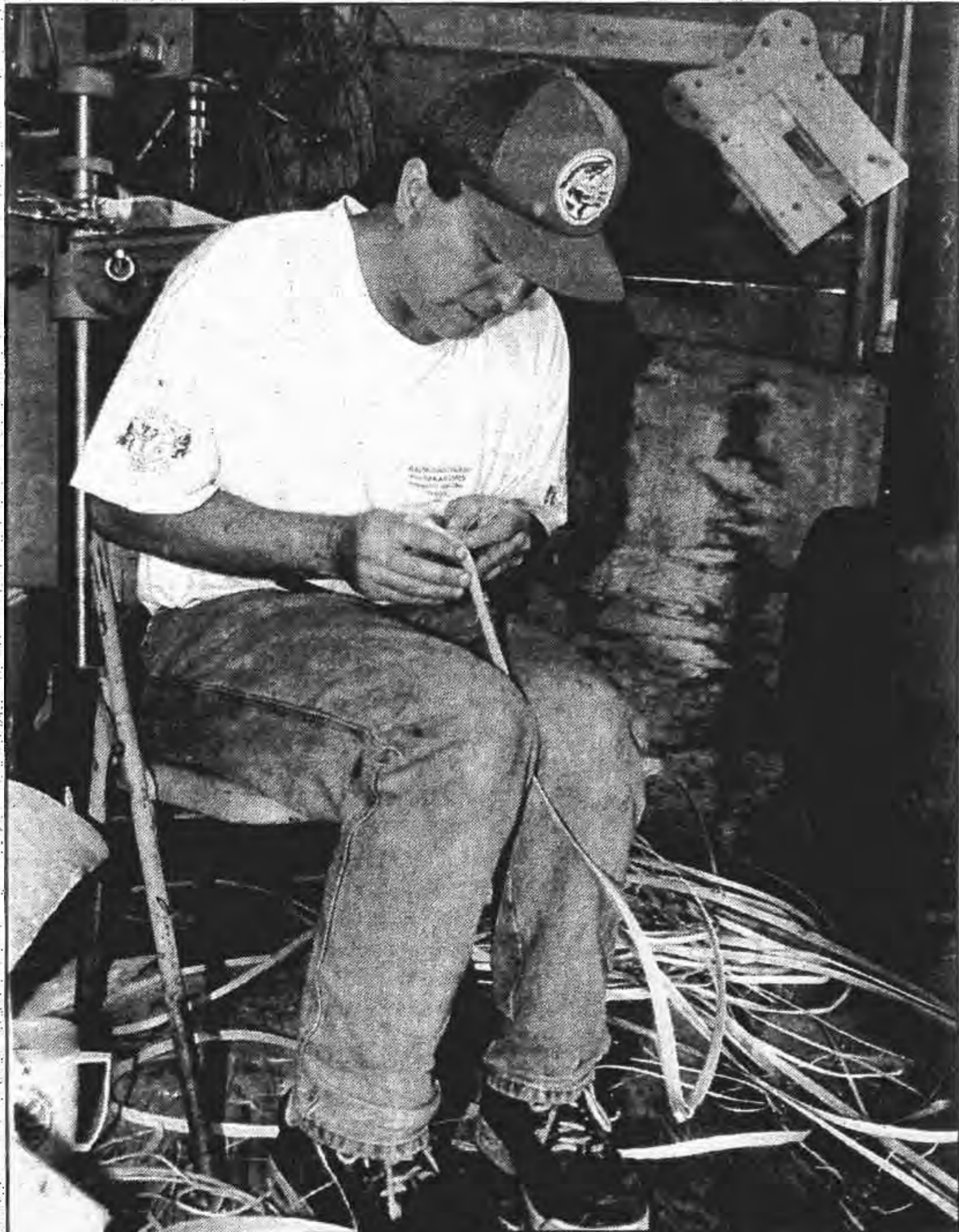
Winter bark, gathered in the spring, is the strongest bark and used for items such as canoes or wiigiwaman. Bark is also checked for the length of the dark lines.

Longer lines make it more susceptible to cracking. Sometime the bark may be too mature, making it dark and brittle. Eno sometimes uses older bark for reinforced basket covers as it provides color and texture contrast.

(See Defoe, page 24)



Winnowing baskets for fanning wild rice are among a variety of wiigwaas containers crafted by Fond du Lac tribal member Marvin Eno. Variety and special touches are added with deer antlers for cover handles on some, beadwork on others, and use of different textured birch bark for design. (Photo by Sue Erickson)



Marvin Defoe, Red Cliff, separates strips of basswood used to sew panels for a winter wiigiwaam under construction at Red Cliff. Also a birch bark canoe builder, Defoe has been working with wiigwaas for about 25 years, learning his art from elders, books, and trial and error. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Wenabozoo and wiigwaasi-mitoog

Stories told by:
Dee Bainbridge, Red Cliff storyteller

Wiigwaasi-mitoog as protectors

Wenabozoo was going to the big pow-wow. He would wear his best outfit. He decided he should have more eagle feathers on his bustle. He went to a place where the eagles nest and climbed a tree to check.

He was fishing around in the nest, and the mother eagle came home. She was angry, and Wenabozoo was so scared. He jumped down from the tree and started running through the woods. He looked for a place to hide as the eagles pursued him. He noticed a cleft in a big birch tree, so he slid inside this cleft of the tree. The birds couldn't find him, and eventually they left. Wenabozoo was so grateful to the birch tree. He told the birch tree that anything contained in the bark of the birch tree would be protected by it.

So, today, we have our wigwams for our shelter, our canoes to protect us in the water, and our containers to keep our food and our wild rice. So, Wenabozoo repaid the birch for protection.

How the birch tree got its marks

On another occasion Wenabozoo had gone hunting and killed two deer. He brought one home to his grandmother's house, and he told Nokomis (grandmother) he had to go back and get the other deer. He dressed out the deer and put all the meat along side her lodge. He told his grandmother to watch the meat, but she said she was so tired she had to rest.

There was a birch tree along her lodge, so Wenabozoo asked the birch tree to take care of the meat. He left to go back and get the other deer he had left in the woods.

Finally, he came back carrying the deer on his shoulder, and he had a balsam branch in his hand and a partridge he had shot on the way.

When he arrived at the lodge, all his meat was gone! The animals had eaten it. He was so angry at the birch tree for not taking care of his meat, he took the balsam branch and hit the birch tree with it, and then he took the partridge and hit that against the tree.

So, today you see little lines on the birch tree from the balsam needles, and you will also find the imprint from the wing of a partridge. Wenabozoo told the birch tree, "You will always have these marks to remind you that if you don't obey, you always suffer some consequences."

Traditional art, black ash basketry

Lac Courte Oreilles, Wis.—Mark Bisonette, an Anishinaabe from Lac Courte Oreilles, strongly believes that tribal youth are the pivotal key for preserving cultural ways.

He values his hours spent with children, passing along traditional knowledge and skills. Teaching what he learns, he is proud to be both student and instructor.

Two years ago, Mark attended a workshop, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service's North Central Research Station in Minnesota to learn basketry skills using the wood of black ash (*aagimaak*).

Native teachers from the East Coast explained the laborious steps required to create these beautiful, durable baskets. Mark instantly developed an interest in learning these skills.

He had occasionally noticed black ash baskets within the homes of relatives and friends. He had also heard of skilled elders within his community that had since walked on to the spirit world, taking with them their basketry knowledge. These observations made him realize the significance of keeping these teachings and skills alive to hand down to the youth.

Currently, his teachers include Billy Neptune of the Passamaquoddy, Richard Silliboy of the Micmac, Richard David of the Mohawk, and Les and Michael Benedict of the Mohawk. Each teacher has a unique style and a few tricks from which Mark learns. Mark adds his own style, imagination, and artistic talents to create uniquely exquisite baskets.



Mark Bisonette.

As an example, the Mohawk people make baskets with two handles to wash corn, an important Mohawk food resource. Mark modified this design to have just one handle resulting in a basket to hold berries, an important Ojibwe food resource. He calls it an Anishinaabe basket with a Mohawk twist.

He greatly appreciates all that he has learned from his East Coast teachers. Yet, he also wishes to talk with an Ojibwe basketweaver. He requests from the *Masinaigan* readership information of any such person.

Though still a student himself, Mark has begun offering his knowledge of basketweaving to the Lac Courte Oreilles youth. He describes to the youth how the flexible, yet sturdy, wood of *aagimaak* produces baskets so high in quality that even throwing them on to the ground will not cause them to be damaged. He articulates how the baskets represent a classic art form—elegant and functional. Ultimately, he challenges the youth to be proud of their ancestry.



Mark Bisonette describes his one-handed black ash basket pictured above as an Anishinaabe basket with a Mohawk twist.

Articles and photos by:
Karen Danielsen, GLIFWC Forest Ecologist

Black ash weaving workshop at Leech Lake

Leech Lake, Minn.—During the first week of June, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the U.S. Forest Service's North Central Research Station co-sponsored the third annual black ash basketweaving workshop at the Leech Lake reservation. Teachers at the workshop included Michael and Les Benedict, Mohawk basketweavers, and Mark Bisonette, an Anishinaabe basketweaver.

Michael discussed habitat requirements for black ash; the topic for his graduate studies at the University of Minnesota. He explained that black ash trees grow in areas with standing water such as swamps, bogs, streambanks, and mesic hardwood forests. He also described important microhabitats such as the small hummocks found within swamps.

Workshop participants joined Michael, Les, and Mark in the field to select and cut down two black ash trees. The felled trees were further cut into six to ten foot lengths, and the log sections were dragged out of the woods by hand (no easy task).

Later, Mark mentioned that black ash trees can be cut down during any time of the year. However, during winter if the logs freeze, they must be thawed before initiating the basket-making process.

Les and Michael explained that the best trees for basketry grow tall and straight without knotholes and have a full crown of leaves, few or no dead branches, a large diameter, and bark that feels like cork.

In addition, using an increment borer for examination, the growth rings



Peggy Castillo completes a black ash basket during a "Black Ash Basketweaving" workshop at the Leech Lake reservation last June. The production process, from tree selection to the creation of the final product, made up the agenda for the week-long workshop.

should be about as wide as the width of a nickel. Trees with these characteristics yield thin pliable wood strips called splints.

Splints provide the material for weaving. Mark elaborated that splints made from the trees' outer sapwood have an attractive creamy white color and are frequently used for delicate fancy baskets. The trees' inner heart wood has a golden brown color and is slightly brittle. This wood is commonly

used for handles, rims, and splints for more robust baskets. Producing splints from black ash logs requires strong arms and considerable perseverance.

After debarking, the logs must be pounded (and pounded and pounded) using the blunt end of an ax. Eventually, the persistent pounding, if done correctly, separates the layers of wood like the pages of a book.

Technically, the thin-walled wood cells created during the spring of each

year (springwood) break down leaving the more thick-walled wood cells created during summer (summerwood).

The resulting splints require additional splitting, trimming and smoothing in various ways. For fancy baskets, splints may be so refined and thinned they become almost see-through. Splints may be stored for later use.

The initial step of actually weaving a basket takes extraordinary patience and, for the less skilled basketweaver, three hands. Splints must be laid out criss-cross to each other like a multi-pointed star. Then, additional splints may be woven in and around the "points of the star." Eventually, with diligence, a basket is formed.

During the weaving process, the splints loosen as they dry and must be tightened. Therefore, Mark prefers to weave his baskets in stages. Therefore, he weaves the first third of his basket and allows it to dry for two or three days.

Then, he begins weaving the second third of the basket after he tightens the first third, and so on. For Mark, a basket sometimes takes as long as two weeks to complete. However, he firmly believes that basketweaving cannot be rushed.

Baskets may be made in different shapes such as round, square, or rectangular. They may also be of any size such as a small sewing basket or a large pack basket. Some baskets have woven in them additional materials such as sweet grass or porcupine quills. Essentially, each basket becomes a "signature" of the individual basketweaver. (See *Basketweaving*, page 9)

Sweetgrass: The return of an art medium

By Holly Wilmer
for the Masinaigan

Fond du Lac, Minn.— Sweetgrass. The name itself describes a plant that is a type of grass with a sweet-smelling aroma. The Anishinaabe or Ojibwe believe that it is the hair of Mother Earth, which is why sweetgrass is usually braided like hair. The braid represents the great strength a united tribe has opposed to a divided one.

Jeff Savage, a Fond du Lac tribal member, is one of many who harvest sweetgrass each year.

Harvested in late June or early July, sweetgrass has many uses. It is used as a purifying medicine in prayer, smudging, and other such ceremonies. Sweetgrass is sacred and is one of the four medicinal healing plants.

The others include tobacco, cedar, and sage. These plants are frequently used in sacred tribal ceremonies and prayer.

When it is dried and mixed with other plants, sweetgrass can be used in pipe-smoking. The prayers of the people are said to rise up with the smoke to the Creator. Sweetgrass can also be used to make a tea that can cure things such as coughs and sore throats.



A basket of sweetgrass that was harvested, dried, and braided by GLIFWC staff. (Photo by Holly Wilmer)

There has been a newly revived use for sweetgrass that seems to be making a return: sweetgrass baskets. Many Anishinaabe are returning to this art form and using it to make their

living. At many pow-wows, one can find an array of different types of baskets along with individual braids.

Sweetgrass baskets are made of woven or twisted sweetgrass. They normally have a cover but it is not a necessity. Other materials that make up the baskets are birchbark, colored threads, and optional decorations based on personal preference.

The birchbark is the structural support and goes in the cover and the base of the basket. It may also have a decorative purpose by going on the top of the cover. The bark has different shades of brown that can be contrasted against each other and used to create a natural look.

The baskets come in many different shapes, such as the typical circular box, but some artists have experimented in oval, heart, and rectangular designs. Since sweetgrass is so flexible, it is very difficult to make large baskets.

There is a tendency for the baskets to twist from the lack of structural support. The small amount of birch bark that is used is not enough to make a very large basket stable enough for use.

Savage is one of the many who have chosen this form of art. "My art

blossomed from a love of sweetgrass," commented Savage in an interview. His love compelled him to seek out a teacher of the craft and spend several years perfecting his technique to the level it is today. His pursuit has helped him to win awards for his basket making at the Eiteljorg Indian Market.

Savage uses many of the traditional designs of the Ojibwe, but adds his own modern style to the baskets. Many of the baskets he makes have symbolic animal shapes cut into them. He also adds more modern symbols such as hearts, flowers, and leaves to attract other types of buyers.

In addition to the shapes, Savage adds beadwork and different colored threads to make his work unique. Other artists add such things such as quill work and leather to bring an aesthetic touch to their baskets. The addition of such materials adds artistic freedom and expression but, also, adds to the market value. The price of the baskets may increase significantly if expensive materials were used originally.

When gathering the sweetgrass, Savage offers a prayer and lays down tobacco before taking the grass. It usually takes several days to gather what he needs to make a year's supply of baskets.

Once gathered, Savage lets the grass dry to the consistency needed. If it gets too dry, the grass is wetted slightly to bring the flexibility back. Once ready, the grass is sorted by length and thickness and then twisted to the size used to make the baskets.

A basket can use a lot of sweetgrass to make, so finding a lot of the material is important. Sweetgrass does not grow in large clumps of pure grass like other grasses. Usually, other types of grasses or weeds separate large clumps and take over the land the sweetgrass uses.

Also, the roots of a sweetgrass plant are very fragile and can be easily uprooted in the harvesting of the grass. Care must be taken in the harvest so that more sweetgrass can grow the next year.

Sweetgrass is a very special material. It takes care to gather it, discipline to work with it, and talent and hard work to make it into a wonderful art work. To see more baskets by Jeff Savage, visit his homepage online: <http://www.savageart.com>.



A variety of sweetgrass baskets sit on display by maker and member of the Fond du Lac tribe, Jeff Savage. (Photo by Holly Wilmer)

"Walk to Remember"

(Continued from page 2)

song. The warm reception was followed by a feast and a sweat in the village. "People are so grateful that this staff is coming through their communities. This really is a journey of hope and renewal," Olsgard said.

As the largest freshwater lake in the world, Lake Superior figures prominently in the growing water crisis as cities and nations find it difficult to meet exasperated demands for water. Industrial contamination and development further threaten the lake that is a cultural and spiritual cornerstone for many Anishinaabe people.

The idea to walk around the lake was generated during a gathering at Sault Ste. Marie in April 1999 when Indian and non-Indian people met to discuss Great Lakes issues.

The journey began at Waverly Beach on Lake Superior's south shore on June 29 and is scheduled to come full circle on August 27, in time for the Bad River reservation's pow-wow.

Basketweaving workshop

(Continued from page 8)

This workshop provided Leech Lake tribal members an opportunity to reestablish a notable art form and utilitarian tradition.

Viewing the incredibly complex and arduous process required to produce black ash baskets certainly fostered, within all the workshop participants, a tremendous admiration for the dedication and talent exhibited by these skilled artisans, the basketweavers.

The author wishes to thank Peggy Castillo, American Indian Program Manager for the North Central Research Station, and Gerald White, Tribal Cultural Preservation Officer for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, for the invitation to attend this fascinating and enjoyable black ash workshop.

News briefs continued

(Continued from page 3)

GLIFWC awarded WHC grant for project on Sandy Lake tragedy

With financial assistance from a Wisconsin Humanities Council (WHC) mini-grant, the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) is spearheading an effort to increase public awareness of the Sandy Lake tragedy and Wisconsin Death March of 1850-1851.

This December marks the 150th anniversary of the disastrous treaty annuity payment at Sandy Lake, Minnesota when federal officials attempted to relocate Ojibwe Indians from Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to unceded Minnesota lands.

The removal effort forced the deaths of some 400 Ojibwe at Sandy Lake and on the return trip back through Wisconsin.

Funding from WHC is earmarked for the development of an informational pamphlet that explains what happened at Sandy Lake. The pamphlet is due out in spring 2001 and will be distributed to tribal and public schools, interpretive centers, government leaders, and anyone seeking to better understand the Sandy Lake tragedy.

Meanwhile, a workgroup of elders, tribal leaders, and GLIFWC staff continue to formulate plans for a memorial at Sandy Lake to remember those who died.

A spiritual run from Sandy Lake to Madeline Island in early December is also being considered.

GLIFWC summer interns take to woods, water for annual surveys

Odanah, Wis.—Eight college interns hailing from across the nation spent the summer assisting GLIFWC staff in seasonal field surveys and on special projects. GLIFWC internships offer students specialized experience in their respective fields of study and helps them better understand Ojibwe culture and treaty rights.

There were fish and plant assessments to be done, legal cases to be reviewed, and loads of research to be conducted. For the qualified college students who took up those tasks, summer became an opportunity to apply what they'd been learning in the classrooms with hands-on experience. Summer also was an occasion for the interns to learn about their future occupations and maybe about themselves.

Whether taking the internship meant making a long move from home, or a short trip down the highway, all of the GLIFWC interns found new experiences this summer. Below are the stories of the GLIFWC summer interns, with their summer experiences and future plans summed up, presented as a small bit of recognition for their hard work this summer.

Plant surveys keep intern in the woods

Creature discomforts

"I jump in the air!" Mark Pero, GLIFWC biology intern, exclaims, recounting how he would react to the myriad of chipmunks and other forest wildlife that would surround him during his plant harvesting.

This being Mark's only summer complaint, he says he especially enjoyed his fieldwork collecting plant specimens in the forest. Mark says this experience has helped him learn more about traditional medicines and plant harvests, which has brought him closer to his culture.

"I learned that when you take a plant, you put a seed back in the same hole so that another one will grow," Mark explained.

Mark, a Bad River tribal member, expresses strong connections with the Bad River reservation, and he says that he turned down a more financially lucrative job for the GLIFWC position so that he could be at home for the summer.

Mark will be a junior at the Michigan Technological Institute in Houghton, Michigan in the fall, majoring in environmental engineering.

Though his work at GLIFWC won't apply directly to his major, Mark says the internship does meet his interest in environmental issues, which he hopes will be a part of his job after college.

Mark says he's interested in looking at environmental issues at Bad River: "Some of the questions I'd be asking are: 'Is the water safe to drink? How can we help protect and preserve our treaty rights?'" Mark remarked.



Wild Plant Intern Mark Pero examines a completed plant specimen with satisfaction. Mark found that his summer internship afforded him a cultural education in addition to the occupational experience he received.

Great Lakes interns assist with assessment efforts on Lake Superior

It's not quite Jaws

Stacey smells seashells by the seashore, while unsuccessfully seeking sharks on the Lake Superior shoals.

Stacey Gerlach came to GLIFWC with dreams of studying sharks. A senior biology major at Northland College, Stacey claims that she knew there were no sharks in Lake Superior prior to taking the internship.

"I'll keep looking," Stacey jokes.

Though the Ohio native's interest in sharks may not be accommodated with her work on Gitchi Gumi, Stacey explains, "Actually, I figured working on Lake Superior would be a good way to get experience on a big body of water."

Stacey commented that the internship has been very educational and even applicable to her aspirations in marine biology. "I've gained more knowledge. I've become more independent as far as knowing what I'm doing. I'm more confident in my abilities," Stacey said.

"Being out on the *Ojibwa Lady* was definitely a meaningful experience. It was my first experience setting a gill net, working with fish, picking the fish out of the nets—I did a lot of firsts at GLIFWC which was really exciting," Stacey added.

Stacey received word this summer that she will be finishing out the last semester of her senior year living and working on a 230 foot sailing vessel in the

*Intern article & photos by:
Tim Schwab, HONOR Intern*



*Julie Nelson (left) and Stacey Gerlach pause from their fish picking to pose for a picture. Here the two interns reel in nets on the *Ojibwa Lady* as part of a siscowet assessment on Lake Superior. (See story, page 5.)*

Caribbean, in a program which affords her the credit she needs to graduate in the Spring from Northland.

As part of the Sea Education Association with Boston University, the program will allow Stacey to pursue her interest in marine biology.

"The things I've done here [at GLIFWC] on the boat will help me feel a little more comfortable and give me a good background," Stacey said.

Intern Julie Nelson takes on more than a nickname

Julie "Nails" Nelson says she secretly enjoys all of the ribbing that her co-workers give her. "They say I'm tough as nails," Julie Nelson says, laughing.

Despite some of the teasing Julie takes from her co-workers in the Great Lakes fisheries section, Julie says she finds it a "fun work environment."

"They are very fun people who make the work we do very enjoyable. Never a dull moment," Julie commented.

Julie says her favorite part of the internship is working out in the water, though she notes that there are many less exciting hours working in the office or in the garage. Her time is split between gathering data in the field and aging scale samples under the microscope.

"My most memorable moment was working with the sturgeon because not many people get to see them."

Julie will be a senior at Northland College this fall, majoring in natural resources with a concentration in wildlife and fish ecology.

Through her internship at GLIFWC, Julie has found a valuable work experience. "It's a wonderful place to work. If you want to know anything, [GLIFWC] is great about letting interns learn." I'm getting to see the kind of work I'll be doing when I graduate."

(See GLIFWC interns, page 11)



Wild rice surveyors Veronica Van Gough (left) and Leah Gibala smile in the early morning hours before taking the canoe out for the day. The two interns got their fair share of the outdoors this summer as they mapped and surveyed 40 different lakes in the area.

GLIFWC interns focus on special projects in the office

(Continued from page 10)

Tame interns survey wild rice

Interns Leah Gibala and Veronica van Gogh came to GLIFWC mid-summer to carry out GLIFWC's annual wild rice surveys.

The survey requires the two interns to spend long days in canoes, mapping wild rice growth and taking density measurements in 40 different lakes. The data they collect will be put into the Wild Rice Abundance and Harvest report, an annual publication, which presents information on the current year's harvest.

Both interns say they enjoy the work, especially the outdoor environment.

"It's great! You get to see a lot of wildlife," Leah says, as she and Veronica begin naming off the sundry animals and plants they've seen. "I'm really excited about doing this job. I love the outdoors," Veronica comments.

Leah comes to GLIFWC from North Carolina where she was recently doing research on turtles. Leah has field experience working with giant reed grass and with trout, but she says working with wild rice is new to her. She will finish her degree in biology at Northland College this fall.

Veronica completed five years in the U.S. Army prior to coming to GLIFWC this summer. Born and raised in this area, Veronica is familiar with wild rice, though she says the intern work is new to her. Veronica plans to finish her bachelor's degree in the near future.

Wildlife intern focuses on loosestrife

"It means Goddess of the Moon," Phoebe Prince says, blushing as she explains the entomology of her name.

People around GLIFWC might know Phoebe better as the 'goddess of the laptop,' however, because most of her summer she has been set behind a computer.

Interning as a wildlife aide at GLIFWC, Phoebe has been working closely with the purple loosestrife weed. "Mainly I've been doing noxious weed research," the bespectacled Phoebe explains from behind a glowing screen.

"I haven't gotten out in the field as much as I would have liked," Phoebe comments, but she also adds that she is sure that her time at GLIFWC has taught her much. Additionally, her aspirations for a career in botany mesh well with her tasks at GLIFWC.

Hoping to study the purple loosestrife weed at the graduate level, Phoebe plans on pursuing her master's degree in botany next spring at the University of Akron in Ohio. Phoebe has a bachelor's degree in natural sciences from California University in Pennsylvania.

A native of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, which is near Pittsburgh, Phoebe claims that she has enjoyed the change to the North Country. "I've seen new flowers," Phoebe notes. "The lake is the big difference for me," Phoebe adds.

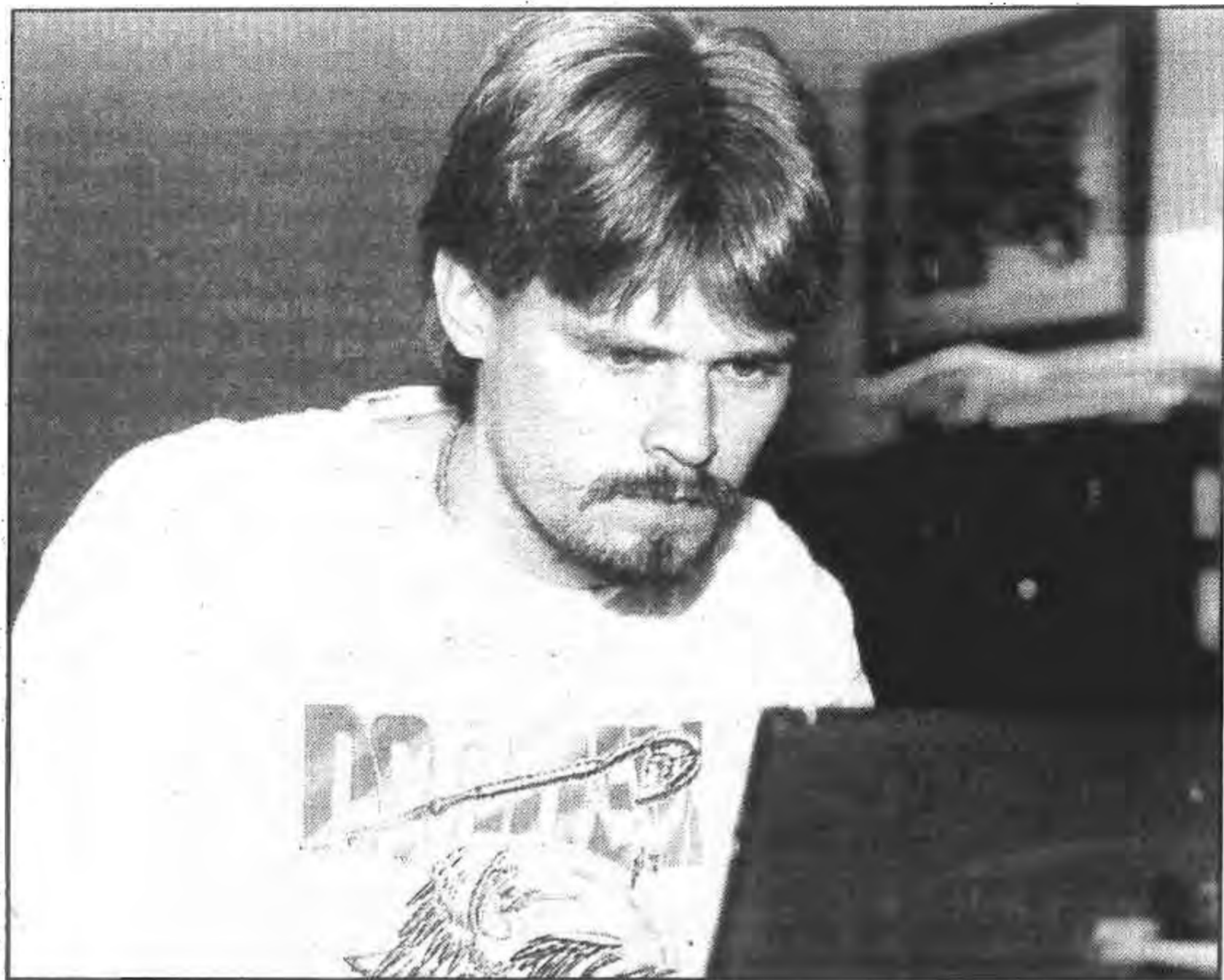


Wildlife Intern Phoebe Prince puts on a happy face as she poses next to a patch of plants. Unfortunately for Phoebe, most of her internship this summer was spent hard at work behind a computer, not out in the field.

"With an Eagle's Eyes" GLIFWC's new video ready for distribution

GLIFWC's new 25 minute video features background information on Ojibwe, off-reservation treaty rights and presents an overview of treaty harvest and resource management activities. GLIFWC's diverse resource management programs throughout the Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin ceded territories are highlighted, including the exercise and management of treaty harvests. The video stresses the Ojibwe's respect for the natural world and management based on a vision for seven generations to come.

Copies of the video are available through GLIFWC's Public Information Office (PIO) for \$8.00 each. Contact us at: GLIFWC PIO, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, Wisconsin 54861; phone: (715) 682-6619; e-mail pio@glifwc.org.



Aaron Frankland eyes his laptop screen intently, searching for all the answers. Aaron, an intern with the Intergovernmental Affairs Division of GLIFWC, spent most of his internship doing research for the Crandon Mine and Sandy Lake projects.

Legal intern helps out softball team

On the advice of a friend and former GLIFWC intern, Aaron Frankland made the long trek from Kansas to the North Country to intern with the intergovernmental affairs division at GLIFWC.

Aaron, who is pursuing a Tribal Law Certificate in conjunction with his law degree at the University of Kansas, explains his internship as a learning experience in more than one way. "It's different for me. I've never done work in natural resource and mining law. It's interesting to see the way regulations are put together."

Though Aaron admits that he is working with an unfamiliar facet of law, he claims, "I find it a neat process of discovery." He notes that most of his time this summer was spent researching, with a focus on Crandon Mine and Sandy Lake projects.

Aaron also mentions the narrow legal scope he's had to adjust to this summer. "I'm used to having six floors of research material available," Aaron comments, pointing to the six shelves that GLIFWC has.

But Aaron has to adjust outside the office, too. On the acclaimed GLIFWC softball team, Aaron has played everywhere from right field to catcher. "I love catcher," Aaron admits.

Also different for Aaron is living in dorms at Northland College. His last dorm experience, nearly ten years ago, had left his memory until the dregs of the communal bathroom rekindled the unsavory memories for him.

"The hardest thing is being without my wife and my dogs," Aaron confesses. Aaron currently lives in Lawrence, Kansas with his wife, Corine and two dogs, Philbert and Twila.

Former HONOR Intern at Red Cliff

Editor's note: Ian Wilsher spent a summer as an HONOR Intern at Red Cliff in 1997 and returned at his own expense for another summer internship at Red Cliff.

Ian Wilsher can't remember what first sparked his interest in American Indian culture, but he notes it "has been with me since I was knee-high to a grasshopper."

A native to Milton Keynes, England, Ian is interning on the Red Cliff reservation this summer with the First American Prevention Center.

Through his membership in Honor Our Neighbor's Origins and Rights (HONOR) Inc., which is "a human rights coalition that looks at American Indian issues," Ian learned about HONOR's intern program and first interned at Red Cliff three years ago.

Ian found his internship in 1997 so worthwhile that he endeavored to come back this year, this time at his own expense.

He calls his experiences at Red Cliff "life-changing," specifically with regard to his spiritual views.

Part of HONOR's mission is to create intercultural understanding, so Ian's British heritage makes him an ideal person to carry out HONOR's mission.

In the three years since his last internship, Ian has worked to fulfill that mission in Britain. He petitioned Oxford University to create scholarships for students to spend summers working and living in native communities. This scholarship has afforded two Oxford students the opportunity to intern among the Anishinaabe this summer in conjunction with the HONOR intern program.

Ian hopes that he will be able to increase his advocacy efforts when he returns to England this fall, possibly even making it a part of his livelihood. (Additional intern profiles, see page 19)



British invasion: Ladies and gentlemen, the (*Galerucella*) beetles!!!!

By **Tim Schwab**
HONOR Intern

Odanah, Wis.—As the ominous name might imply, the purple loosestrife weed is reeking havoc as it spreads pervasively across northern Wisconsin, threatening wetland plants and wildlife as it does so. An exotic species in North America, purple loosestrife has no natural predators to control its expansion.

But on foreign shores, in native Britain and other European countries, the wee *Galerucella* beetles' weighty appetites have always kept the loosestrife in check. With this in mind, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) biologists and wildlife specialists, seeking an effective way to control the plant, have looked to employ the beetles here.

Though an exotic species themselves, their use as a biological weapon against purple loosestrife has proven an interminable force, with a success rate of up to 90% in other areas of North America without visible environmental repercussions.

However, like the Beatles, the beetles have received some domestic criticism: some biologists warn of an unforeseen impact that the beetles, as a non-native species, may pose to other dimensions of the environment.

GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist Miles Falck calls the use of these beetles "a learning process." He notes that the beetles are a self-sustaining species

whose propagation depends on purple loosestrife. Thus, he believes, the beetles' impact on other native plant or wildlife is kept at a minimum.

The United States Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service has approved the release of the beetles in America. Additionally, the Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources have been releasing the beetles since 1994 to combat purple loosestrife.

According to Falck, the ultimate solution may be an integrative pest-management program that invites the use of both herbicides and beetles to destroy purple loosestrife and reclaim the wetlands.

Control of purple loosestrife, in the past, has mainly depended upon herbicides, which are expensive, labor-intensive, and only effective at killing the weeds that can be easily sprayed. Because purple loosestrife has colonized over a wide area and on property under multiple ownership, the use of chemicals is not always feasible.

"We needed a non-chemical alternative," Falck said. "[The beetles] work seven days a week; they can fly; they can get to areas we can't."

The tiny beetles will be part of a long-term strategy to control purple loosestrife in northern Wisconsin. GLIFWC began raising beetles on isolated purple loosestrife plants in early June, and released them in mid-July.

Falck noted that it will likely take 3-5 years for the beetles to establish their population in the area, with sig-

Wisconsin weed laws under scrutiny

As a corollary defense against the purple loosestrife, draft revisions for new weed laws in Wisconsin are currently underway. The weed laws, last reviewed in 1975, are outdated and have been ineffective at controlling the spread of weeds like purple loosestrife.

According to Miles Falck, GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist, the most significant change in the weed laws will be the inclusion of periodic reviews of weeds growing in Wisconsin. This will ensure that weed laws remain current. Previously, such reviews would have required a state legislature vote, which delayed, postponed, or neglected addressing these reviews.

A Voigt Intertribal Task Force meeting in April concluded that tribal and state governments have similar goals in mind with regard to weed laws. The Wild Plant Management and Policy Committee, which includes tribal members, has since become involved in consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources about weed law revisions.

nificant impact on the purple loosestrife manifesting in 10-20 years.

Purple loosestrife is considered a noxious weed, which mainly threatens wetland environments, one of the most diverse and endangered habitats in North America.

If you own property with significant amounts of purple loosestrife and are interested in removing the weed from your property, please contact Miles Falck, GLIFWC, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861, e-mail miles@glifwc.org or phone (715) 682-6619.



GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist Miles Falck inspects a colony of *Galerucella* beetles feeding on enclosed purple loosestrife weeds. These beetles, native to Britain and other European countries, were released in mid-July to combat the detrimental spread of purple loosestrife. (Photo by Tim Schwab)

Zebra mussel threat may be spreading

Measures taken to protect St. Croix

By **Tim Schwab**, *HONOR Intern*

Odanah, Wis.—After an accidental introduction to North American waterways in the 1980's, the unwelcome zebra mussel continues to grow in numbers, threatening ecological, industrial, and recreational dimensions of the waterways it infests.

An exotic species with a competitive advantage over native mussel species, the zebra mussel infestation endangers native mussel livelihood, threatens established ecosystems, and upsets industrial intakes and municipal water supplies.

However, biologists have been able to effectively control the spread of the zebra mussel in some waterways, like the St. Croix River, in recent years. Unlike the Mississippi River where a variety of human activities can support zebra mussel expansion, biologists have determined that in the St. Croix River, recreational boats and other vessels are the primary agent.

Glenn Miller, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Biologist, commented "Overall, it looks like monitoring and control efforts by the various agencies are keeping the population in check."

Miller is part of the St. Croix Zebra Mussel Task Force (SCRZMTF), composed of numerous state and federal agencies, including GLIFWC.

SCRZMTF annually drafts a plan to monitor and control the spread of the zebra mussel. The 2000 Action Plan for the SCRZMTF calls for two objectives:

1. Prevent or slow the spread of exotic species in the St. Croix
2. Avoid harmful ecological, economic, social and public health impacts that may result from zebra mussel infestation.

These objectives will be accomplished through public educational efforts and through enforcing regulations requiring inspection for and removal of zebra mussels on recreational and commercial vessels.

According to Miller, this year's action plan is very similar to the actions taken in the last three years.

A June effort by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service to determine the extent of zebra mussel infestations of the St. Croix included an investigative dive into the Lower St. Croix.

Though the dive revealed no evidence of a reproducing population, 20 zebra mussels were found, indicating the possibility of a future threat.



Zebra mussel

Non-native invasive plant educational poster available

The impacts on non-native invasive plants have grown substantially in recent decades, causing significant changes to natural, agricultural, and cultural resources.

These changes affect everyone either directly or indirectly due to loss of productivity or increased costs associated with their control or eradication.

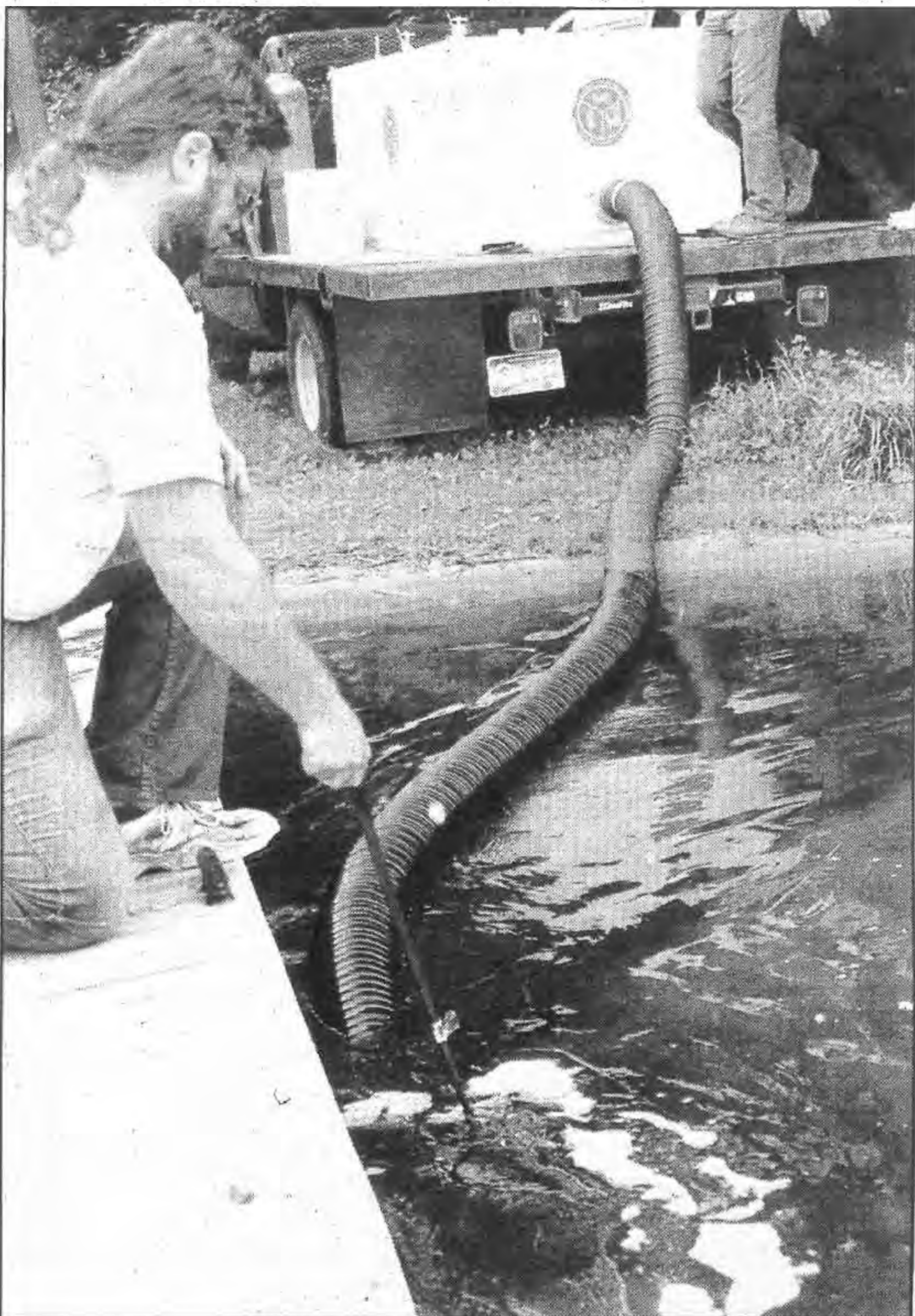
Once released into the environment, invasive non-native species are very difficult to manage and require a cooperative effort among landowners to contain their spread.

GLIFWC, in cooperation with several state, federal, and private organizations, has developed an educational poster that provides information on several non-native plant species of concern in the Upper Great Lakes region.

It is hoped that the poster will raise public awareness of this important issue and reduce the spread of these alien invaders.

For additional information, please contact Miles Falck at GLIFWC, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, Wisconsin 54861, phone (715) 682-6619 or e-mail miles@glifwc.org.

Kentuck Lake stocking continues



Walleye fingerlings from the Lac du Flambeau hatchery are transported to Kentuck Lake, where Glenn Miller, GLIFWC inland fisheries biologist, guides a submerged stocking tube which releases thousands of fingerlings. This stocking is an effort to replenish walleye populations in Kentuck Lake, which have been low in recent years. Tribal and state fishery managers have cooperated over the past several years in an effort to rehabilitate the lake's walleye population. (Photo by Tim Schwab)

Bag limit changes being considered at Lake Namekagon

By Holly Wilmer
for Masinaigan

Cable, Wis.—On May 11, 2000, members of the Lake Namekagon Area Improvement Association (NAIA) attended a meeting of the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF) to discuss their January 4, 2000 proposal to change walleye management regulations on Lake Namekagon.

While the VITF did not endorse the proposal, it did authorize Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) Inland Fisheries staff to participate in a working group that would look at the Lake Namekagon walleye population and examine potential options available for managing it.

The VITF suggested that this working group be comprised of representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), NAIA, GLIFWC, and GLIFWC member tribes. A meeting was held June 21, 2000 in Cable, Wisconsin between those representatives.

NAIA representatives explained that their reasons for wanting to work with the tribes were to improve the way the walleye fishery is being managed. Their main concern is with the fact that angling bag limits are reduced each spring. These reductions are made by the DNR in response to tribal harvest declarations.

The association would like to have a fixed walleye bag limit of five per day with a harvest slot. This harvest slot could, then, be adjusted annually by the DNR to regulate angler harvest. NAIA representatives thought that a bag limit of five, coupled with a harvest slot, would be better for tourism than the current system.

This year the bag limit had been set at two, which area representatives felt was too low. The Namekagon area

has had an earlier opening date for the walleye season than areas in Minnesota. The early date usually brings in a lot of business from Minnesota fishers, but for the past few years, there has been a decline.

The bag limit in Minnesota is six, even on lakes with a tribal declaration. NAIA representatives felt that Minnesota fishers would rather wait a week for their own season than to travel to Lake Namekagon where the bag limit is significantly lower.

Other ideas discussed by NAIA representatives were stocking adult walleye into the lake, conducting walleye surveys using different sampling methods, and increasing accountability for angler harvest. Tribal representatives said they agreed that anglers should be more accountable for their harvest and explained that the tribal spear harvest is completely accounted for.

Tribal representatives said the bag limit rule was a system developed by the DNR and was not specifically called for by the federal court. They thought this rule had the effect of hurting tribes because tribes received so much pressure each spring to make certain declarations.

There are more fish available for everyone than the current system provides. Tribal representatives added that the tribes and state anglers should be sharing the resource equally.

"The tribes [Bad River and Red Cliff], the NAIA and the Wisconsin DNR working together could be a good thing," said Joe Dan Rose, a committee member and biologist for GLIFWC. "In the process of compiling and reviewing all of the data, we will see if we can arrive at a common understanding of where things are at right now. Then, we can start thinking of different options for managing the walleye fishery."

The committee's next meeting will be held September 5 in Cable, WI.

Fisheries managers partner for a day of fishing



Under the watchful eye of Chicago Bears fan and Lac Courte Oreilles Conservation Officer George Morrow (left), Green Bay Packers kicker Ryan Longwell (right) works his way along the feast table at the annual Partners in Fishing event. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)



Good walleye fishing was a chip shot away from Green Bay Packers kicker Ryan Longwell (center) on Pokegama Lake at Lac du Flambeau. GLIFWC's Jim Schlender (left) and guide Lyle Chapman joined Longwell. This year's event took place on May 30-31 at Lac du Flambeau. Each year the Partners in Fishing event brings tribal, federal, and state fisheries managers together for fun, informal fishing. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Off-rez trappers can expect good furbearer numbers in 2000

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Masinaigan staff

Odanah, Wis.—Off-reservation trappers can look forward to good harvest opportunities in Wisconsin this fall according to Jonathan Gilbert, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission Wildlife Section Leader. Populations of key furbearers like fisher, otter, and bobcat are either stable or increasing, he said.

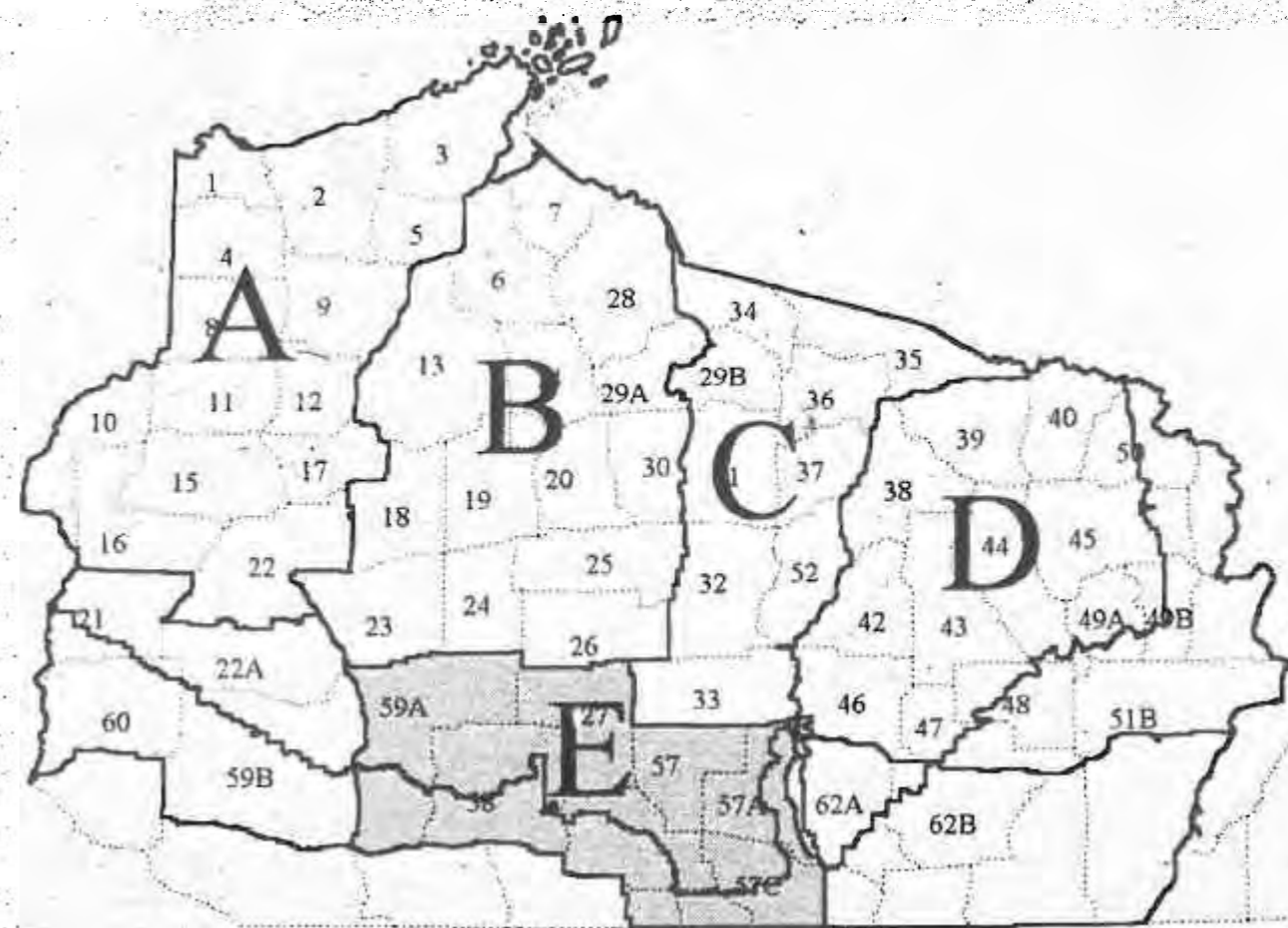
Bobcat (*gidagaa-bizhiw*) numbers have been increasing slowly but steadily over the last five years despite harvests averaging 200 animals annually. While most non-Indians pursue bobcats with hounds, treaty harvesters generally prefer standard trapping methods, like foot-hold traps. Tribal members harvested six cats last year.

A stable otter (*nigig*) population throughout Wisconsin will offer trappers harvest opportunities similar to those of recent years. Of the more than 2,000 animals tagged in 1999, sixteen were trapped by tribal members.

Fisher (*ojiig*) have recovered nicely from the massive 1997 state overharvest when nearly 40% of the total population was trapped. A miscalculation by state biologists led to the issuance of 5,000 extra permits, driving the non-Indian harvest from approximately 1,300 animals in 1996 to more than 3,600 the following year, Gilbert explained.

“Since that time, we’ve been in recovery mode,” Gilbert said. “Fisher numbers are now back above 8,000 after two years of drastic cut-backs in quotas. That allowed the population to grow significantly.”

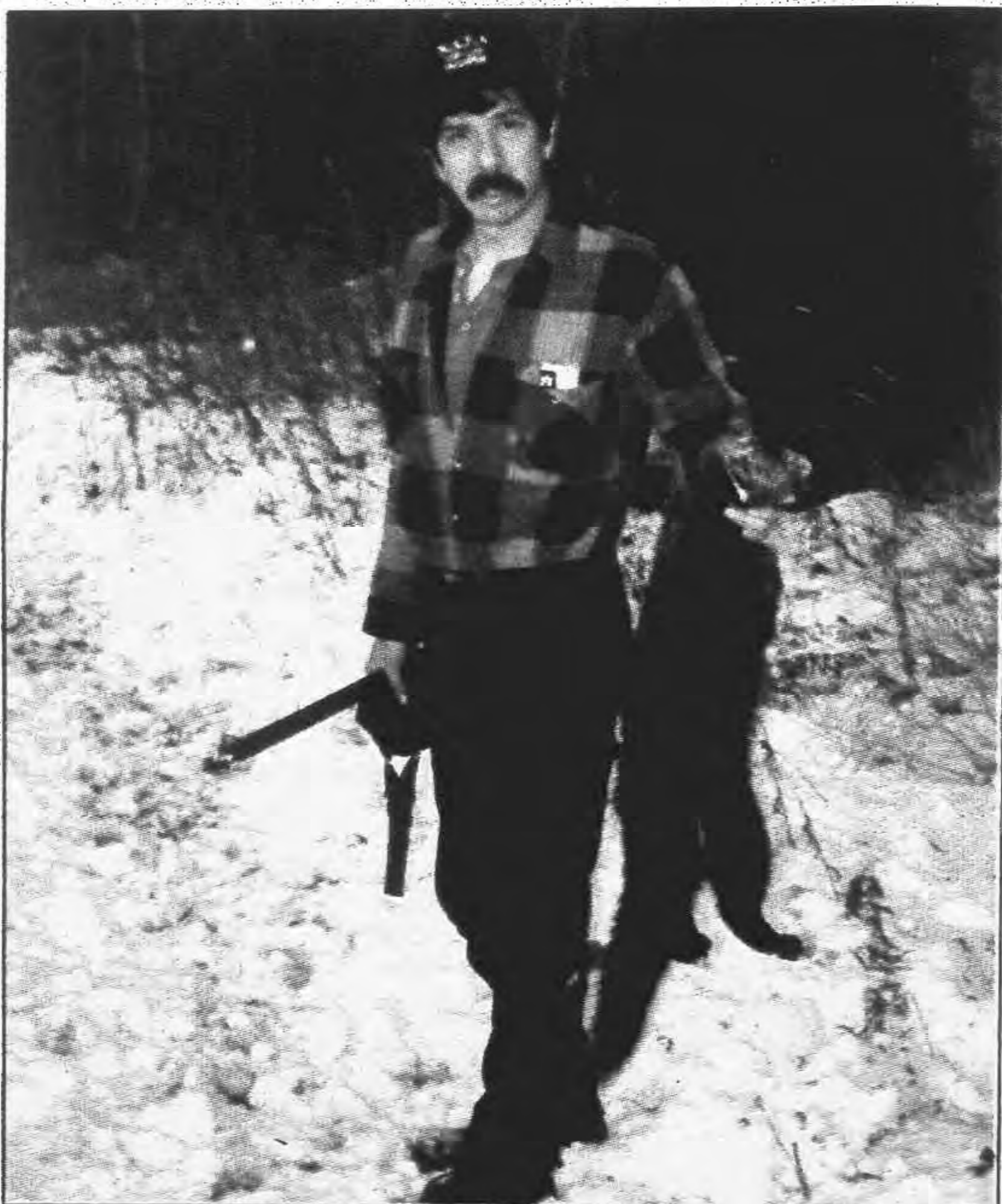
Not only have fisher rebounded, they continue to expand their range southward into the Central Forest region in west-central Wisconsin. Newly established fisher Zone E straddles the ceded territory boundary, affording treaty trapping opportunities on public lands in the northern portion of the management zone.



Fisher zone E opens in 2000. (Map by Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC.)

2000 off-reservation fisher declarations

Zone	1999 tribal harvest	2000 declaration
A	66	115
B	58	150
C	3	75
D	1	75
E	—	10



Red Cliff trapper Mike Gustafson with a Bayfield County fisher. The northern Wisconsin fisher population is rebounding, although fur prices may be sluggish.



Treaty deer hunters going afield during the state Zone T season are advised to wear blaze orange.

Fur markets mixed for upcoming season

By Parker L. Dozhier for Masinaigan

Trappers and fur hunters in Wisconsin may very well find themselves in the catbird seat this season. While international fur auction houses and regional collectors are said to be holding large quantities of unsold fur, the fact remains that most of these unsold goods are lower grades, smaller sizes and damaged collections.

There is truly a shortage of select goods, particularly raccoon, and most of the select raccoon produced within the United States comes from the eastern Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin and northern Michigan along with the Up-

per Peninsula. Raccoons of equal size and heaviness are certainly harvested along the eastern seaboard, but the color and quality of a Maine raccoon pales when compared to those bright sparkling pelts taken in Wisconsin.

There is no mistaking the fact the fur markets remain soft and the demand is highly selective, but high quality, fully prime fur is expected to command some of the highest prices in recent years. In today’s market most goods are used in the trim trade, where narrow strips of fur are used along the collars and cuffs of cloth or leather garments. Garment makers using fur trim seek out the largest, heaviest prime skins available. The cost of dressing (tanning) a . (See strong demand, page 15)

Wisconsin treaty deer, bear, turkey hunting opens September 5

Bear numbers remain high

Odanah, Wis.—Northern Wisconsin has a thriving black bear (makwa) population estimated at nearly 13,000 animals. Much of the ceded territory is considered primary bear range, and hunters can expect good harvest opportunities, especially in the heavily forested northern counties.

The off-reservation black bear hunting closure for Lac Courte Oreilles tribal members continues in 2000. In recognition of the cultural and spiritual importance to the Bear Clan—whose ancestors were the first Ojibwe to settle the area—the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board (LCO) passed a motion in 1993 closing bear hunting for their tribal members for the off-reservation treaty bear season.

Treaty hunters have harvested 18 bears in each of the last two seasons, mostly in Bayfield and Douglas counties in the extreme northwestern part of the state.

2000 Wisconsin ceded territory black bear declarations

Zone	2000 declaration
A	110
B	40
C	20

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 August through November 2000 are as follows:

Wisconsin 1837, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

- Waterfowl hunting
- Wild plant gathering
- Wild ricing
- Deer/Bear hunting
- Trapping
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Firewood and balsam bough gathering in national forests
- Netting
- Hook and line fishing

Minnesota 1837 Treaty ceded territory

- Waterfowl hunting
- Wild plant gathering
- Wild ricing
- Deer/Bear hunting
- Trapping
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Netting
- Hook and line fishing

Michigan 1836, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

- Waterfowl hunting
- Wild plant gathering
- Wild ricing
- Deer/Bear hunting
- Trapping
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Firewood and balsam bough gathering in national forests
- Netting
- Hook and line fishing

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



Look for the red head. A gobbler's head is generally colored bright red and blue, with some grayish white. Hen turkeys characteristically have a dull gray-blue head. Adult gobblers weigh in around 21 pounds, twice as much as a hen. The off-reservation fall wild turkey hunting season begins on September 5.



Abundant black bear numbers will provide off-reservation hunters good harvest opportunities this fall.

Strong demand for large, prime furs

(Continued from page 14)

XXL raccoon is exactly the same as the cost of a dressing kit. Understandably, size becomes a major criteria within the trim trade.

Beyond the trim trade, which incidentally is keeping our fur markets alive, the usage of wild fur in the fashion industry is presently limited to sheared beaver and muskrat. An insignificant number of red fox, coyote, raccoon, bobcat or fisher fur garments are currently being produced. The vast majority of full length fur coats and jackets offered to consumers are being constructed from ranch mink and fox. In the years following the fall of the Soviet Union, our wild fur markets were enjoying a notable resurgence, but with the collapse of the Russian economy, our wild fur markets plunged to nearly record lows. Today select parts of the nation are experiencing a slow, yet meaningful recovery.

While it's still too early to pinpoint fur prices, we can expect this coming season to open on a positive note. Fur primness will be critical and size will certainly be a major grading factor. Trappers and fur hunters would be wise not to "jump the gun" and start harvesting prior to the fur being as near prime as possible.

Wisconsin raccoon are expected to be under strong demand and trappers and coon hunters can anticipate early buyer interest. Look for early offers in the range of \$16-\$18 for the larger sizes, with distinct drops on the smaller sizes. This is one article that could see some substantial advances within three or four weeks after the season gets underway. Expectation of a short

harvest, a harsh winter and robust pre-Christmas sales could have an impact here.

Driven by a somewhat stronger trim market, look for some early buyer interest in heavy red fox, with prices advancing some 10-25% above last season's levels. This should result in the better reds moving in the range of \$18-\$22. While the red fox from the northeastern states will command somewhat higher prices, the larger goods from the Great Lakes regions will certainly be sought after. Should the harvest fall short in the east, Wisconsin red fox could hit \$25 or more.

Unlike the days when the small silky female fisher sold for twice the prices of males, the trim trade is equally interested in size. As a result, the difference between males and females will be negligible. Look for opening prices in the range of \$18-22 with a short harvest moving the prices upward 10-14%. Again retail sales and harvest size will be the factor.

Fresh fall muskrats will see some buyer interest, but will most likely open at prices very close to the opening levels of last season. Most users will be looking for good winters—those last season 'rats suitable for sheering. Expect opening prices for XL's to fall in the range of \$2.75-\$3, with a dollar or so jump for a winter collection.

Competition from the glut of ranch mink and fox currently placed on the market will continue to suppress the markets of mink and coyote.

Editor's note: Parker Dozhier is a freelance writer from Hot Springs, Arkansas. He tracks national and global fur markets for outdoor publications.

Photos by:

Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Masinaigan staff

Outlook is promising for approaching waterfowl season

Tribal hunters can expect similar regulations to 1999

By Peter David,
GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—Since the dog days of summer, and even earlier in the cool of spring, waterfowl biologists in the United States and Canada have been busy gathering the data necessary to ensure adequate harvest regulations are in place for the annual fall duck and goose hunting seasons.

North America's duck populations are measured annually in surveys that stretch from Maine to Alaska. Biologists fly thousands of miles in small planes, surveying ducks from the air. Ground crews then intensively sample a much smaller portion of the same area to develop "correction factors" for the ducks that are missed from the air.

For a relatively large, conspicuous duck like the mallard, the aerial observers may tally nearly 70% of the ducks seen in the intensive ground searches, leading to a relatively small correction factor, while for a small, fairly inconspicuous species like the blue-winged teal they may see only 35%, leading to a relatively large correction factor.

These correction factors are then used to make a population estimate for the entire survey area. While counting ducks, the biologists also record the number and kinds of wetlands they see.

Areas from the Dakotas north and west to Alaska (the "traditional survey area") have been conducted annually since 1955. Wisconsin has been conducting its own state survey for nearly 30 years. And in recent years, the international effort has been expanded to include large areas of eastern Canada and Maine.

All of these surveys add important information on duck breeding numbers, but wherever they have been done, they have shown that duck numbers can vary dramatically over time as habitat conditions (and perhaps hunting regulations) change. In recent years, fortunately, the numbers for most species have been quite good.

The preliminary 2000 estimate for total ducks (all species combined) in the traditional survey area is nearly 42 million birds, only a statistically insignificant smidgeon behind the record 43.4 million tallied last year. This figure is 27% higher than the average over the 1955-1999 period.

However, duck breeding populations are only half of the story. Additional surveys are underway at press time to provide data on actual breeding success, yielding estimates of the number and size of duck broods produced.

This data is gathered under a tight time line, to allow biologists and administrators to review the information and develop a Fall Flight Forecast, which sets the biological background for the establishment and implementation of appropriate fall hunting seasons.

Although overall duck numbers are up, some individual species remain of concern. Scaup (also known as blue-bills) and pintails were 25% and 33% below their long-term average, respectively, and neither species has been above its own long-term average in over 15 years. Special research and management efforts are under consideration for both of these species, and many hunters are choosing to shy away from their harvest.

Canada goose populations generally remain a bright spot in the waterfowl picture. The Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) of Canada Geese nests in northern Ontario, especially along the lowlands associated with western James Bay and Hudson Bay—an area that is roughly 1.5 times the size of Wisconsin.

They migrate primarily through Wisconsin and western Michigan towards southern Illinois. Special population surveys developed for this flock over a decade ago estimated the 2000 breeding population at slightly more than 1 million birds, above the population breeding objective of 900,000.

Similarly to ducks, brood production data is still being gathered, but the number of nests found was down 23% from 1999, and biologist Jon Bergquist of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources warned that the survey, which was run slightly later than usual this year, may have been partially contaminated by an influx of non-breeding geese from other flocks. Nevertheless, the initial numbers appear robust enough to suggest relatively liberal hunting seasons are likely this fall.

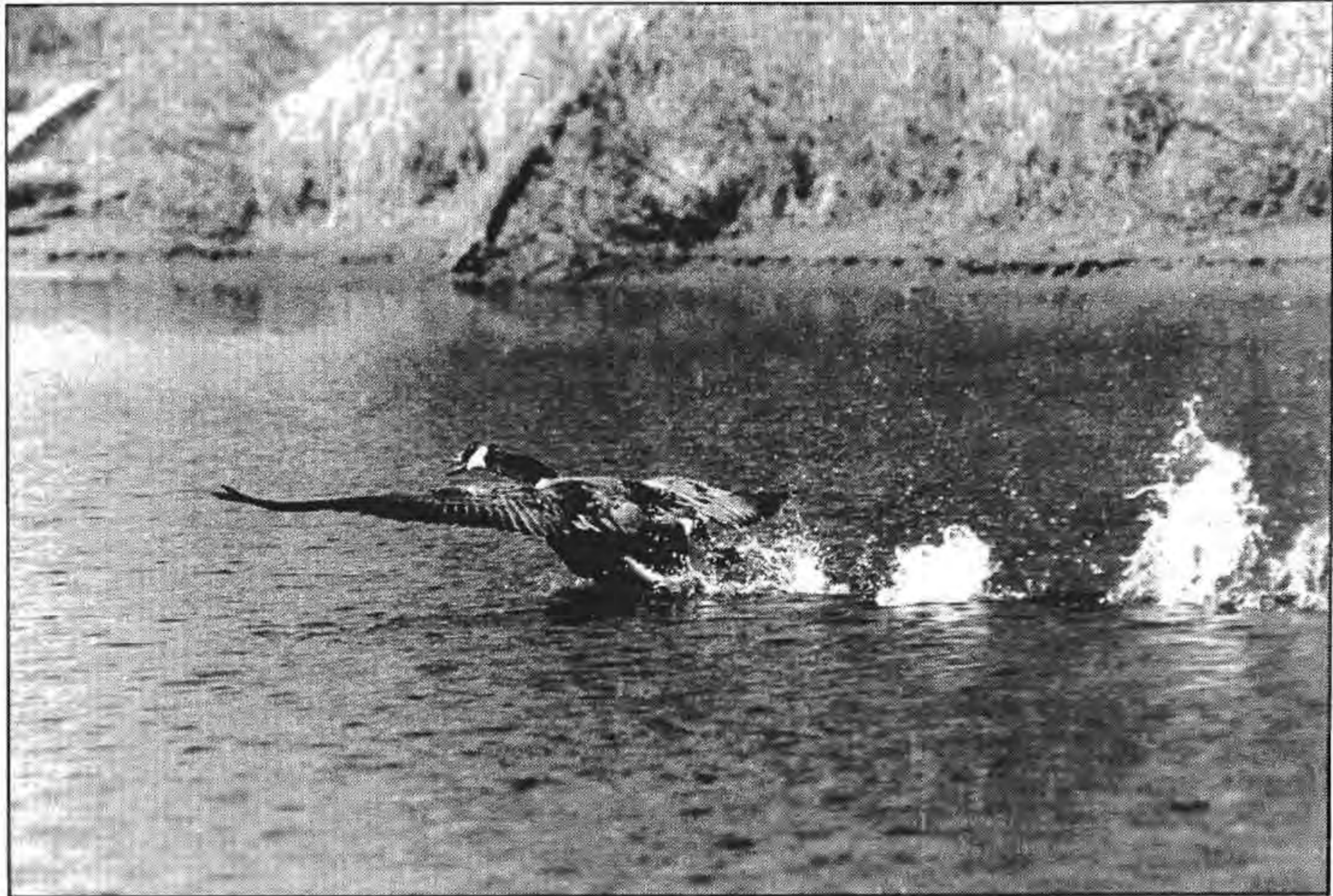
Proposed tribal off-reservation regulations

Because of their small harvest and corresponding minimal biological impact, tribal off-reservation waterfowl hunting regulations have not varied significantly in recent years.

Regulations proposed to the Fish and Wildlife Service were similar to last year's: The season for ducks would run from September 15 to December 1.

In Wisconsin and the 1837 Treaty Area in Minnesota, the bag limit for ducks would be 20, including no more than 10 mallards (5 hens), 4 black ducks, 4 redheads, 4 pintails and 2 canvasbacks.

In Michigan, the bag would be 10, including no more than 5 mallards (2 hens), 2 black ducks, 2 redheads, 2 pintails and 1 canvasback.



A Canada goose takes wing on the Bad River in northern Wisconsin. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

The proposed goose season would open September 1 and close December 1 with ducks. The proposed bag limit for geese (all species combined) is 10 in all areas. In addition, any portion of the ceded territory which is open to state-licensed hunters after December 1 would also be opened concurrently for tribal members.

Once finalized, regulations will be printed and made available to hunters wherever tribal off-reservation harvesting permits are issued.

Although the outlook is encouraging, hunters are reminded that excellent fall flight forecasts do not promise birds in the bag.

Weather patterns throughout the fall are critical in determining how many of these birds migrate through local areas, and how long they stay when they do come through. Tribal harvest estimates have not correlated closely with either fall flight estimates or bag limits, and weather is the likely reason.

Have a safe and successful hunt!

FSA operating loans available for wild rice producers

USDA/Farm Service Agency Operating Loans are available to adult and youth rice producers who harvest and finish their own rice and package it for sale.

Operating loans are low interest loans made by the FSA to adult producers. Loan funds can be used to purchase items needed for a successful ricing operation.

These items include equipment, insurance, fuel, etc. Also, Operating Loans can be used to pay for minor improvements to buildings and to refinance debts under certain conditions.

For adult producers to qualify, they must be harvesting, finishing, and selling rice. Operators who just purchased rice for finishing or harvest rice for home use do not qualify.

Applicants must have at least one year of experience in the operation. This should include the physical part of the operation as well as the financial management side. Also, applicants must not be able to get financial help from a bank. Loan processing time can take up to 90 days.

Rural Youth Loans are available to kids between the ages of 10 and 20 who are interested in starting a rice operation. For youth to qualify they must live in a town under 10,000, be part of an organized youth group and have a mentor to help them with the project.

Loan money can be used to purchase the equipment and supplies necessary for the success of the project. With Youth Loans money can also be used to purchase rice to be finished.

For more information about this or other FSA programs contact Joan Markon at the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College 1-800-657-3712, ext. 0898.

The ricing moon approaches

Ceded territory crop looks poor

By Peter David
GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—The often fall-like weather we have had this summer has made it easy to think pleasantly ahead to the shorter days of the ricing season, to imagine again the steady rhythm of the cedar sticks as they work to cover the canoe bottom with a deep carpet of the sacred grain.

But in many parts of the ceded territory, ricers will find it difficult to make these daydreams a reality. As we move closer to the cusp of the ricing season and the outlook on the crop becomes clearer, it is also becoming darker; many traditional ceded territory ricing waters will have little of the precious seed to offer this year.

In some ways, this shortfall is especially discouraging this year. After two relative poor crops followed the bumper crop of 1997, many people felt things were bound to rebound this year. And early indicators were promising; water levels were generally low this spring, and early germination and growth appeared encouraging. Going into the floating leaf stage most areas appeared on their way to at least an average crop. And then it started to rain. And rain. And rain.

In a manner and timing eerily similar to the storms that hurt last year's rice crop, the rain came down again. From Mole Lake to Turtle Lake, many areas received rains of 6-12 inches in relatively short periods while the rice was just starting to emerge from the water.

Areas with large watersheds and high stream flows were hit the hardest, as the onslaught of water either pulled the naturally buoyant plants out of the sediment, or drowned them out as lake levels jumped up.

Two Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) seasonal technicians, Veronica Van Gogh and Leah Gibala, have been busy touring northern Wisconsin rice beds to monitor rice. At each site, they estimate the acreage of the beds, and measure their density as part of a long term study on rice abundance trends. Before the summer is over, they will visit over 40 waters.

In addition, an aerial survey of many additional rice waters is annually conducted in early August. Although much of the data is still to be collected and compiled, to Veronica and Leah the trend is already becoming clear.

"The beds in Clam Lake (Burnett Co.) are buried underwater; it doesn't look like much is going to make it" they noted. Surveys they had conducted earlier suggested only a fair crop at best for Totogatic Lake in Bayfield County, another mainstay lake for off-reservation ricers.

Early reports from Ron Eckstein, of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, indicated that Spur Lake in Oneida County will have similarly dismal production.

Poor rice crops are nothing new to tribal harvesters, and traditional lifestyles always included acceptance of the frequent boom and bust nature of nature. Abundant times were received

We need your rice seed!

Help restore wild rice by making the ceded territory the *seeded* territory!

Sell your wild rice seed to GLIFWC for use in reseeded projects!

To sell wild rice to GLIFWC, please contact Dan North or Peter David at (715) 682-6619 before harvest.

Best wishes for a successful ricing season!



with thanks and enjoyment, and lean times were toughened out.

However, some are wondering if it may be more difficult than usual for the rice to bounce back next year. This is the second year in a row where many seeds sprouted and grew, only to fail to produce seed themselves. This is a different situation from when a crop is poor simply because seeds remained dormant in response to unfavorable conditions in the spring. GLIFWC will be monitoring rice beds again next year, with a special interest in seeing how resilient they prove to be.

Crop information available

As in past years, the rice abundance information gathered from GLIFWC surveys will be summarized and made available to people interested in off-reservation ricing.

Although it is impossible to be sure that a rice bed will provide a good harvest before the cedar meets the stalks, this abundance information can help direct ricers to the stands with the best potential, and hopefully prevent long trips to beds that are unproductive.

This information can be picked up when you obtain your off-reservation harvesting permit, or by visiting GLIFWC's web site at www.glifwc.org, where air photos of selected rice waters will also be posted.

The role of the rice chiefs

In Wisconsin, many of the better rice lakes are regulated as to which days they are open for harvesting. The authority to open these lakes is shared jointly by the state and tribes. Each of the regulated lakes is assigned to a tribal rice chief from either the St Croix, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau or Sokaogon Ojibwe Tribes. These assignments were based on traditional harvesting patterns.

In theory, the tribal rice chief works with a WDNR representative, usually a warden, to make a joint decision about the opening of the lakes. In practice, the decision may be made jointly, or one party may agree to defer the decision to the other on particular lakes.

In any circumstances, the lake must be posted at the boat landings, and both parties must be aware of the decision to open a lake at least 24 hours in advance of its actual opening. At unregulated waters, the harvesters may rice whenever the grain is ripe. However, all other regulations, such as length of boat, length of ricing sticks, ricing hours, etc. still apply.

Restoration efforts continue

Despite the outlook, GLIFWC will also continue its cooperative wild rice seeding program this year. Partners in this effort have included GLIFWC's member tribes, the Wisconsin and Michigan Departments of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Chequamegon/Nicolet and Ottawa National Forests, local lake associations, and even individual volunteers. Sharing both staff and funds, these partners seed 2-7 tons of wild rice annually in restoration efforts.

This project is showing dividends on both historic and non-historic (such as constructed flowages) sites, with both humans and wildlife benefitting. Most of the seed used in this effort is purchased from tribal and state hand-harvesters, and the willingness of these harvesters to sell their seed to GLIFWC (which purchases the seed on behalf of all cooperators) is critical to the success of this effort.

This year's crop will make it difficult for the Commission to meet its seeding goals, so we will really appreciate those who are willing to sell to us for this endeavor. GLIFWC will be paying \$1.75-2.00 per pound for freshly harvested seed. Anyone who is interested in selling is encouraged to contact GLIFWC's Wildlife Section in Odanah and ask for Dan North or Peter David. Please call before harvesting so that prompt purchasing can be arranged.

Wild Rice Research and Management Conference proceedings available

The proceedings of the Wild Rice Research and Management Conference, held on July 7-8, 1999 in Carlton, Minnesota, will be available in early October, 2000.

Papers presented in the proceedings encompass a wide variety of issues related to wild rice, including archeological investigations, management techniques and threats to the resource.

All conference attendees will automatically receive a copy of the proceedings by mail, anyone else interested in receiving a complimentary copy should contact GLIFWC at 715-682-6619.



A ricer knocks wild rice into the bottom of his canoe as he's being poled through the rice by his partner at Totogatic Lake, Bayfield County. (Photo by Sue Erickson)



GLIFWC among finalists in Harvard's tribal governance awards program

Cambridge, Mass. — The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) is among sixteen tribal governments selected as finalists for Harvard University's tribal-governance awards program.

GLIFWC is being recognized for negotiating the *Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Tribal—USDA-Forest Service Relations on National Forest Lands Within the Territories Ceded in Treaties of 1836, 1837, and 1842 (MOU)*.

GLIFWC's Voigt Intertribal Task Force and Bay Mills Indian Community worked with Forest Service officials over a six year period on the MOU, completing the document in 1998. The MOU establishes protocols for the exercise of treaty-guaranteed hunting, fish-

ing, and gathering rights on National Forests, and sets up a collaborative consultation process regarding management decisions on those forests.

Now in its second year, Honoring Contributions in the Governance of American Indians (Honoring Nations) identifies and celebrates outstanding examples of tribal governance among the more than 550 Indian nations in the United States.

"Most importantly, Honoring Nations provides an opportunity for others to learn about and replicate these tribal governance success stories," said Andrew Lee, the program's executive director.

"This year's finalists provide compelling support for one of the Harvard Project's most fundamental research

conclusions. If tribes want to build healthy, prosperous nations they must first put into place effective institutions of self-governance," said Joseph Kalt, professor of international political economy and co-founder of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development.

Based at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, Honoring Nations is administered by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, established in 1986. The Harvard Project's goal is to understand the conditions under which self-determined social and economic development is achieved among American Indian nations.

The 16 finalists were selected from an initial pool of 70 applications from

more than 50 Indian nations. The finalists' programs span a wide range of government activities, including social services, economic development, resource management and intergovernmental relations.

On November 14, eight of the finalists will be awarded "high honors" and a \$10,000 monetary prize following an all-day public program and honoring ceremony and reception in St. Paul, Minn.

Ten GLIFWC member tribes and the Forest Service ratified the MOU. The agreement applies to four National Forests in the ceded territories involved: Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin; Ottawa, Hiawatha and Huron-Manistee National Forests in Michigan.

Forcia joins GLIFWC enforcement at Keweenaw Bay

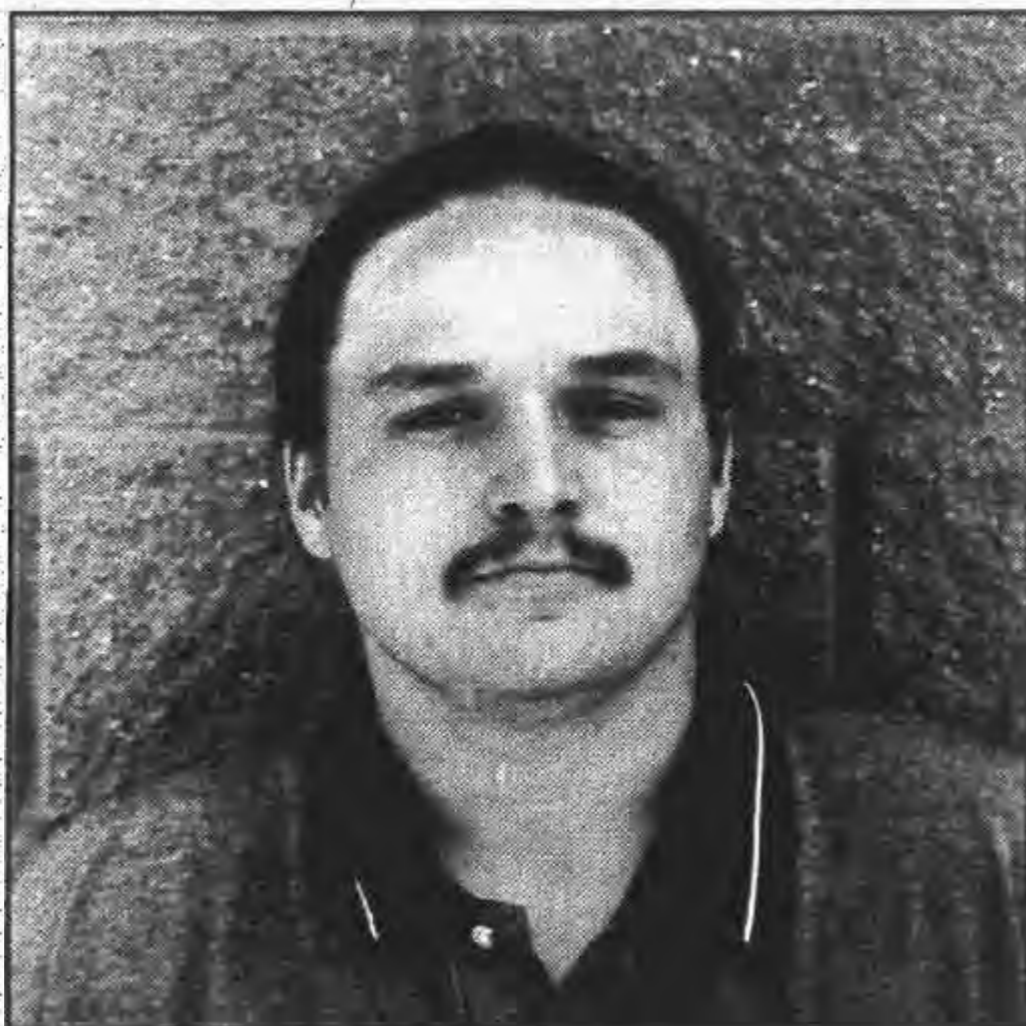
Odanah, Wis.—The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) welcomes Jason Forcia, Keweenaw Bay tribal member, as a new conservation warden.

Forcia, comes to GLIFWC's Enforcement Division from Keweenaw Bay where he worked at a convenience center. Though this line of work is new to Forcia, he says that he loves the outdoors and is excited to get to work out in nature.

Additionally, Forcia foresees that his affection for fishing and hunting will be well accommodated in his new position.

After a year of on-the-job training, Forcia will go to basic recruit school in Eau Claire at Chippewa Valley Technical College in the spring to complete his training as a conservation warden.

"I have a lot to learn. Its going to be hard, but I'm excited," Forcia comments.



Jason Forcia, GLIFWC warden.



GLIFWC was recognized by New Horizons North Employment Services of Ashland, Wisconsin, for a high level of commitment to employing persons with disabilities. Accepting the award were GLIFWC Planning and Development Secretary Sharon Nelis (left) and Mike Howen, custodian at GLIFWC's central office in Odanah. With help from New Horizons, Mike came to work for GLIFWC in October 1998 under the supervision of Sharon. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Steve White gets around GLIFWC

By Tim Schwab, HONOR Intern

Odanah, Wis.—After a year of working in and out of different divisions at GLIFWC, assisting on various projects, Steve White has finally settled down, at least for a while, as research associate in the wildlife section of GLIFWC.

A year ago last summer, Steve, having just received his bachelor's degree in biology from Northland College, was interning as a wild rice surveyor. As the summer ended, Steve had the opportunity to stay on at GLIFWC as a wildlife aide. He took it, and soon after he found himself helping out in GLIFWC's environmental and fisheries divisions.

During his year at GLIFWC, Steve has helped out on sea lamprey control, lake trout assessments, and walleye and muskie mercury contamination studies. Of the diverse work experiences Steve has found at GLIFWC, Steve comments, "I've gotten excellent experience with various opportunities. It's a great place to work."

Steve's new position, formed through a wild plant grant from the Administration for Native Americans, enlists him on a two-year project to collect traditional, environmental knowledge from elders regarding non-medicinal uses of plants. To gather this information, Steve will be assisting in interviewing elders in the area.

"It's really interesting meeting with the elders. There is so much to learn from the elders, and I look at it as a privilege to be a part of this project," he says.

In conjunction with that project, Steve is working at digitizing original surveyor's maps of northern Wisconsin from the 1800's. All of Steve's work will culminate in a report that details various threats to plants in the area. He says the report intends to "combine traditional and scientific knowledge," with information attained from the elders and from scientific findings providing the basis for the report.

In addition to enjoying his work at GLIFWC, Steve says that he enjoys the accessibility to nature that Northern Wisconsin offers. Though originally from Westborough, Massachusetts, Steve's affection for hunting, fishing, and hiking has made the North Country his new home.

Steve says he plans to go back to graduate school to study plant ecology sometime in the future.



GLIFWC's new Wildlife Research Associate Steve White helps out GLIFWC's fisheries division with a siscowet assessment. Prior to taking his new position, Steve spent the last year working in and out of GLIFWC's wildlife, environmental and fisheries divisions. (Photo by Tim Schwab)

A CALL FOR STORIES!

Storytelling about 20th century Ojibwe treaty rights

Join us at GLIFWC's Aabanaabam* Conference on September 20th at the Lac Courte Oreilles Convention Center beginning at 1:00 p.m. and bring your story to tell.

In 1983 the Voigt decision reaffirmed treaty rights in Wisconsin's ceded territory, and GLIFWC was formed in 1984 to assist member tribes implement those rights.

During the years between 1983 and 2000, GLIFWC forged a dynamic history as tribal members began to exercise off-reservation treaty rights and tribes assumed resource management responsibilities.

There are many stories to be told and remembered relating to the regaining of treaty rights in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota.

We invite you to share your story during an open-mike session on September 20th at Lac Courte Oreilles. Your story may relate to exercising off-reservation rights, to treaty support or to participation in legal or resource management activities.

This is an opportunity to record history using our collective memory.

PRIZES!

Everyone who shares a story about our Ojibwe treaty rights history will be entered into a drawing for prizes. Drawings will take place about 5:00 p.m. Grand prize in the drawing will be a limited edition Pendleton blanket, the 1999 Wiigwaasijimaan (birch bark canoe) blanket. Lots of other handcrafted Ojibwe items as prizes!

FOOD!

Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5:00 p.m. during a social time immediately following the prize drawings. Photos, videos, and displays depicting the past fifteen years will be set-up in the social area.

*(Aabanaabam means to turn and look back in Ojibwe.)

Traveling, writing, and photography keep PIO intern busy

By Holly Wilmer
for Masinaigan

Odanah, Wis.—Timothy William Schwab comes to the area from Bloomington, Illinois. He is twenty years old and soon will be a junior in college. This fall, he is transferring to the University of Illinois from his previous school, Valparaiso University. He is a double major in English and Psychology. Someday, Tim dreams of becoming an author.

Tim's job as a Public Information Office Intern at Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)

consists of being both a news reporter and a photographer. He receives the story he will have to pursue, conducts interviews, and then writes the story for the *Masinaigan*. As photographer, Tim takes pictures that correspond with the story, develops and prints the pictures in the darkroom.

Receiving this job through the Honor Our Neighbors Origins and Rights (HONOR) program, Tim has been given the chance to experience the Ojibwe culture firsthand. HONOR is an organization that seeks to ensure that Native Americans are treated with respect, and it sponsors college students to intern for the summer at GLIFWC. Tim has already visited many of the area reservations and has attended traditional Ojibwe pow-wows.

This is Tim's first time to the Northland area, so the accessibility to nature is quite new. He has taken full advantage of it by participating in such activities as hiking, walking through the forest, and biking around the area. He, also, enjoys playing softball for the GLIFWC team.

By staying in the area and working for GLIFWC, Tim has been able to make many friends and even more contacts for future job opportunities. He enjoys being sent out to interview people and take pictures. His future plans include going back to school in the fall and finishing his college degree.



Tim Schwab, HONOR intern.

Holly Wilmer, lifetime achiever at GLIFWC

By Tim Schwab, HONOR Intern

Odanah, Wis.—Through working and after school visits, Holly Wilmer has become sort of a fixture around the GLIFWC offices over the years. From visiting with staff to limited term employment assignments, Holly is well acquainted with the Commission.

That introduction came through family ties: Holly's mother works at GLIFWC and her father downstairs at the Bad River Department of Natural Resources, along with several other extended family members.

For the last six years, Holly, who is 20, has been working at GLIFWC, spending her summer and winter breaks from school helping out around the offices at GLIFWC, particularly in the Enforcement Division. Having taken a course in photography and darkroom during the winter, Holly joined the Public Information (See Holly Wilmer, page 26)



GLIFWC's Holly Wilmer and her mother, Rose, administrative assistant at GLIFWC, look over her summer work plan. Not quite an intern and not quite a staff member, Holly has been a GLIFWC limited term employee for several years. (Photo by Tim Schwab)

Julie Ante joins GLIFWC bookkeeping staff

Odanah, Wis.—Julie Ante is the new Accounts Payable Manager at the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). She comes to the GLIFWC Division of Administration from Hickman Chiropractic, where she worked in a similar capacity.

Having worked in several accounting positions before, Julie says that she is familiar with most of the tasks required of her new position.

"People send me their bills and I pay them," she jokes.

Nonetheless Julie says she finds her work challenging because "there are so many different departments—also, getting to know all of the people associated with those departments."

Still, Julie confesses, "It's a lot of fun getting to know the people who work here."

Julie's education includes schooling from Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College in Ashland, where she received her secretarial degree.

A wife and a mother of two, Julie and her family live in Ashland. She says she takes every opportunity she can to enjoy the scenic beauty of the North Country.



Julie Ante, GLIFWC accounts payable manager.

A broader view of conservation

By Dr. James Meeker
Associate Professor, Northland College

What activities come to mind when one suggests or promotes *conservation* in the northern forest? How about northern forest *restoration*? Is this a different set of tasks? How do conservation and restoration relate? These are some of the questions that will be talked about in September when the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute/Northland College, GLIFWC and the UW-Madison Arboretum host a workshop on northern forest restoration.

I think many people would agree that northwoods restoration efforts are different than the tasks undertaken in the 1930s first by the UW-Madison folks in their efforts to restore prairies. They really did not have a lot of raw material (i.e. intact prairies) to work with. Unlike restoration efforts in southern savannas and prairies, the efforts in the northwoods forests have the opportunity to *maintain* native species populations, while restoring community functions and processes, hence melding the concept of restoration and conservation.

What activities describe this conservation/restoration combination? Some may think of promoting white pine in areas where the turn of the century cut-over and fires limited its recovery. Others might think of the increasing wolf population in Wisconsin as a classic example of the results of conservation/restoration activities. I suggest that planting white cedar in plots camouflaged by white spruce and balsam fir (so that deer don't find the cedar), or reducing deer numbers in some areas of our landscape in order to allow these important conifer species to recover, constitute a good example of a conservation/restoration blend.

What do the above activities have in common? They are a blending of conservation and restoration and are best achieved through an acceptance of a broader view of conservation, a view that includes conservation of both species *and communities*. If we accept this view of conservation as the ultimate goal, then we can view restoration as one of many tools (along with preservation) available to private landowners and public land managers.

Unfortunately, we need to unlearn some of the general ideas that we have been taught. We all learned from our basic ecology textbooks that conservation and preservation are different. They took different paths at the turn of the century when federal forest lands became the National Forests, and were charged with providing wood products and ecological services to the developing nation, while on other federal lands the Park Service was given the charge to maintain a record of what was (preservation), while promoting recreation on these lands.

Perhaps it is the time to rethink this dichotomy, and this can be achieved with a broader view of the term conservation and a discussion of its goals. This is where all initial discussions of land management must take place.

Rethinking natural resource management practices

So we can see that conservation and restoration can be blended, with conservation the broader term. In this arrangement, consideration should be given to the maintenance of biological communities. This approach should employ all of the tools of the accepted multiple use agenda, such as varied resource extraction and land use, along with intentional restoration and preservation.

But there's a hitch. When conservation has a narrow focus it can be non-inclusive, omitting restoration. For example, some may think that conservation is, in general, an easier activity than restoration, in that we don't have to ask, "restore to what?" I would disagree, and suggest that a broad conservation effort needs to focus on the future conditions as well. Without a sense of the goals or reference conditions, conservation becomes not only non-inclusive of restoration and preservation efforts, but often an obstacle.

Some of the most illustrative examples of narrow conservation efforts include encouraging desirable species through creating plantations (for red and jack pine), and building puddle ponds (for ducks) or the maintenance of forest openings (for deer), *and then* passing them off as broad conservation and restorative activities. I have nothing against the use of plantations and puddles, per se, as by their productivity they may allow other areas to be managed with a lighter touch, but they *by themselves* don't demonstrate community conservation efforts. Their cumulative effects may hinder more holistic efforts.

Permanent deer openings show the same short-sightedness, in that on one hand the openings are maintained to encourage deer during spring green up, yet on the other hand people are scrambling to deal with the deer over-abundance problem. (I have also heard from practitioners that these openings really don't do much to increase deer numbers, but then I would have to add, so why bother?) The only reason that I can think of to continue this process is to keep people employed (admittedly a good cause), yet there is a lot of work to be done, so why can't we shift gears and have the same people begin to monitor community conservation efforts?

In this same narrow approach we have achieved some success with conservation efforts to bring back or restore populations of species that had been extirpated or lost to the state. Witness the fisher and elk. Where once we had none, we now again have a trapping season on fisher and perhaps future hunting of elk. From one standpoint these are very successful efforts, but with our broadened view of conservation, one including a critical assessment of the communities that these animals are part of, we have room for a lot of improvement.

The fisher, for example is a dogged, formidable visual predator that apparently is a major factor in the mortality of the goshawk in some areas, a raptor whose numbers are of concern for biologists. It may be that the re-introduction of the fisher into today's more simplified landscape (e.g. with a minor conifer compo-



Dr. James Meeker

nent) increases its chances of taking a goshawk. (The fisher may have an easier time seeing that lone over-story white pine, when compared to the pre-settlement landscape, and increase its predation success.)

The elk story is almost anachronistic, a throw back to former times in wildlife biology. The bottom line is, yes we have elk, but in a landscape that ought to contain moose as the major ungulate. As a result, we have the US Forest Service proposing management activities that maintain a greater percent of the landscape in younger successional forests.

So, whereas we could have elk on the sandier soil areas and combine its re-introduction with savanna restoration, we have elk on ELF (the acronym for the U.S. Department of Defense's extremely low frequency lines that open up wide swaths through the forests). With the choice of this re-introduction site, we have the perceived need to open up more forest (to feed elk) in a landscape that was once dominated by coniferous wetland patches in an upland of hemlock/hardwoods forests.

So what is the lesson here? Conservation with the community maintenance as the target gets us out of this single species mode, and in a much better position for the broader view of conservation, including preservation and restoration as necessary components. However, once we

move to the conservation of communities the task of assessing our effectiveness gets much more difficult.

Conclusion

One way we can overcome this difficulty is by guiding all of our land use activities through principles couched in a broad conservation framework. In this sense the Ecological Society of America has recently suggested a series of principles that should steer our land use activities. I will list some of them here (in italics); they include:

1) *Examining the impacts of local decisions over a wider region.* How does, for example, the sum of local logging activities combine to create temporary wildlife openings, and how might this eliminate the need to permanent openings.

2) *Retaining large contiguous blocks of connected areas that contain critical habitat, minimizing the introduction and spread of non-invasive species.* Why can't we get the State of Wisconsin to work with the US Forest Service in calling for several large contiguous blocks of forest, where winter select cutting and preservation are the dominant conservation activities, minimizing the invasion of light loving non-native species.

3) *Implementing land-management practices that are compatible with the natural potential of the area.* Such is the problem of the elk on ELF, and red pine and aspen conversions on hardwood sites, or permanent deer openings in hardwood forests. In adopting these three principles we would move a lot closer to the broader concept of conservation, one that includes equal time for both restoration and preservation efforts.

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

2000 NAFWS Great Lakes regional conference

The Great Lakes Region of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society will be hosting its regional conference September 11-14, 2000 at the Lac Courte Oreilles Casino Lodge & Convention Center.

The conference fee this year is \$70.00. The fee includes all conference-related costs, traditional feast, banquet, softball tournament, and non-enforcement fun shoot.

A block of rooms has been set aside at the LCO Lodge, phone 800-526-5634. Lodging space is limited, so make your reservations as soon as possible.

Monday, September 11, will be the Tribal Conservation Officer's Shoot and the open Archery Competition. Conference registration will start at 1:00 p.m. on this day in the hotel lobby. Officers will need to come in Sunday, September 10, to be present at the 9:00 p.m. mandatory pre-shoot meeting. Information will be available at the front desk. Please bring your dress uniform and Tribal Flag for the Parade of Colors, scheduled for the opening ceremonies on Tuesday.

Nominations for the following Great Lakes Regional Awards are being sought: Patricia M. Zakovec, Tribal Conservation Officer of the Year Award; Glen Miller, Tribal Elected Leader of the Year Award; William H. Eger, Biologist of the Year Award; and Great Lakes Technician of the Year Award. Nominations should be immediately faxed to Faith McGruther, Great Lakes Regional director at 906-632-1141.

Door prizes, raffle and auction DONATIONS are being sought (beadwork, traditional crafts, wild rice, art, and other such items). Anything you bring will be most appreciated!

If you have any questions, please call Don Reiter, at 715-799-5116, or Faith McGruther at 906-632-0043. With your dedication and participation, we look forward to a very positive Year 2000, 14th Annual Great Lakes Regional Conference.

Bald Eagle's removal from endangered list delayed

By William Booth
Washington Post Staff Writer

Washington, D.C.—The American bald eagle has clawed its way back from the brink of extinction in the continental United States. But it has yet another hurdle to face:

The Clinton administration is delaying the removal of the national symbol from the endangered species list because wildlife authorities are not certain how to protect the majestic bird from its latest, and perhaps most persistent, threat—the loss of critical habitat.

A year ago, on the eve of Independence Day, with great fanfare and a bald eagle perched by his side at a White House ceremony, President Clinton celebrated “the rebirth of our proudest living symbol” and announced the formal proposal to remove the white-headed raptor with piercing eyes and hooked yellow beak from the list of threatened and endangered species. The delisting process typically takes one year.

Many nature lovers and wildlife experts expected the president to announce this weekend the formal delisting of the bald eagle, but the move has been put on hold indefinitely.

“We’re delayed,” said Cindy Hoffman, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which enforces the Endangered Species Act and is the federal agency in charge of listing and delisting species. “We realized there’s a lot more to look at, and we wanted to do this right.”

The case of the bald eagle illustrates one of the tough challenges to the nation’s efforts to recover plant and animal species from the roster of the doomed: How can the relative handful of species that have recovered enough to be taken off the endangered list continue to be protected?

Specifically, how does the government keep recovering plants and animals, such as the bald eagle, from sliding back to possible oblivion, if and when they are no longer sheltered from harm by the broad power of the Endangered Species Act?

Many environmental activists applaud keeping the bald eagles on the threatened list until its continued protection is guaranteed.

“What has happened is that the delisting of the bald eagle has been so politically motivated, they wanted so much to get this success story out there, that other threats to the eagles have been ignored, and they now realize this,” said John Kostyack, an attorney with the National Wildlife Federation, an environmental advocacy group, which specializes in the Endangered Species Act.

Indeed, the Fish and Wildlife Service did put the most positive spin last year on the president’s proposal to delist, with a press release headlined “The Bald Eagle is Back!”

A senior Interior Department official agreed that there is some politics at play—but for the good. The Endangered Species Act is generally a popular measure, but it is also the subject of controversy, particularly when development plans are imperiled because of an endangered toad or fly or salamander, he said.

“With the eagle, we want to get our management plan straight, to see how much we can still protect the bald eagle after we take them off the list,” the official said. “We don’t want to be in a position where we have all kinds of fights about this later.”

The bald eagle has undoubtedly made a remarkable recovery. Upon the arrival of Europeans, biologists estimate, there could have been as many as 500,000 nesting pairs in the continental United States, but habitat loss, shooting and poisoning greatly depleted the populations (even while the numbers in Alaska and Canada have remained robust).

In 1940, fearful of killing off the national symbol, Congress passed the Bald Eagle Protection Act, prohibiting the killing of the birds. But following World War II, the eagles were dealt another death blow by the widespread use of the organochlorine pesticide DDT to control mosquitoes.

DDT and its byproducts linger long in the environment, where they accumulate most perniciously in fish, the main food for bald eagles. The DDT does not so much outright kill adult eagles as weaken the structure of their eggs, creating porous spots on the shell that allow fluids to escape, making the shell so brittle it cracks under the brooding bird’s weight and attentions. By 1963, there were fewer than 500 eagle pairs found in the Lower 48.

The Environmental Protection Agency outlawed the use of DDT in 1972, and the Fish and Wildlife Service listed the bird in the newly created Endangered Species Act of 1973, which protects the eagle not only from direct harm, but also attempts to safeguard its habitat on public and, more controversially, private lands.

In the last three decades, as Clinton said last year, the eagle has made a steady comeback. Wildlife biologists now estimate that there are about 5,800 occupied nesting sites in the continental United States—and that means there are at least 11,600 mated birds, and many more juveniles and sub-adults.

The recovery of the bald eagle, one of the largest raptors in the sky, with females weighing as much as 14 pounds with wingspans of eight



(Ken Edwards © 2000)

feet, has been carried out by federal and state governments and many private individuals and organizations.

Many of the eagles simply did not reappear, but have been raised in zoos, transported to new locations, and painstakingly reintroduced as eggs, chicks or adults, with their movements (some eagles travel many thousands of miles) tracked with radio transmitters affixed to packs strapped to the eagles’ backs.

“America was the first nation on Earth to pass a comprehensive law protecting endangered species . . . and once again we have shown that this landmark law works,” Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt said a year ago. “Today the American bald eagle is back. The bald eagle joins a growing list of other once-imperiled species that are on the road to recovery.”

But that list is a short one.

Only 28 species have been removed from the list in the nearly three decades since Congress passed the Endangered Species Act. Two of the most famous are the American alligator and the peregrine falcon. But others have been delisted because they are now extinct, such as the blue

pike fish and the dusky seaside sparrow. A few others were delisted after scientists discovered other viable populations.

There are now 1,205 species listed as threatened or endangered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Another 295 are so-called proposed or candidate species for the list, meaning they are either being evaluated or should already be on the list but must wait their turn because there is no money or personnel in the federal budget to address their needs.

The challenge facing federal wildlife managers is how to continue to protect the eagles even as they are taken off the threatened and endangered lists. Initially, the Fish and Wildlife Service stated that the bird would continue to be protected even after delisting by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which outlaw taking, killing, possession, transportation and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts or nests.

But the crucial word, and the center of potential legal and political wrangling, is “take,” explains Jody Gustitus Millar, head of the bald eagle recovery team for the wildlife agency.

“How do you define take? That is the central question we’re looking at,” Millar said. “How much disturbance is too much? What are the guidelines? The bottom line is we’re trying to figure out how to manage the eagle after it is delisted.”

Will that mean protecting eagle habitat on private lands? Millar said she does not even want to use the word habitat, which she called “the H-word.”

The Endangered Species Act protects its listed members from all kinds of incidental “taking” —their nesting, breeding and foraging habitats must be protected, even on private lands. Today, for example, if a developer wants to build seaside condominiums on known bald eagle nesting territory on the Chesapeake Bay, he or she must secure permits from government regulators and often must not disturb the eagles—or pay penalties to “mitigate” the damage by purchasing or setting aside other eagle habitats.

If the bald eagle is delisted, it may not have the same protections, particularly on private lands. “You can say don’t harm something,” said Hoffman, the Fish and Wildlife spokeswoman, “but what does that mean in legal context? That is what we’re attempting to define.”

(© 2000, The Washington Post. Reprinted with permission.)



Gray skies didn’t put a damper on this dancer’s fun at the Bear River Pow-Wow at Lac du Flambeau, held on July 7-9. Heavy rains delayed Friday’s Grand Entry, but better afternoon weather made for an exciting set of intertribals. (Photo by Tim Schwab)

The salmon people: Tribes in crisis

The economies and cultures of Pacific Northwest Native Americans continue to be threatened as their prized resource dwindles.

By Michelle Tirado

Olympia, Wash.—When Billy Frank, Jr. was a young boy he and his fellow Nisqually tribe members needed no clock or calendar to announce that the spring chinook had come home. It was nature that carried the news.

When the fluffy seedlings of the cottonwood tree drifted in the air, they knew that the salmon, millions of the prized chinook, had completed their long southbound journey through the cold Pacific and had returned to the Washington rivers from which they hatched.

It was a time of year to rejoice, and the Nisqually, along with all the Northwest tribes that depended on salmon for their livelihood, did. They thanked the salmon for their prosperity with First Salmon ceremonies, their timing in rhythm with the chinook's progression inland.

There was much to be thankful for: the healthy sustenance the salmon provided to the tribe members and the healthy economy the commercial fish runs supported. That was 70 years ago.

This year, there was not much to be thankful for. The wind still swept the cottonwood seedlings, yet the number of chinook that returned to the rivers was far less than ever before. So few that most of the tribes in the Puget Sound region had to import spring chinook for their First Salmon ceremonies from the Fraser River in British Columbia.

The decline of salmon populations in the Pacific Northwest has been a crisis the tribes of Alaska, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia have been trying to contend with for the last 20 years. But salmon runs began to dwindle long before, as far back as the coming of the European settlers. The non-Indians discovered the bounty in the rivers and they fished freely, often from land formerly occupied by the tribes. Then along came urbanization—an increasing demand for water, water pollution, hydropower.

Today the tribes of western Washington have to deal with a 90 percent reduction of their salmon harvests.

"Today, it's different," Frank said. Frank is chairman of the Olympia, Washington, based Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), an organization established in 1974 by the treaty tribes of western Washington, including the Lummi, Muckleshoot, Nisqually and Tulalip, to manage the fisheries and conservation. "Today is a new time. The tribes are trying to live with that time. There are so many changes happening in our watersheds."

The changes, due to the loss of habitat, continue to plague the salmon. And what plagues the salmon, plagues the people—the salmon people—who have for thousands of years been linked economically, culturally and spiritually to these fish.

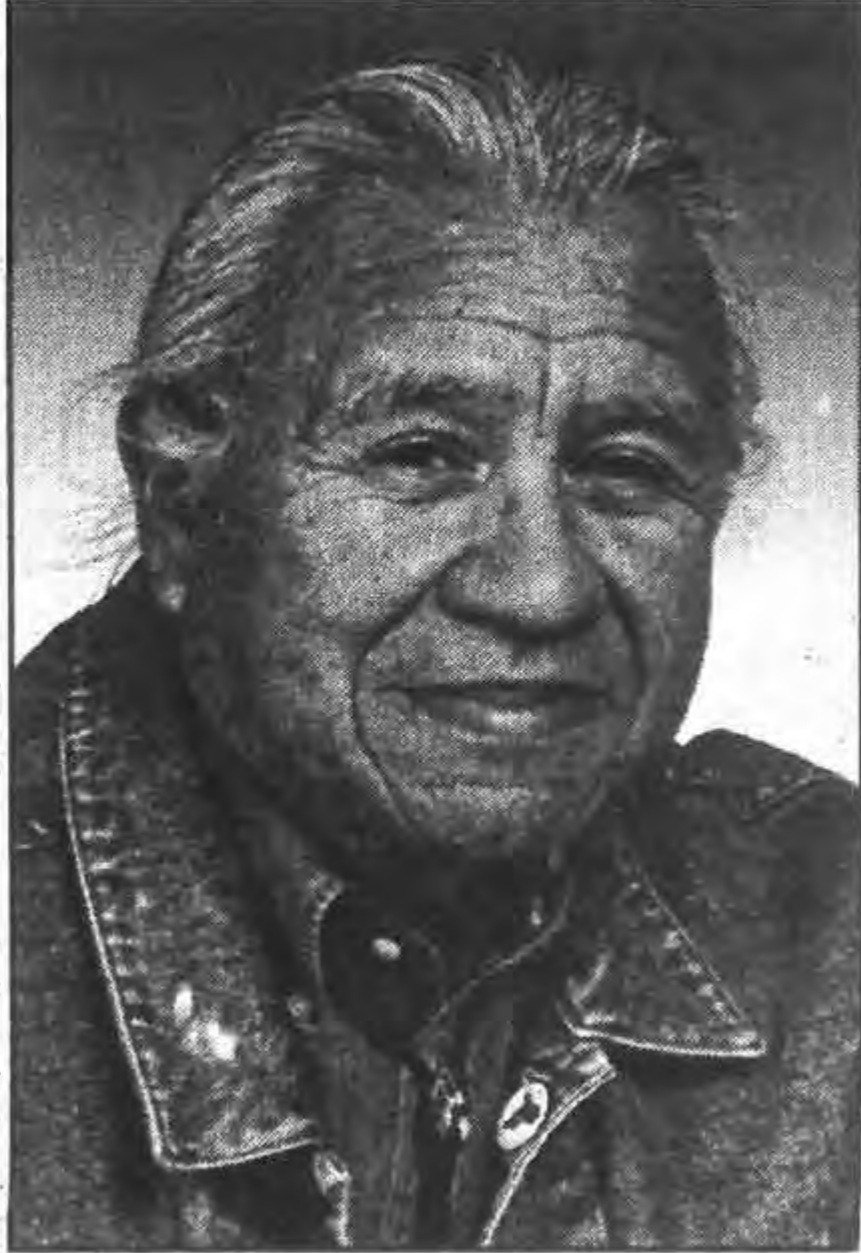
Each of those components has been dealt blows by the decreasing salmon populations.

Consider this comparison. In 1985, the 20 member tribes of the NWIFC were able to harvest 5.3 million salmon. In 2000, they anticipate the harvest to yield no more than 500,000. With the decreasing harvests, the number of Indian fishers has decreased. For instance, in the mid 1970s, 3,700 earned their livelihood from fishing; in 1996, there were only 1,300.

"You can't make a living just fishing for salmon," said Anthony Meyer, the NWIFC's manager of information and education services division. "So, you do other things. You fish for other species, such as sea cucumber, urchins and shellfish. Some [people] are going into the casinos."

Near the banks of the Columbia and Snake rivers, dwell the Yakama Indian Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Nez Perce. They once prospered from the bountiful salmon harvests, and now they face the hardships brought by the vanishing runs. Today, salmon harvests are from 2 percent to 6 percent of what they were before the Europeans arrived. The result: economies that have been reduced to a level that can only be found in third world countries.

A report commissioned last year by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) in Portland, Ore.,



Billy Frank, Jr.

underscores the impact of the disappearing salmon on the tribes' economies. Unemployment, for example, can rise as high as 90 percent in the winter, three to 13 times greater than the area's non-Indians. Poverty proliferates as, in a strange cycle, the wealth continues to be transferred from Indians to non-Indians who live in the Northwest through agriculture, timber and other industries. More than 29.4 percent of Nez Perce families live in poverty, their average per capita income less than \$8,700. For the Shoshone Bannock and the Yakama, family poverty levels push past 40 percent and their per capitans range between \$4,600 and \$5,700 respectively.

"Imagine any other economy operating at .6 percent of what it was," said Charles Hudson CRITFC's public information manager. "That would be an outrageous crash of an economy, if not the absolute extinction of it."

Commercial salmon fishing is virtually non-existent. In fact, up until this spring, there had not been any since 1977, when the Columbia River and other Northwest tribes voluntarily ceased all commercial salmon fishing activities. It was an effort in pursuit of conservation. This year, all of the Columbia River tribes, except for the Nez Perce, agreed to allot themselves a 22-day commercial fishing period. It was the first time in more than 20 years that the tribes were able to do what a series of 1855 treaties secured: to fish in streams on or bordering their reservations and in all the "usual and accustomed places."

They caught no more than 3,500 spring chinook from a designated area in the lower river. Not all, however, would be sold. The tribes that participated first took what they needed for ceremonial purposes, such as the First Salmon Ceremony and future funerals, and then for subsistence.

What remained to sell will hardly generate a profit for the tribes. After subtracting the ceremonial and subsistence fish, what is left of the 3,500 spring chinook has to be portioned out to hundreds of tribal fishermen. Hudson continued, "what it has done is provide a small amount of relief to these fishermen who have been waiting for salmon recovery and waiting to fully exercise their right ... And that was celebrated at this year's First Salmon ceremonies."

This was indeed a small victory for the Columbia River tribes; yet, as Hudson pointed out, it is no indication that the rest of the battle will be downhill. Most of the chinook caught were hatchery fish, spawns from eggs and melt fertilized and protected in in-river concrete structures. The same issues that caused the decline of wild salmon still exist. The habitat is still being degraded. The rivers still produce energy and are being used for irrigation, agriculture, waste removal and recreation.

The effects of the low salmon counts on Northwest Indian cultures have been just as dramatic. When the runs were healthy, tribal fishermen spent nine months of the year fishing. It was nine months of interaction with kin and other tribes, interaction that served as a catalyst for intermarriages and trade.

"Those days were days when we gathered along the river," said Frank. "They were important times. We'd just talk about life and how we were doing. Today it's different. There's no gathering like that anymore on the watersheds. There's no fish to bring you to that spot. The spot is still there; the river is still there. That's a sad story."

As the salmon began to decline, the interaction lessened. Tribes have become more polarized. Within a tribe, the elders have fewer opportunities to teach the children how to be stewards of the environment; about the human life cycle; and about the value of food, that people should never harvest more than they need. The transfer of values to the younger generations has been interrupted, and that, to tribes, is one of the most tragic losses.

Less salmon has also meant poorer health. When a population loses its primary food source, diets must change. For the Northwest tribes, it has meant a (See **Low salmon**, page 23)



Quileute tribal member Terry Jowes tends his net at the mouth of the Quillayute River. (Photo by Debbie Preston, NWIFC)

State Republican Party passes resolution to terminate tribal councils

Skagit County Washington—The following resolution was passed on June 17, 2000 at the Washington State Republican Party convention in Spokane, Washington. The resolution passed by a vote of 250-2 without discussion by the 1,500 Republicans at the convention.

The motion was successfully introduced by John Fleming, a non-Indian delegate from Skagit County, Washington who resides on the Swinomish Reservation north of Seattle. Fleming was quoted in a Spokane newspaper as advocating the use of force to compel the Native nations to comply with the resolution including the employment of the military to effect compliance. The resolution is reprinted below:

Terminate tribal councils

Whereas Article IV, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution guarantees every state a republican form of government, and this guarantee to each state is a warrant to protect the citizens of that state; and

Whereas the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs is currently aiding and abetting Indian tribes to regulate and collect taxes, injure property rights, withhold due process and grant unequal protection under the laws to some citizens, for the benefit and advantage of other citizens; and

Whereas these same Indian tribes, with the support and advice of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, organize and operate tribal governments that are not republican in form, and in fact prohibit certain citizens from voting for the representatives who enact such measures and laws and injure the citizens being denied representation;

Therefore be it resolved that the executive and legislative branches of the federal government immediately take whatever steps necessary to terminate all such non-republican forms of government on Indian reservations, and compensate those citizens who have wrongly suffered loss due to denial of their constitutionally guaranteed rights to be governed by a republican form of government.

Tribal petition opposes Republican Party resolution

Editor's note: The following is reprinted from Stop the Republican Party from attacking Indian Sovereignty petition to the United States Republican Party, and John Fleming. The petition was created by SC-AIM and written by Robert Laughing Owl.

TO: The United States Republican Party and John Fleming

A current bill in Skagit County, Washington would call for the immediate abolition of all tribal governments and Indian sovereignty in the United States. After 100 years of oppression and slum living, for the first time native peoples are practicing sovereignty, unity, and pride. For the first time in over 100 years, the economic standpoints of sovereign Indian nations are improving; land claims are being made; the government is admitting its mistreatment in past years. Now, this apparently threatens the Republican Party.

John Fleming, the Skagit County delegate who was a main author of the resolution, not only calls for the immediate abolition of these new found prides, but the use of military force to enforce his new laws. Sounds to me like this guy is trying to take the country a step back instead of forward, and it looks like he is advocating wounded knee type tactics.

He is quoted as saying, "We think it can be done peacefully, but if tribes were to fight the effort, then the U.S. Army and the Air Force and the Marines and the National Guard are going to have to battle back."

Is this the type of person that we want to be in a position of power? We, the undersigned oppose this bill and all attacks on sovereignty of Indian nations! The Republican Party claims that they advocate less government interference, yet this known Republican official advocates not only more government but the use of military force to establish it!

This has to be stopped. No longer can people of this nature be allowed to have the power to do things like this.

Concerned citizens of Indian and non-Indian race are encouraged to view our archive available on the web at <http://community.wolfstar.com> to see just what the Republican Party is up to and the lies that they are feeding you.

For further information SC-AIM can be contacted at owl@wolfstar.com.

Low salmon count polarizes tribes as less members gather at traditional fishing grounds

(Continued from page 22)

shift from a nutritious salmon-rich diet to a diet favored by Western society. The food they now eat contains more fat, refined sugar and refined salt. As a result, there are more incidences of diabetes and heart disease.

Death comes prematurely. According to Hudson, the average Columbia River Indian lives 10 to 15 years fewer than non-Indian people in the area. He blames the unhealthy Western diet.

Although not intact, the spiritual connection that the tribes have with the salmon remains strong. "The salmon is everything," Frank said. "It means everything to us. It's part of our life. It's close to our blood."

The spiritual ties are evident at the First Salmon ceremonies. The first of the First Salmon ceremonies of the Columbia River tribes takes place in Celilo Village. It is the site of Celilo Falls, which was flooded by a dam in 1957. Hudson said that the area has great spiritual and historical importance and, therefore, is the most attended of the string of springtime First Salmon ceremonies.

This year was no different. They came in droves. The tribes' close spiritual link to the salmon may also be rubbing off on the non-Indians who live in the region. Many attended the first First Salmon Ceremony and there is interest, in those communities located along the river, in holding their own ceremonies. Some have invited tribal elders to come into their towns to teach them how to conduct one.

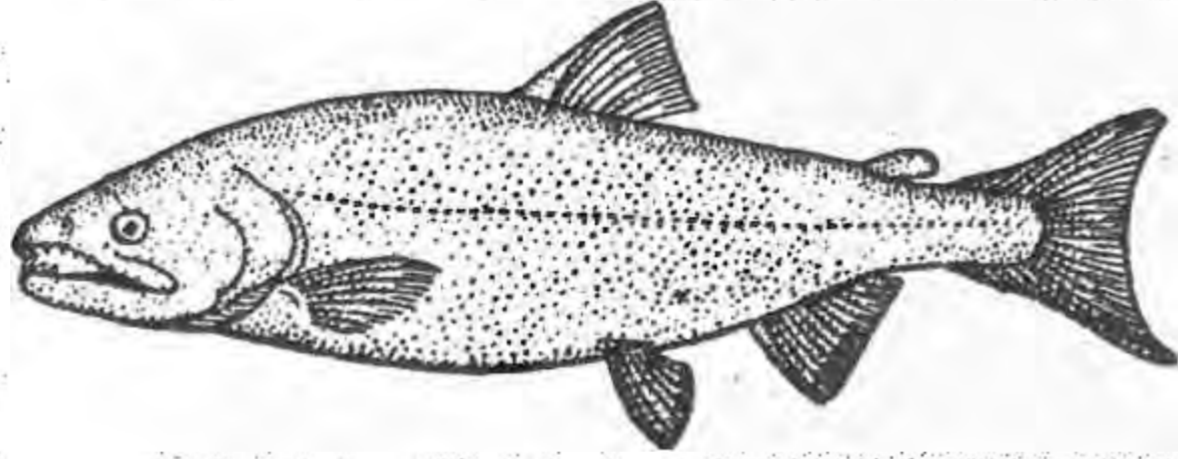
Some insist the Northwest tribes and the salmon will face the same destiny as the Plains Indians and the buffalo. Not the tribes living near the Columbia and Snake Rivers. They vow not to let that happen.

"The tribes are committed to salmon restoration, putting resources—manpower and money—that far exceed those of the state and the Feds," Hudson continued. "We're aggressively finding ways to bring the salmon back."

In addition to working with local communities, irrigators, and timber companies, the Columbia River tribes have land acquisition in their salmon recovery plan. Currently, the Nez Perce, Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Shoshone-Bannock control collectively 2.6 million acres of their original reservation. Force and boundary surveying mistakes took 9 million treaty-reserved acres from them. The tribes not only lost some of the best acreage, but the land they manage is interspersed, a checkerboard of Indian and non-Indian land. According to the CRITFC, this has added to the problem. The tribes can't always protect their resources.

State and federal agencies have, so far, provided the least amount of assistance.

"They've done nothing," Hudson said. "They've delayed, denied, disguised the level of the crisis for several years."



"The salmon is everything. It means everything to us. It's part of our life. It's close to our blood."
—Billy Frank, Jr.

That could change this year, however. Three agencies that CRITFC has identified as "action agencies," the Bonneville Power Administration, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers, are under a court order to deliver a decision on the Snake River dams and a biological opinion on the hydropower system.

The court order was handed to them in 1995, when the Idaho Department of Fish & Game challenged them in court on the biological opinion they furnished in 1994. The judge in this case said the hydropower system needs a "major overhaul." CRITFC, along with environmentalists, now wait anxiously for a new Biological Opinion, which should arrive before summer's end.

The salmon tribes of Washington have seen just as little help from the state and federal government. They must count on themselves. Part of their strategy includes educating the communities in the cities off the reservations, informing them on the pollution in the rivers.

They have two conservation programs in the works, a Comprehensive Coho and Comprehensive Puget Sound Chinook, that aim at restoring the freshwater habitats of these salmon.

And they have given their support to an order issued in 1997 by the secretaries of Commerce and Interior that provides a framework for a cooperative relationship between tribes and the federal government to develop a "holistic" approach to recovering species on the Endangered Species Act list. Several salmon species have made that list, such as the Puget Sound Chinook, the Lower Columbia Chinook and stocks of coho and sockeye.

Frank is optimistic. "They'll have to be brought back," he said. "We have a long 50-year struggle to bring them back."

It's not just optimism, it's the demand of the Northwest tribes. They want to recover their salmon-based economy and the culture that once belonged to them. "We're not looking to turn the clock back 200 years. But we're looking to restore naturally spawning salmon-populations that are healthy and produce harvestable levels of fish that meet the needs of the people," Hudson said. "It's important to note, the tribes here are healthy again and their population is growing. They will need the salmon to grow along with them."

(Reprinted from *American Indian Report*, Indian Country's news magazine, published by The Falmouth Institute.)

Indian lacrosse returns to Red Cliff

By Tim Schwab, HONOR Intern

Red Cliff, Wis.—With arms extending, raising sticks in the air, and feet shuffling, sprinting after a ball, Red Cliff youth battle for a chance to score a goal in an afternoon lacrosse scrimmage. What may look vaguely like a scene out of history is, in fact, Red Cliff youth reveling today, in the modified game of lacrosse.

According to Tom Vennum of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC and author of *Indian Lacrosse*, the American Indian sport died out of the culture three generations ago.

Wanting to see the sport reintroduced to its native culture, Vennum approached Red Cliff's Damon Sweet, an experienced lacrosse player, with the proposition of coaching the team. Sweet agreed and was joined by Harvard University lacrosse player Dana Sprong. Vennum also persuaded several major manufacturers to donate equipment to the team.

The only thing missing were players. Sweet said that he went to schools early in the year, before summer vacation, to promote student interest in playing this summer and to present the cultural heritage of lacrosse to the students.

Concerning the interest kids have shown, "It's going pretty good. When you look at this..." Coach Sweet said in awe, eyeing the large turn out of kids at practice. "We didn't even know if kids would come out."

Sprong observed that the youths have enjoyed learning the game and that the lacrosse program "has worked well because it's not something the kids are forced to do, but that they're doing by their free will."

The Red Cliff team includes both boys and girls, ages 8-13, with a roster of about 30 youths. The practices follow a regular schedule of stretching, drills, then scrimmages, with four or five practices each week.

Now instructed in the fundamentals of the game, the team is looking for some competition, which they might get. At the Honor the Earth powwow at Lac Courte Oreilles in July, the Red Cliff team met for a scrimmage, showing off their lacrosse skills for the first time to the public. Sweet noted the possibility of several games this summer, and he expressed confidence in the young team's athletic ability.

"I guess what you'd call the ultimate goal would be to have all the reservations around here have teams so we could hold tournaments," Sweet said. As for now, there are few other lacrosse teams in the area within traveling distance, which makes it difficult to set up a league.

Sweet hopes that the success of the Red Cliff program will encourage nearby reservations to form teams. "I think they're watching us right now to see how we do," Sweet said. "We try to work with the community," Sweet added, claiming that as a major factor in the success of Red Cliff's lacrosse program. Recently, the



Red Cliff youth dressed for action. As part of a program to reintroduce the indigenous sport back into its native culture, Red Cliff's lacrosse team has provided a cultural and fun activity for about 30 youths. (Photo by Tim Schwab)

lacrosse program has received official recognition from Red Cliff Tribal Council, who "support the establishment and continuation of the Anishinaabeg Lacrosse Project in the Red Cliff community."

"Lacrosse is a unique and indigenous sport and a part of the Anishinaabeg culture and heritage," the tribal council's statement also said.

Sweet said he himself has become more connected with the game since he began coaching. He is learning to make the traditional wooden sticks of ancient lacrosse.

Coach Sprong noted that through coaching lacrosse at Red Cliff he is helping to fulfill his personal goal to mainstream the sport and popularize it west of the Atlantic Coast.

As for the future of lacrosse at Red Cliff, Sweet is looking forward to coaching the team again next summer.

Defoe constructs winter wiigiwaam

(Continued from page 7)

This spring gathering was delayed by the long, cool spring.

With trees not ready in the north, Eno headed south for supplies, gathering bark in the 1837 ceded territory north of Danbury, Wisconsin and in the Selena Sate Forest 30 miles north of the Mille Lacs reservation.

Other materials are also gathered for use in the final products, such as white cedar used for canoe ribs; spruce root and basswood used for sewing; and willow and reeds used for rims.

Defoe's winter wiigwam project at Red Cliff demonstrates the bark's versatility and durability. For a winter wiigwaam, a double wall of thick birch bark is sewn to the double frame. Defoe notes that the bark is naturally water-repellent and has its own resin as a preservative so it lasts for many seasons.

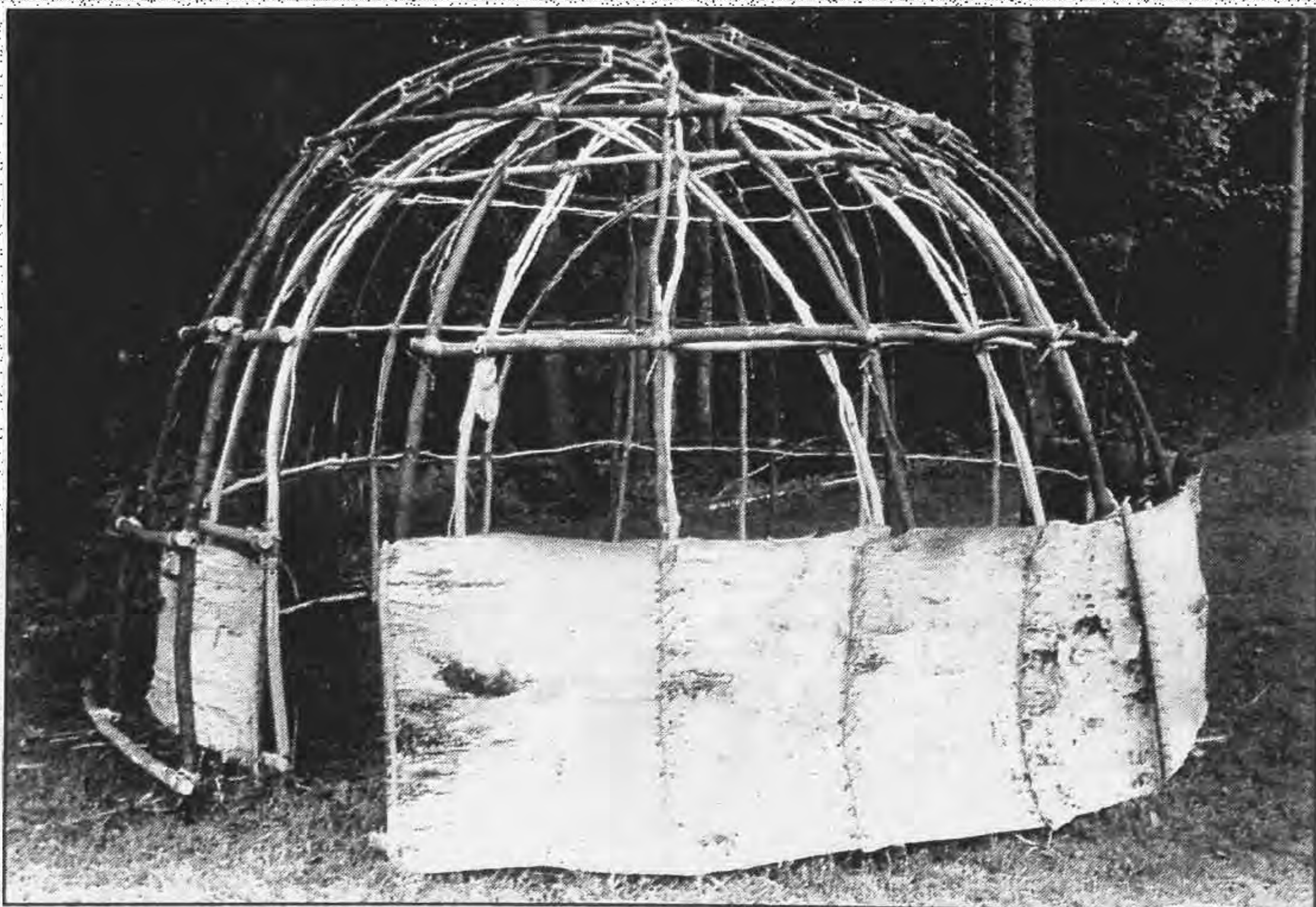
The winter lodge will be insulated with moss between the double walls. The floor will be dug down and lined with rock, which is covered by clay and a balsam carpet. A hole dug beneath the floor leading to the outside provides oxygen to fuel the fire.

Once winter is over, the wiigwam, constructed of large flat pieces of wiigwaas, can be taken apart and easily transported to the next seasonal campsite. The birch bark pieces are simply rolled and tied to be ready for transport.

Both Eno and Defoe are respectful gatherers, taking what they need and taking it in a manner not to harm the tree. Birch bark must be removed by slicing through only the outer bark. If the cut enters the inner bark, the tree may die. A careful harvester may come back to a tree in four to five years and be able to take bark again.

Before Defoe takes bark from a tree, he puts down asemma (tobacco) to the spirit of the tree, requesting permission to use its bark. Without sensing permission from the tree, he will not take the bark.

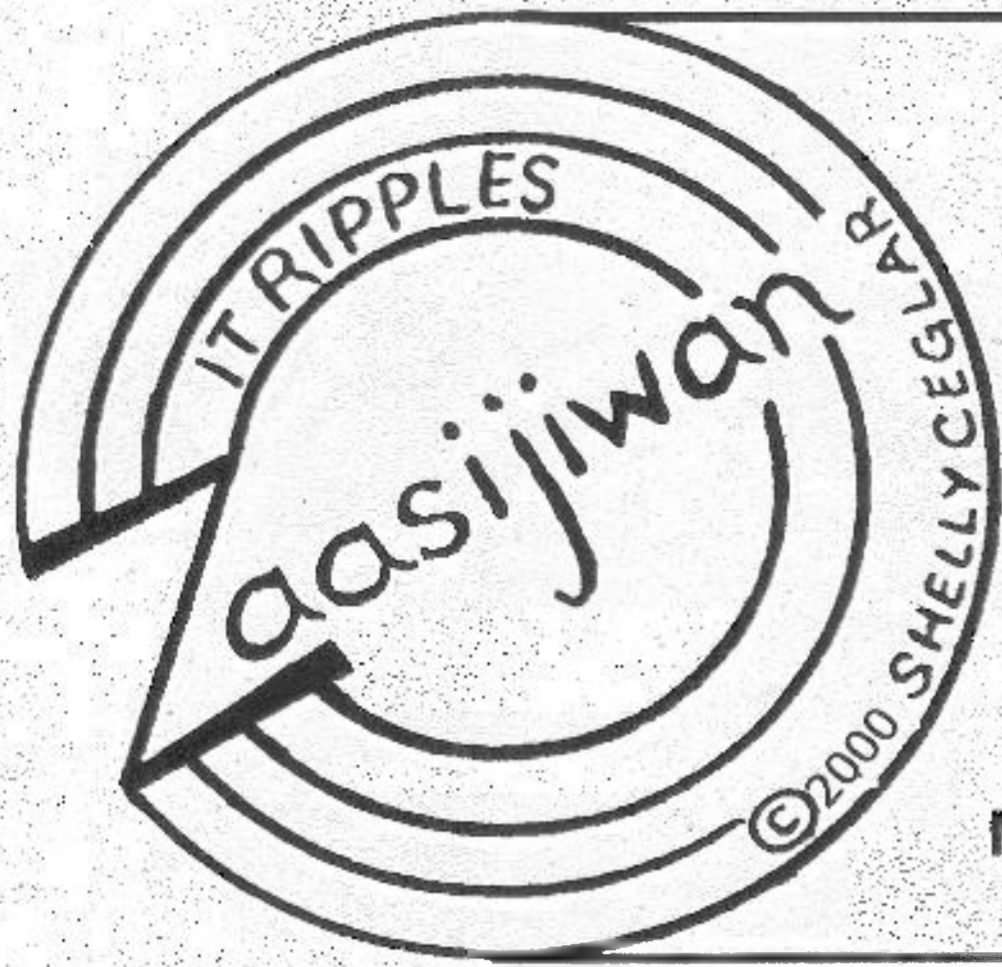
Defoe also worries about the decline of birch trees in the north. "I am in the



A double-framed winter wiigiwaam under construction by Red Cliff tribal member Marvin Defoe is ready for the upper panels to be sewn onto the inside and outside frames. The double-frame allows room for gathered moss to be used for insulation between the two walls. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

woods half of the 365 days of the year, and I see the birch are dying; the Earth is changing."

He is fearful that not only the art of working with wiigwaas is disappearing but also the wiigwaasi-mitoog themselves, and wonders if his grandchildren will be able to receive the gift of the wiigwaasi-mitoog in years to come.



Dagwaagin — It is Fall

Dagwaagin. Aaniin ezhichigeyan? Anishinaabeg manoominikewag dagwaaging. Aandi gekinoo'amaagoziyan? Nindanokii gikinoo'amaadiiwigamigong oodenaang. Ningo-nishiime anokii mazina'iganiiwigamigong. Nishiime anokii gabe-gikendaasowigamigong. Aaniin gekinawaabiyan? Nanda-gikendan!

(It is fall. What are you doing? Ojibwe people they are wild ricing when it is fall. Where do you go to school? I work at the teaching building (school) in town. One younger sister she works at the post office. My younger sister works at the all-knowledge place (college). What do you observe and learn? Seek to learn something!

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Aaniin — as in father

Jiime — as in jay

Gijis — as in seen

Noongom — as in moon

—Short vowels: A, I, O

Idash — as in about

Bimose — as in tin

Miskozi-nising — 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.

What/Where ?'s

When asking complex questions use What (how)?—Aaniin? Where..?—Aandi? or Aaniindi and the personal B-form ending on the verb.

- Anokii—S/he works.
- Aandi anokiiyan—Where do you work?
- Aandi anokiid—Where does s/he work?
- Aandi anokiwaad? Where do they work?
- Izhi-ayaa—S/he is in a certain state.
- Aaniin ezhi-ayaayan? How are you?
- Aaniin ezhi-ayaad? How is s/he?
- Aaniin ezhi-ayaawaad How are they?

Sometimes the verb's first vowel sound changes i>e after Aaniin/Aandi

Niizh—2

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

- A. Aaniin ezhiwebiziyan azhigwa? Nimino-izhiwebiz.
- B. Aaniin enaazod a'aw ininaatig? Miskozi.

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

- C. Aandi wenjibaayan? Giiwedid nindonjibaa.
- D. Aandi anwebiwaad? Apabiwining anwebiwaag.
- E. Aandi jiimed? Ziibiing jiime a'aw inini.
- F. Manoominike-giizis a'aw giizis.
- G. Miigwech. Giga-waabamin.

Niswi—3

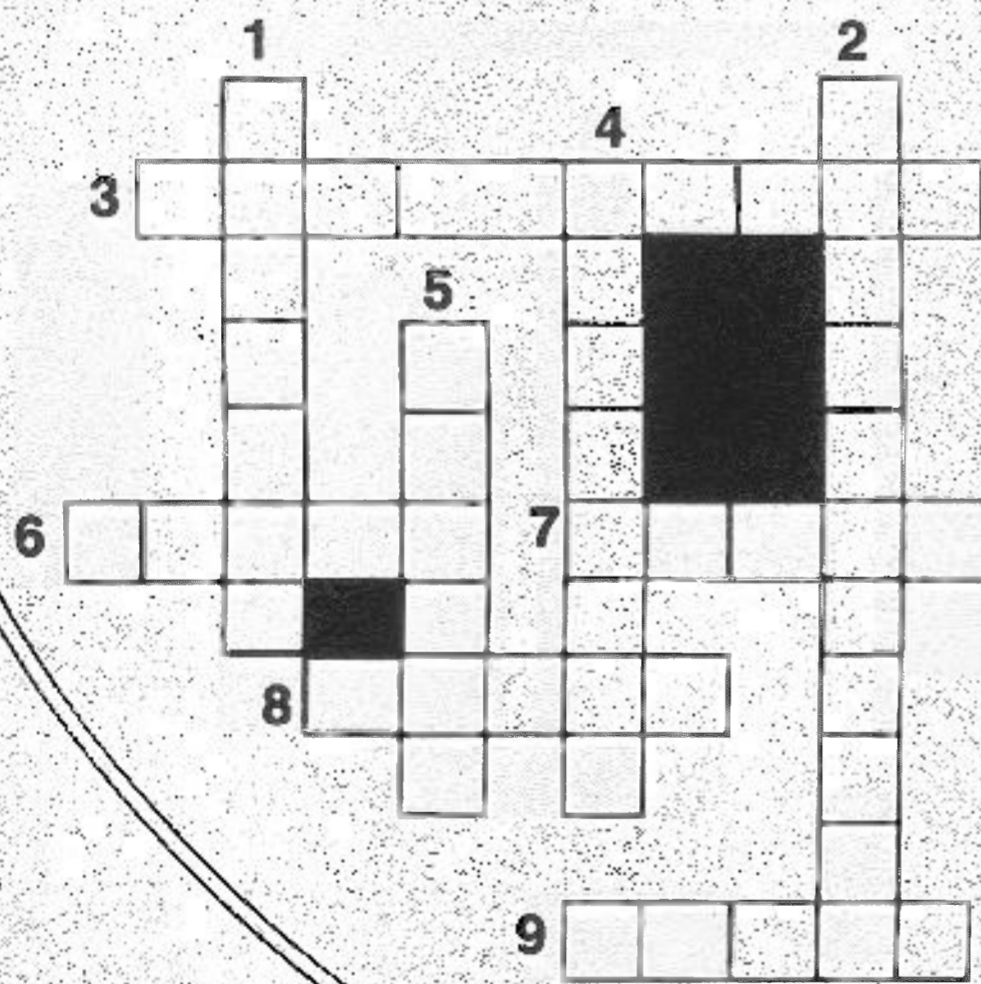
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

1. S/he eats.
2. I originate from there.
4. My younger sister.
5. Moon, month.

Across:

3. I work.
6. Where?
7. Man.
8. S/he goes canoeing.
9. Canadian geese.



Niiwin—4

VAI Conjugations

- Root verb: Wiisini—S/he eats.
- Aandi wiisiniyan? Where are you eating?
- Aandi wiisiniid? Where is s/he eating?
- Aandi wiisiniwaad? Where are they eating?
- Izhaa—S/he goes there.
- Aandi ezhaayan? Where are you going?
- Aandi ezhaad? Where is s/he going?
- Aandi ezhaawaad? Where are they going?
- Oodenaang izhaawag. To town, they are going.

Goojitoon! Try it!
Translation below.

1. Aaniin ezhi-ayaa _____ gookomis?
2. Aandi ezhaa _____ ingiw nikag idash zhiishiibag?
3. _____ manoominikewaad?
4. Aandi bimose _____ noongom, agwajjiing?
5. _____ ezhichigewaad zaaga'iganing?

waad
d
yan
Aandi
Aaniin

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. How are you behaving now? I behave well. B. What certain way is s/he colored, that maple tree? S/he is red. C. Where do you originate from? The North, I originate from. D. Where do they rest? On the chair, they rest. E. Where does s/he go canoeing? On the river, s/he canoes that man. F. Rice Harvest-Moon (September) this month. G. Thank you. I shall see you.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Wiisini. 2. Nindonjibaa. 4. Nishiime. 5. Giizis. Across: 3. Nindanokii. 6. Aandi. 7. Inini. 8. Jiime. 9. Nikag.

Niiwin—4 1. How or in what way/state is she, your grandmother. 2. Where are they going those Canadian geese and ducks? 3. Where do they rice? 4. Where are you walking today, outside? 5. What are they doing at the lake?

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.

USFWS announces series of hearings on the future of the gray wolf

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has scheduled a series of public information meetings to provide information on a proposal to reclassify most gray wolves in the Great Lakes area from "endangered" status under the Endangered Species Act to the less protective "threatened" status. Public hearings, designed to capture comments and information relevant to the USFWS's proposal, have also been scheduled.

These public information meetings and hearings follow a national announcement made on July 11, 2000, which addressed the reclassification and delisting of gray wolves across the lower 48 states. Under the proposal, wolves in Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin would be reclassified from endangered to threatened, joining Minnesota wolves in that status. Additionally, Endangered Species Act protection would be removed from any wolves in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and Ohio entirely.

"Our information meetings are designed to explain the details of our proposal and discuss the potential impact it might have here in the Great Lakes region," said USFWS Regional Director Bill Hartwig. "We also want to answer any questions people might have about the proposal."

While the USFWS will accept comments at the informational meetings, Hartwig urged those wishing to provide formal comments to do so either at the separately scheduled public hearings or via the USFWS's gray wolf web site at <http://midwest.fws.gov/wolf>.

"Both the public hearings and our web site are set up to capture comments on the proposal, so we're encouraging people to use those methods rather than to provide comments during the information meetings," he said. Comments can also be submitted by mail and by facsimile, and must be received by the USFWS no later than November 13, 2000. More information on submitting comments can be obtained by calling the gray wolf information number (612-713-7337) or on the web site.

All meetings will use an open house format, including a slide presentation beginning every half hour. USFWS endangered species program staff will be available to answer questions and discuss the proposal. The USFWS will hold public information meetings at the following locations in the Midwest:

Public Information Meetings

Wisconsin:

Black River Falls, Aug. 15, 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Lunda Theater in the Black River Falls Middle School (behind Black River Falls High School), 1202 Pierce Street.

Madison, Aug. 16, 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Mitby Auditorium in the Madison Area Technical College (near Madison Airport), 3550 Anderson Street.

Holly Wilmer continued

(Continued from page 19)

Office of GLIFWC, writing stories and taking photographs for the *Masinaigan* this summer. She's also working with the Enforcement Division of GLIFWC; filing, keeping inventory, and working on an historical timeline.

"It's fun working here because I know everybody, and everybody knows me," Holly comments.

Holly claims that her close ties with family and friends keep her coming back to Bad River, her home, and GLIFWC, her home away from home. But, Holly hopes that someday she will call Oregon or California her home, promising that she will always come back to visit Bad River.

Holly will return to the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point this fall as a junior. An art major aspiring for a career in graphic design, Holly says she dreams of working in the movie industry but would settle for a job in advertising.



It's not all fun and games for GLIFWC's accounting division at a bookkeeping training session at the Bad River Casino. Here GLIFWC's Deputy Administrator Gerry DePerry takes a break from notes to share a joke with his co-workers. (Photo by Tim Schwab)

Ashland, Aug. 17, 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Northern Great Lakes Center, 29270 County Highway G (three miles west of Ashland).

Michigan:

Watersmeet, Aug. 28, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Ottawa National Forest Visitor Center, U.S. 2 and Hwy. 45.

Escanaba, Aug. 29, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Bay de Noc Community College, 2001 N. Lincoln Road.

Sault Ste. Marie, Aug. 30, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Cislser Center, Lake Superior State University, 650 W. Easterday Avenue.

Public Hearings

The USFWS will hold formal public hearings and accept comments on the gray wolf reclassification proposal at the following locations in the Midwest:

Wisconsin:

Madison, Oct. 10, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Mitby Auditorium in the Madison Area Technical College (near Madison Airport), 3550 Anderson Street.

Michigan:

Marquette, Oct. 17, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Holiday Inn, 1951 U.S. Hwy. 41 west.

Minnesota:

Duluth, Oct. 18, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Room 175 of the Life Sciences Building, Oakland Avenue, on the University of Minnesota Duluth Campus.

The USFWS is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The USFWS manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System of more than 520 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological USFWS field stations.

The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitats such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

For further information about the programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife USFWS in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region, please visit our Home Page at: <http://midwest.fws.gov>.

Delta Vision Entertainment wins four Cameofest awards

St. Germain, Wis.— DeltaVision Entertainment won three Gold and Silver Cameofest Awards at the Greater Wisconsin ITVA's 13th Annual Cameofest held in Marshfield, Wisconsin on May 5th.

The Cameofest Awards are presented to those productions which demonstrate excellence in media communications and are chosen by members of the International Television Association (ITVA) from around this country, including producers and directors in Arizona, Illinois, Nebraska, New Jersey and Missouri. ITVA has a nationwide membership of 8,000 video artists in 70 chapters. The Greater Wisconsin Chapter of ITVA honors the best of Wisconsin based companies in the video production industry.

DeltaVision received Gold Awards for its co-productions with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) titled "Preserving the Harvest" and "Clans of the Anishinabe." Both educational documentaries are part of the Native American Curriculum Series.

Another Gold Award was received by Robert A. Rozoff for his videographic work on "Legends and Lore of the Chippewa Flowage," an episode of the award-winning *Discover Wisconsin Television*. All three projects were produced by Rick E. Rose, executive vice president of creative affairs at *Discover Wisconsin Productions* and executive produced by Robert Jackson of the BIA based in Minneapolis.

"Preserving the Harvest" examines the role of the storyteller in preserving the traditional Ojibwa hunting and gathering activities that are still practiced by their ancestors. It follows the seasonal cycles and reinforces the Anishinabe principle that nature's gifts are sacred and should be honored. "Clans of the Anishinabe" explores the aspects of clan membership and explains how the Ojibwa clans came to be represented by the animals for which they were named.

"Legends and Lore of the Chippewa Flowage" takes viewers to the beautiful and relaxing area of the Chippewa Flowage, which is a body of water that was born in 1923 when the power company flooded out a large portion of the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation. It is noted for its musky fishing, abundant wildlife and geographical history. This special episode of *Discover Wisconsin Television* aired the weekend of February 26-27, 2000 and will be part of the series' 2000/2001 season.

To order copies of any of these winning videos or any *Discover Wisconsin Television* episode, call 1-800-236-WISC. More information about *Discover Wisconsin* can be found by visiting its website at www.diswis.com.

Congress tackles budget, Indian programs in summer session

By Debbie Koch and Scott Ward
HONOR Advocacy Office

Fiscal Year 2001 appropriations

This summer Congress has been hard at work on the budget for Fiscal Year 2001. On June 22, in a unanimous vote, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the FY2001 Interior Appropriations bill. This bill includes appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which includes many Indian programs, BIA Indian Education programs, and the BIA Office of the Special Trustee.

The Senate Appropriations bill contains significantly higher funding levels than the House bill, which was passed in May. Funding for the BIA was increased by more than \$203 million over last year's budget. IHS received an increase of over \$100 million from FY2000, \$80 million more than the House-passed bill for IHS.

The Senate bill does not include the legislative "riders"—policy changes slipped onto spending bills—which were included in the House bill. The House riders would place a one-year moratorium on new and expanded contracts and the redistribution of Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) funding.

Contract support

For years, contract support costs have been a critical issue in the efforts to fund Indian programs. On June 28, the House Resources Committee amended and approved H.R. 4148, the Tribal Contract Support Cost Technical Amendments of 2000. The amendments adopted were developed and recommended by the National Congress of American Indians Contract Support Policy Workgroup and offered by Rep. Young (R-AK).

The contracting program was created to let tribes run some of their own programs. To do that, the government agreed to pay tribes the extra administration costs that they normally would have paid to run programs. The contracting was meant to encourage self-determination of tribes, but has always been underfunded.

H.R. 4148 would amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to make contract support costs a federal entitlement, which would mean that the government has a binding obligation to pay contract support costs.

Transportation bill hearing

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing on June 28 on S. 2283, the Indian Tribal Surface Transportation Act of 2000. This legislation was introduced by Sen. Campbell (R-CO) in response to the concerns of tribal leaders about the implementation of the Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) program which falls under the federal highway law, TEA-21.

S. 2283 would remove the obligation limitation under TEA-21 that currently prevents the IRR program from being fully funded at \$275 million annually. It would also authorize a pilot project that would allow several tribes to enter into self-determination contracts or compacts directly with the Federal Highway Administration for administering their IRR programs.

Assistant Secretary Kevin Gover and other Administration witnesses at the hearing opposed the bill as introduced but said that they would be willing to look

House interior budget numbers below both President's and Senate request

The House Appropriations Committee approved a \$14.6 billion draft of the FY'01 Interior Appropriations measure.

That action represents funding levels approximately \$300 million less than current levels and \$1.7 billion less than President Bill Clinton's proposed budget for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Indian Health Service (IHS), and other tribal programs.

The Committee also allowed the bill to contain a provision instituting a one-year moratorium on tribes entering into the self-governance program and report language on the land-to-trust process.

The committee recommended funding for BIA at \$1.8 billion, \$320 million less than the president's request and \$11 million more than last year. The bill recommends an IHS budget of \$2.4 billion, \$200 million under the president's request but \$30 million more than last year.

Self-governance limited

The bill includes language that limits the ability of tribes to enter into

self-governance programs. A provision calls for a one-year moratorium on new or expanded IHS contracts or compacts under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Currently, the act allows tribes to enter into contracts to administer BIA and health service programs.

This provision is a result of the on-going funding problems the government has encountered with contract support costs. These costs have been underfunded by the federal government, resulting in non-payment to tribal governments.

Tribes are also concerned about language initially offered by Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.). The original amendment stated that no funds in the bill could be used by Interior to approve any land-to-trust application that may be used for gaming, unless local government jurisdictions officially approve the applications. The amendment was withdrawn and only included as non-binding report language.

"Overall the appropriations numbers are terrible," said Ron Allen, vice-president of the National Congress



Up and coming tribal pre-schoolers. The need for more and improved tribal school facilities continues to be a priority in Indian Country. (Staff photo)

for other solutions to ensure that the IRR program receives full funding. All of the tribal witnesses who testified were in strong support of S. 2283.

Tribal justice act

On June 28, S. 1508, the Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act of 1999, was approved by the House Resources Committee. S. 1508 was originally introduced by Sen. Campbell (R-CO) and passed by the Senate in November 1999.

S. 1508 was created to authorize grants to provide training and technical assistance for: the development, enrichment, and enhancement of tribal justice systems; the development and implementation of tribal codes and sentencing guidelines; inter-tribal courts and appellate systems; tribal probation services, diversion programs, and alternative sentencing programs; tribal juvenile services; and traditional tribal judicial practices.

Indian school construction

On May 17, Senators Johnson (D-SD), Bingaman (D-MN), Daschle (D-SD), and Inouye (D-HI) introduced bill S. 2580, the Indian School Construction Act. S. 2580 proposes to use private market resources to help build and repair Indian schools.

Bondholders would receive an IRS tax credit on their bonds instead of interest payments and would not receive their principle until the end of the 15-year bond period. The principle raised would be placed in a private trust corporation.

According to Senator Johnson, "The Indian School Construction Act would establish a bonding authority to use existing tribal education funds for bonds in the municipal finance market which currently serves local governments across the Nation. Instead of funding construction projects directly, these existing funds will be leveraged through bonds to fund substantially more tribal school construction, maintenance and repair projects."

There is a tremendous need for funding to build new schools and improve existing structures in Indian Country. Over 50 percent of the American Indian population are age 24 or younger in this country. The high school completion rate for Indian people aged 20 to 24 is 12.5 percent below the national average. On average, American Indian students have scored far lower on the National Assessment for Education Progress indicators than all other students. Building new schools with adequate space and facilities is crucial to improving education for Indian students.

So far there has not been a hearing scheduled for S. 2580. Most likely it will not move soon because of the short time remaining until the end of the session. The sponsors of the bill intend to re-introduce this bill in the next Congress.

For more information on these or other issues please contact the HONOR Advocacy Office at 202-546-8340 or email us at honor@dgsys.com.

The jury is still out on how well Indian Country will do in the budget process, Allen said. The president will be in a better position to hold to his budget this year, because of the political atmosphere of a campaign year.

"We have some hope, we are hearing some positive comments coming out of the White House that Clinton wants to press forward with his budget," Allen concluded.

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



RETURN ADDRESS:
GLIFWC
P.O. BOX 9
ODANAH, WI 54861

NON-PROFIT
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
EAU CLAIRE, WI
PERMIT # 203

JAMES P. DANKY
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
816 STATE ST
MADISON WI 53706-1417

Printed by: EAU CLAIRE PRESS COMPANY, EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701

Masinaigan

A Chronicle of the Lake Superior Ojibwe

MASINAIGAN STAFF: (Pronounced MUZ IN I AY GIN)

- Susan Erickson Editor
- Lynn Plucinski Assistant Editor
- Charlie Otto Rasmussen Fall Edition Editor

MASINAIGAN (Talking Paper) is a quarterly publication of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, which represents eleven Chippewa tribes in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Subscriptions to the paper are free. Write: MASINAIGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861, phone (715) 682-6619, e-mail: pio@glifwc.org. Please be sure and keep

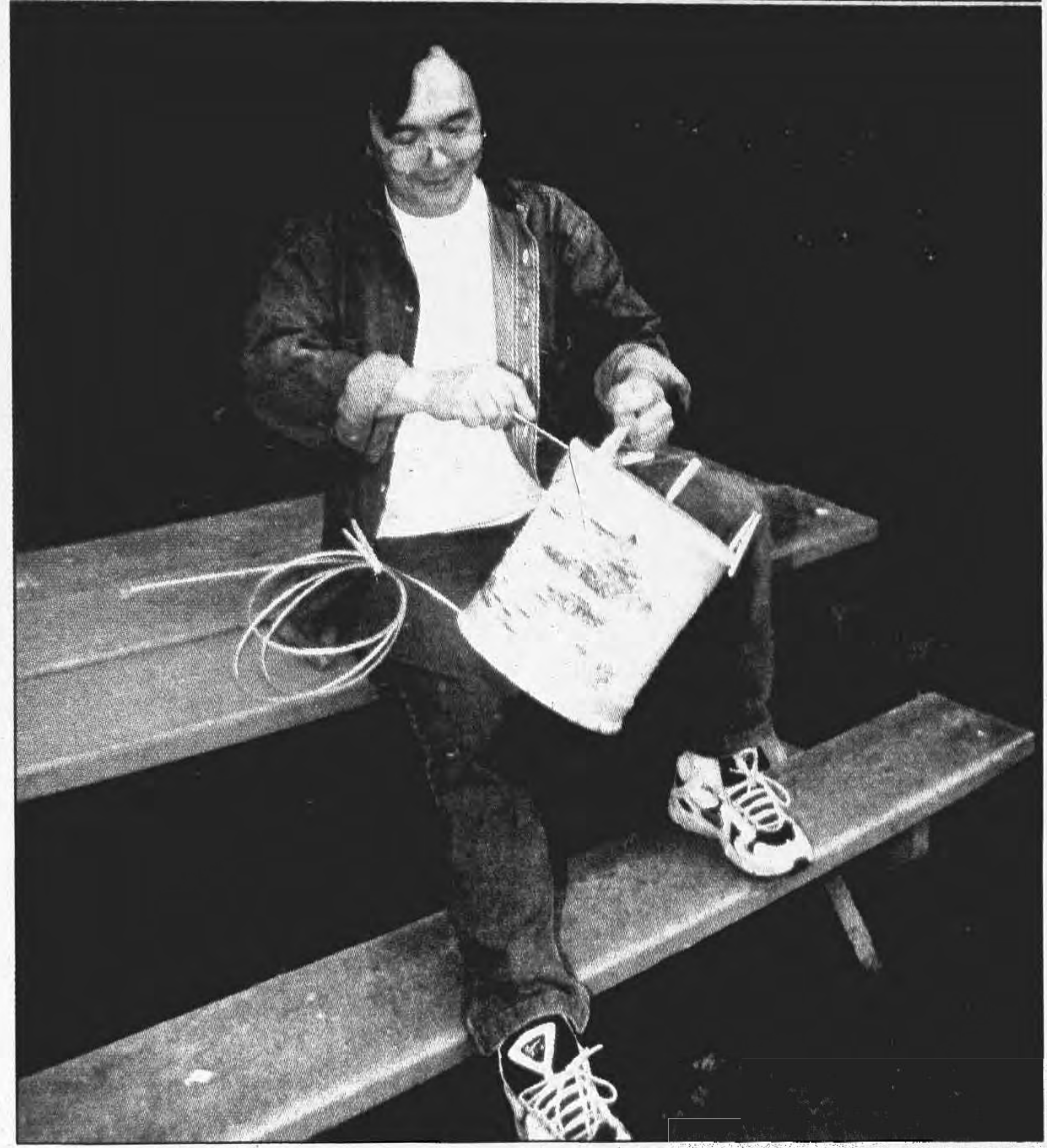
us informed if you are planning to move or have recently moved so we can keep our mailing-list up to date.

MASINAIGAN reserves the right to edit any letters or materials contributed for publication as well as the right to refuse to print submissions at the discretion of the editor.

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

Letters to the editor or submitted editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinion of GLIFWC.

For more information see our website at: www.glifwc.org.



Ojibwe Ceded Territories and Member Tribes of GLIFWC

