

Masinaigan

A Chronicle of the Lake Superior Ojibwe

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Summer 2001

Walleye fishing short but sweet for Lac Vieux Desert

Experimental nets, quiet boats, and good fishing mark season

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Watersmeet, Mich.—Remnant mounds of clean white snow stretched along the southern fringe of the Ottawa National Forest roads in Upper Michigan. Despite temperatures in the mid-70s, the snowpack was slow to melt in a region that received from 130 to 300 inches of snow last winter. For a brief one-and-a-half weeks beginning in late April, Lac Vieux Desert treaty fishermen traveled these roads to familiar spearing grounds and struck out on lesser known paths to harvest 3,229 walleye and a smattering of perch.

The Lac Vieux Desert Band (LVD) recently completed their 11th spearing season under harvest guidelines calculated by state and tribal fisheries managers. Although below last year's record take of 3,611 walleye, LVD fishermen

fared well during a season cut short by the rapid warming of western Upper Michigan lakes which caused walleye to spawn quickly.

Harvest guidelines for LVD fishing in the 1842 ceded territory of Michigan are based on models that predict the number of adult walleye. Michigan Department of Natural Resources and tribal representatives meet annually in March to determine tribal quotas.

Jim Williams, LVD Vice-Chairman, said that there is no formal pact with the state on treaty-guaranteed walleye harvests in Michigan, but tribal and state officials have a gentlemen's agreement on establishing harvest guidelines.

"We've always had a pretty good relationship with the state," Williams said. "We both want to protect the resources."

In an effort to curb the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil, LVD voluntarily (See LVD provides, page 2)



Jim Williams (right) and Dan Staff pull in a fyke net from Perch Lake in Iron County, Michigan. Vice-Chairman of the Lac Vieux Desert Band, Williams used fyke nets to harvest around 80 walleye and perch for tribal elders. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Treaty spring walleye season on Mille Lacs Lake challenged by ice, wind, and time

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Onamia, Minn.—The ice just didn't want to leave Mille Lacs Lake this year, and it managed to play some havoc with the spring treaty fishing season. Once the shoreline opened enough to set nets, a shifting wind could blow the ice pack right



Father and daughter pair-up to bring in a good catch off Mille Lacs Lake. Marvin Eno and daughter Beverly, Fond du Lac, begin the task of removing fish from their net. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

over a net. So, a careful watch had to be maintained, and sometimes nets were removed during the night to prevent loss.

The heavy ice conditions on the lake also made for a short, fast season, resulting in a combined tribal harvest of about 45,700 pounds of walleye from Mille Lacs Lake. Of that total, around 4,000 pounds were speared, the remainder taken by net.

The 2001 combined walleye quota for the tribes was 85,000 pounds, so the harvest as of May 14, 2001 leaves slightly less than half the quota remaining, or approximately 39,270 pounds of walleye.

The total quota for the Mille Lacs band is 42,500 pounds of walleye. The other seven bands each have a quota of 6,071 pounds for the season. However, Red Cliff donated 1,000 pounds from their quota to Fond du Lac, adjusting Red Cliff's quota down to 5,071 pounds and Fond du Lac's quota up to 7,071 pounds.

Tribal harvests of walleye by both spear and net on Mille Lacs Lake as of May 14th were as follows:

Mille Lacs band—16,352 pounds
Fond du Lac band—6,463 pounds
Bad River band—4,744 pounds
Lac Courte Oreilles band—3,941 pounds
Lac du Flambeau band—5,984 pounds
Mole Lake band—4,287 pounds
Red Cliff band—1,147 pounds
St. Croix band—2,812 pounds

Other lakes harvested during the 1837 Treaty season in Minnesota included Green Lake, Chisago County, where the Fond du Lac band speared 378 pounds of walleye, and Goose Lake, Chisago County where the Mille Lacs band speared 16 pounds of walleye.

As in previous seasons, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) biologists, creel crew and enforcement personnel at Mille Lacs Lake got a work out. Monitoring both spearing and netting activities with several landings open on Mille Lacs Lake simultaneously required crews to rest in- (See Eight bands participate, page 8)

Nature provides a short, fast treaty season

Wisconsin harvest figures down for both walleye & muskellunge

(Editor's Note: The spring treaty season was not completed by the time *Masinaigan* went to print. All figures reflect preliminary totals as of May 14, 2001. Final figures will be published in the next edition of *Masinaigan*.)

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Hampered by a late, but fast-breaking season, tribal fishermen in Wisconsin had fewer days than usual to harvest fish this spring. While final figures are not in, and a limited amount of fishing activity is still in progress as of this account, the total tribal walleye harvest in Wisconsin was close to 23,000 fish, out of a total combined tribal quota of 45,321 walleye available. (See harvest totals for tribal breakdown.) The tribes harvested slightly over one-half of their quota for the season by May 14th.

During a "normal" season, tribal fishermen begin the spring harvest of walleye in more southern lakes and follow the thaw to the northern fishing grounds. However, this year all lakes seemed to open within just days of each other, and the walleye were quick to spawn and return to deeper water, limiting the harvest opportunity.

The spring spearing season was opened on April 18th by the St. Croix tribe. Harvest numbers indicate the most successful walleye harvest occurred between April 21st and May 5th, with numbers of walleye harvested dwindling considerably after that date.

Last year, the combined tribes harvested 30,367 walleye, 88% which were male, and in 1999, the combined harvest was 26,105, 85%, which were male. In the past decade, only the 1991 and 1992 totals are lower than this year's tribal walleye harvest in Wisconsin.

For muskellunge, the combined tribal harvest was approximately 233 for 2001 as of May 14, down from the 2000 harvest of 325 muskellunge. The 2001 combined tribal quota was 1,580 muskellunge. In the past decade only figures for 1991, 1992 and 1993 were lower than the 2001 muskellunge harvest.

As in all previous years, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) provided enforcement and creel personnel at all landings open each night in order to monitor tribal harvest and record data on the catches.

All harvest in Wisconsin was reported on a nightly basis to GLIFWC's main office so quota balances on speared lakes could be adjusted each day.

GLIFWC's Chief of Enforcement Gerald White reports a fast, peaceful season in Wisconsin with only a few reports of minor incidents.

Tribal citations were largely for over size fish. Regulations limit tribal members to only one walleye 20"-24" and one any size over 20."

Bag limits for walleye and muskellunge are established on a daily basis and depending on remaining quota for each lake, determine the number of permits available. For instance, if a lake's remaining quota is 100 walleye, ten permits with a ten fish bag limit could be issued.

Harvest totals per tribe as of May 14, 2001

Registration Station	Walleye	Muskellunge
Bad River	2,908	5
Lac Courte Oreilles	3,162	55
Lac du Flambeau	8,450	89
Mole Lake/Sokaogon	4,572	34
Red Cliff	2,060	2
St. Croix	1,585	48
Total	22,737	233

(While *Lac du Flambeau* harvested the most walleye this season, *Red Cliff* came closest to meeting its quota for walleye, taking 2,060 from a total quota of 2,752 walleye declared by the tribe.)

LVD provides fish for elders

(Continued from page 1)

ily crossed Clearwater Lake in Gogebic County off their spearing declarations list. The invasive exotic plant has gained a foothold on the lake and reducing boat traffic will help to keep it from hitching a ride to other area lakes.

Fishing for elders

Situated in a remote wooded expanse near the intersection of Iron, Houghton, and Baraga Counties, Perch Lake isn't the easiest lake to access in Michigan, but presented a new opportunity for Lac Vieux Desert fishermen. A maze of gravel roads through national and state forest can get you to the 994-acre lake from just about any direction.

Since no treaty harvest had occurred here in recent memory, Williams saw the lake as a good place to experiment with an unconventional yet highly selective harvesting technique: fyke netting.

A staple for fisheries assessment crews, fyke nets trap fish in long, tubular mesh nets that look like a giant Slinky toy. Nets are generally set overnight and pulled the following day when fisheries staff tally species caught, record measurements, and release the fish back into the lake. Or in this case, some fish are returned to the lake, while others take a ride to the Watersmeet area and are distributed to tribal elders.

To provide LVD elders with walleye this past spring, tribal leaders de-

ecided to try limited netting in addition to regular spearing harvests.

"We have a gathering place where elders can come to receive fish," Williams said. "Not everyone has family and friends to provide fish for them, so this is one way to get walleye to people that want them."

On Perch Lake, Williams rigged his nets straight away from a large island that housed a crumbling vacation cabin and a mix of mature pine, hemlock, and cedar. Despite a yield of only a few fish on previous attempts, Williams left his two fyke nets out for one more shot at a good catch. He got it on April 29, hauling in a throng of fish that included 64 walleye and 13 perch. Additional panfish, white suckers, and small walleye and perch were returned to lake in good condition.

After a Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) creel crew recorded the catch at the public boat landing, Williams cleaned and bagged the fish before delivering them to the gathering place.

"It's an efficient way to provide for our elders," Williams said.

Small boat spearing

While most ceded territory fishermen spear from motorboats during the spring harvest, don't expect to hear many motors humming on LVD boats. The vast majority of LVD treaty fishermen opt for paddle power when cruising the shallows for walleye. People

feel that motors are often too loud and spook fish out of spearing range, Williams said. Canoes and johnboats are often the vessel of choice.

Smaller boats do have their drawbacks, however, especially on big water like the 13,380-acre Lake Gogebic near Marenisco. GLIFWC Wardens Richard Burke and Duane Parish, who monitored the LVD harvest, reported that a strong southwest wind kicked up on the evening of May 1, battering spearing boats. Whitecaps lashed across the lake to the gravel-bottomed east shore, where several tribal members were fishing. One boat took on water and became

swamped, causing fish and equipment to surge overboard. The fishermen managed to row the boat to shore and muscled it onto the safety of the bank.

Burke said this situation illustrates the importance of wearing a personal floatation device when fishing.

Interest in spearing among LVD members has gradually but steadily increased over the last decade, according to Williams. A core group of 15-20 spears account for most of the harvest as additional tribal members—mostly young people—learn spearing techniques and spring walleye behavior, Williams said.



It's a fish eat fish world. GLIFWC creel clerk, Dan Staff, wrestles one walleye from the mouth of another at Perch Lake, Michigan before recording data from the treaty netting harvest. Both fish survived the procedure until being filleted for Lac Vieux Desert elders. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

On the cover

Getting a jump-start on the season, Leonard Sam, Mille Lacs, works a net through the ice on Mille Lacs Lake this spring (see related story, page 8). See pages 12-13 for photos from spring spearing and netting in the ceded territories this spring. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Ceded territory news briefs

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Writer/Photographer

Legislation protects Wisconsin wetlands

More than a million acres of Wisconsin wetlands potentially left open to development after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling received protection from state officials effective May 8. The Senate and Assembly unanimously passed legislation to restore protection for sensitive wetlands and Governor Scott McCallum signed the bill in early May.

The law gives authority to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to regulate nonfederal wetlands. That ability to control filing projects in wetlands was removed January 9 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the federal Clean Water Act did not give the Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction over wetlands solely on the basis of their use by migratory birds. Before the ruling, the DNR regulated isolated wetlands through the Corps' authority under the Clean Water Act.

Wild turkeys on the move at LdF

The flock of wild turkeys released on the Lac du Flambeau (LdF) reservation in February 2000 have cleared another hurdle, surviving the harshest winter to hit northern Wisconsin in four years. According to Larry Wawronowicz, LdF natural resource director, small groups of birds are ranging north and west of the reservation, while others are utilizing the wildlife openings where the birds were released.

"They made it through a pretty hard winter, or what may be considered closer to a normal winter," said Wawronowicz. "The only thing the birds weren't faced with was long periods of severe cold."

Wawronowicz said that most of the birds spotted so far appear to be hens. LdF natural resource staff will monitor breeding success over the summer.

Banning the use of cyanide in mining

On Thursday, May 10th, the state legislature's Senate Environment Committee held a public hearing on a Senate bill (SB 160) that would ban the use of cyanide in metallic mining in Wisconsin. The bill would affect the proposed Crandon mine.

The authors of the bill, Senator Russ Decker (D-Schofield) and Representative Spencer Black (D-Madison), offered the bill to protect Wisconsin from the kind of environmental disasters that have occurred elsewhere. In Montana, Colorado and a number of countries like Romania and Hungary, cyanide was accidentally released into the environment by metallic mines that use the chemical during the mining process.

Supporters of the proposed cyanide ban told committee members and the public that the risks involved in the transportation and use of excessive amounts of cyanide are not worth damaging Wisconsin's true "gold"—its water and land resources. They delivered petitions containing signatures of some 11,000 Wisconsin citizens who do not want cyanide to be used at the proposed mine site. They told of the increasing number of local and tribal governments that have enacted ordinances banning cyanide within their jurisdictions, and reminded legislators of the strong vote for a cyanide ban by delegates to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

The only group that spoke against the cyanide ban was the Nicolet Minerals Corporation, which brought in mining experts from around the U.S. to attempt to convince Senate committee members that cyanide will be used safely in the mine at Crandon. Committee members did not take a vote on the bill that day but are expected to act on it in the next few months.

—submitted article



Taking down statistics from tribal harvests during the spring spearing season is the job of creel clerks, who assist GLIFWC on a seasonal basis in managing the spring season. Above, Eric Haskins, creel clerk, at a landing on Big Round Lake, Sawyer County, checks the length of a harvested walleye. (Photo by Jennifer Schlender)



Annette Crowe, Bad River, brings in a nice catch from Mille Lacs Lake this spring. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

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 June through August 2001 are as follows:

Wisconsin 1837, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

- Netting
- Hook and line fishing
- Gathering (birch bark, berries, ricing, etc.)

Minnesota 1837 Treaty ceded territory

- Netting
- Hook and line fishing
- Gathering (birch bark, berries, ricing, etc.)

Michigan 1836, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

- Netting
- Hook and line fishing
- Gathering (birch bark, berries, ricing, etc.)

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



Tribal netters return to the Cedar Creek landing of Mille Lacs Lake after setting their nets, enjoying a calm lake and a reprieve from the windy weather often encountered during the early part of the season. (Photo by Margaret Schlender)

GLIFWC spring walleye population assessment crews put in fast-paced season

Kentuck Lake findings optimistic

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—The electrofishing crews put in a fast and furious twelve-night season to complete the spring walleye population assessments. Electrofishing began on April 20 and concluded on May 3.

It was the shortest season since the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) expanded its electrofishing fleet to more than one boat.

Hampered by cold weather in the spring and lingering ice on the lakes, crews got onto the lakes later than in the last several seasons. Water temperatures of around 40-42 degrees help cue walleye to spawn in the shallows of northern Wisconsin lakes.

A sudden onset of unseasonably warm weather resulted in a quick thaw and rapidly rising water temperatures. As a result, the walleye spawning period was shortened dramatically. The

balmy weather in late April also resulted in ice-out and spawning occurring in many northern Wisconsin lakes almost simultaneously rather than moving gradually from southwest to the northeast, as is more typical.

Despite the abbreviated spawning period, a fleet of seven electrofishing boats managed to complete walleye population estimates on 17 lakes, leaving only two lakes scheduled for estimates incomplete, according to Phil Doepke, GLIFWC inland fisheries biologist. Completion of the 17 lakes required many consecutive nights on the boats, challenging the crews' fortitude.

The population estimates usually require several nights on a lake to mark walleye. The crews generally shock on and near spawning beds during a mark-up run.

After enough fish have been marked, the crews return to the lake a night or two later and shock the entire lake shoreline to recapture marked fish. This is called the recap run. The number

of recaptured fish is used in the formula for calculating the population estimate.

Doepke felt the season went very well overall, and the walleye fisheries look good in surveyed lakes. He was especially pleased to find 9" to 13" walleye in Kentuck Lake, Vilas County, which indicates some of the stocking efforts in recent years may be starting to restore the lake's walleye population.

A survey crew harvested about 6.6 million eggs from Kentuck Lake walleye this spring. The eggs were fertilized and will be incubated in the Mole Lake and Red Cliff hatcheries for stocking into Kentuck Lake later this summer.

The crews also installed thermographs in seven Wisconsin lakes. The thermographs record water temperature every hour. The data will be used to (See Spring electrofishing, page 21)



This GLIFWC crew looks relaxed despite an intensive season. Ready to launch their boat into Lake Owen are Micah Cain, Don Corbine, crew leader, and Robert Cloud. (Photo by Sue Erickson)



Off the water for awhile, GLIFWC electrofishing crews take a break from the nightly rounds of spring assessments, but will be heading to Mille Lacs Lake shortly. Pictured above, from the left, are crew members Shane Cramb, Dale Corbine, and crew leader, Butch Mieloszyk. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)



Last night out on May 3rd for this GLIFWC crew took them to Whitefish/Bardon Lake for a recap run. Crew members are: Mitch Soulier, crew leader, Tom Houle and Chuck Smart. (Photos by Sue Erickson)



Also participating in the Lake Owen recap run this spring was the GLIFWC crew led by Ed White. The crew includes Kris Arbuckle, Ed Wiggins, and Ed White. (Photo by Sue Erickson)



Ready to participate in the recap run on Lake Owen using the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) electrofishing boat are Phil Doepke, GLIFWC inland fisheries biologist and Frank Stone, USFWS fishery biologist. Not pictured is crew member Bill Soulier. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Tribal members tap into maple on county & federal forest lands

By Karen Danielsen
GLIFWC Forest Ecologist

First tribal sugarbush on county lands

Ron Parisien, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) wildlife technician and Bad River tribal member, must drive through the Iron County Forest to reach his sugarbush on the Bad River Reservation. On his way, he passed a number of sugar maples that he hoped to tap.

This year, after GLIFWC and Ron worked with the Iron County Forester, Charlie Zinsmaster, that desire became reality and the first tribal sugarbush was established on county lands.

With his friend, Dennis Soulier, Ron placed approximately 50 taps on sugar maples in the Iron County Forest. This is in addition to the 200 or so taps they placed in the sugarbush on the reservation.

Establishing a tribal sugarbush on county lands can be confusing, but not impossible. Court-ordered stipulations resulting from the *Voigt* decision require that tribal members must comply with the conditions associated with county sugarbush permits.

The complexities of these conditions depends on the regulations adopted by each individual county. Consequently, establishing a sugarbush may be easy in some counties (e.g., Iron County), but not in others.

Tribal members wishing to establish a sugarbush on public lands should contact Karen Danielsen at GLIFWC (715) 682-6619.

Certainly, more sugarbushes established on county lands will result in an improved working relationship between tribes and counties and, hopefully, less complexity.

New tribal sugarbush on national forest lands

Also this year, Lac du Flambeau established a new tribal sugarbush on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Following the process as outlined in the *Tribal/USDA Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)*, the MOU Technical Working Group helped coordinate discussions between representatives from Lac du Flambeau and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

Charles Carufel, from the Lac du Flambeau Abiinoojiiyag Center, and Bob Hennes, Park Falls District Ranger, worked together to develop the required management plan. Because the sugarbush will not create excessive disturbance and will keep impacts to the surrounding area limited, the management plan is simple and straightforward.

This sugarbush will be utilized primarily when the sugarbush on the reservation needs to be rested. The gathering and processing of the maple sap at the new sugarbush will be coordinated by the Abiinoojiiyag Center and conducted as a teaching resource for tribal youth.

This year, employees from the Abiinoojiiyag Center gathered and pro-

cessed approximately 100 to 150 gallons of sap from this sugarbush. Next year, they plan to gather more.

The tribal sugarbush established by the Bay Mills Indian Community on the Hiawatha National Forest last year

continues to be utilized. With the help of the Bay Mills Cultural Committee, many gallons of sap were gathered this year. In addition, more tribal members developed an interest in the sugarbush.



Ron Parisien transfers fresh sugar maple sap from the Iron County Forest into a portable holding tank. The Bad River member operated the first tribal sugarbush by county permit in Wisconsin this past spring. (Photo by COR)

Mechanical rice harvesting in Wisconsin

A short story: The beginning and the end

By Peter David
GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

On a late August morning in 1952, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Warden Tony Jelich woke up and noticed his dog was acting unusual. He looked out his window to see if someone or something was around and discovered he was not alone.

His yard was filled with Ojibwe Indians, and from the looks of the fry bread and coffee they had going over a small fire, they had been there a while. They had arrived during the night, wanting to talk to Tony as soon as he woke.

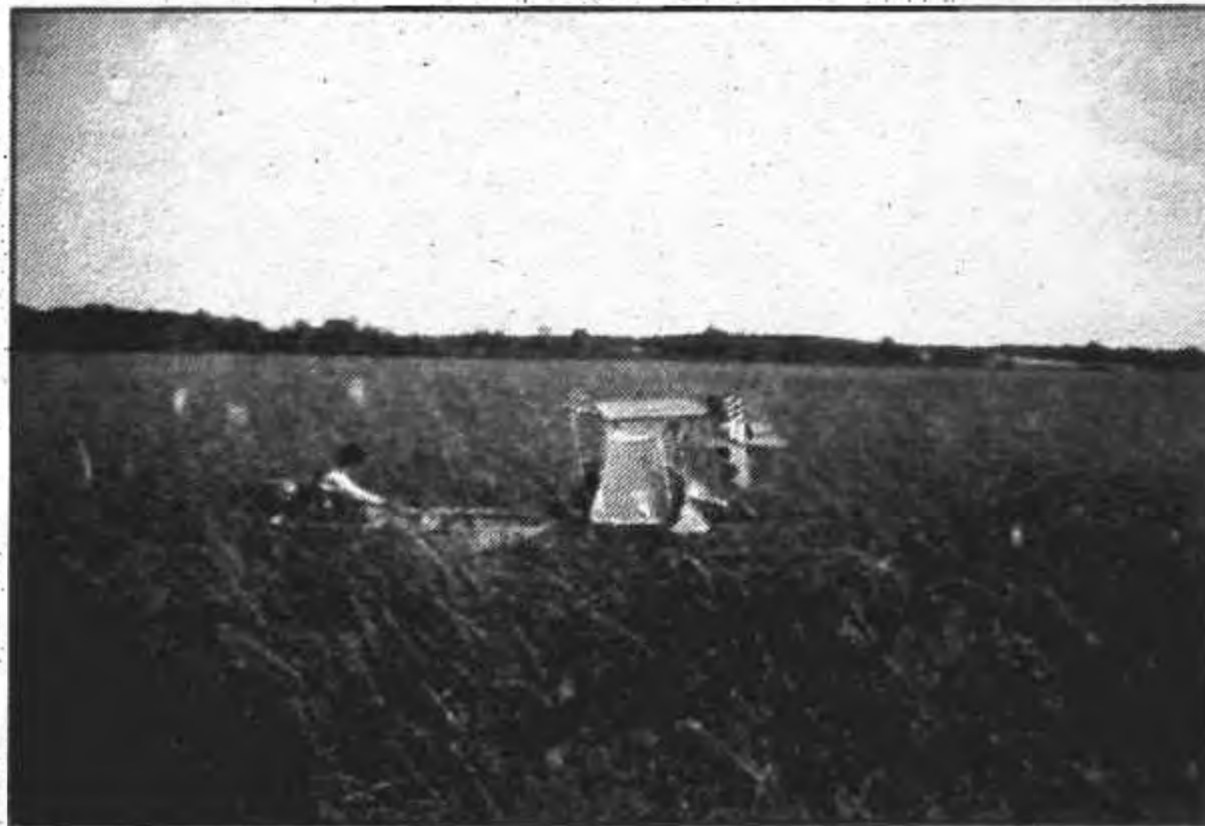
They had a complaint, and Tony had a pretty good idea what it involved: that machine on Mulligan Lake, Douglas County.

The machine was a small, home-made mechanical wild rice harvester, developed by a non-Indian who owned about half of the lake's frontage—the only frontage on the lake that was privately held at the time.

Looking like a miniature combine mounted on the front of the short, narrow boat, its owner hoped to use the contraption, along with careful seed selection, to tame this wild crop and develop it as an agricultural industry, as had been done with wild cranberries.

His hopes had culminated in action the day before, when he fired up the motor-driven flails and his small outboard, and began sweeping the rice beds of Mulligan Lake, mixing the sweet smells of the dying grass with the exhaust of the outboard motor. (State law at the time allowed the use of mechanical harvesters if a special permit from the State Conservation Department had been obtained, as was the case in this instance. This law had been enacted in an effort to provide the first regulation of harvesting by mechanical means.)

With an average depth of two feet, a soft mucky bottom, and a gentle flow of water, Mulligan Lake provided ideal habitat for wild rice, and it flourished there. And though relatively small at 77 acres, Mulligan was an important ricing lake to



Mechanical wild rice harvester on Mulligan Lake, 1952. (Photo submitted)

the Ojibwe in the region, attracting ricers from the St. Croix, Lac Courte Oreilles, and Bad River tribes.

The lake also attracted non-Indian harvesters, and even visitors who came to watch the simple exercise of this traditional harvest. Jelich himself recently recalled how he would park his car on a small hill overlooking the lake to watch and listen to the tribal ricers. "They would kind of hum; they had this song [that they would sing while ricing]. Then they would finish the rice at lake-side camps they had set up."

Given its small size and shallow depth, Mulligan didn't attract many powerboats, which was good. Those early outboards "ran on oil practically," Jelich noted, and the one powering this harvester was no different. When he flew over the lake to check for possible damage, he could detect

the blue sheen left on the water.

One can easily imagine how the traditional tribal harvesters felt about this event, and over a big pot of coffee on that late August morning in Tony Jelich's yard, he heard about it. Soon, complaints came from non-Indians as well, many of whom felt that rice needed to be protected from mechanical harvesting, particularly on public waters like Mulligan Lake.

By the following February, the St. Croix Conservation Club was leading the effort to ban the mechanical harvesting of wild rice in any navigable lake, pond or stream of Douglas County. By the time the law was enacted later in the year, it had been expanded to include the entire state.

Mulligan Lake is still a rice lake, and although it has had relatively poor crops more often than not in recent years, it is still possible, on the right August day, to pole your canoe through the stands and maybe sing a little while your partner works the flails. And maybe all that is still possible, because in the end the legacy of the mechanical harvesting permit issued in 1952 for Mulligan Lake was not the beginning of a new agricultural industry in Wisconsin, but the ending of mechanical harvesting on the state's public waters.

Sugarbush becomes the classroom as elders share stories & knowledge

By Karen Danielsen
GLIFWC Forest Ecologist

Crandon, Wis.—Peter McGeshick, Jr., a Sokaogon (Mole Lake) tribal member, trudged through the snow until he finally reached an old cedar tree surrounded by hundreds of sugar maples. The overcast skies of April threatened to release either rain or snow, the

struggle between spring and winter, the exact time to begin gathering maple sap.

Pete described how the past and present just seems to blend together under this old cedar tree—the center of a generations-old sugarbush camp. At this site, youngsters still listen to the stories of their elders and continue to learn the tradition of gathering and processing maple sap.

Some of the funding that supported this year's elder/youth sugarbush workshop came from a grant sponsored by the USDA Forest Service.

Partners for this grant include the Forest Service North Central Research Station, the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, and the Ojibwe bands of Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Mille Lacs, Sokaogon, and Red Cliff.

The purpose of this grant is to provide Ojibwe youth with opportunities to experience gathering by utilizing and managing forest resources with traditional and recently developed methods. Instruction comes primarily from tribal elders.

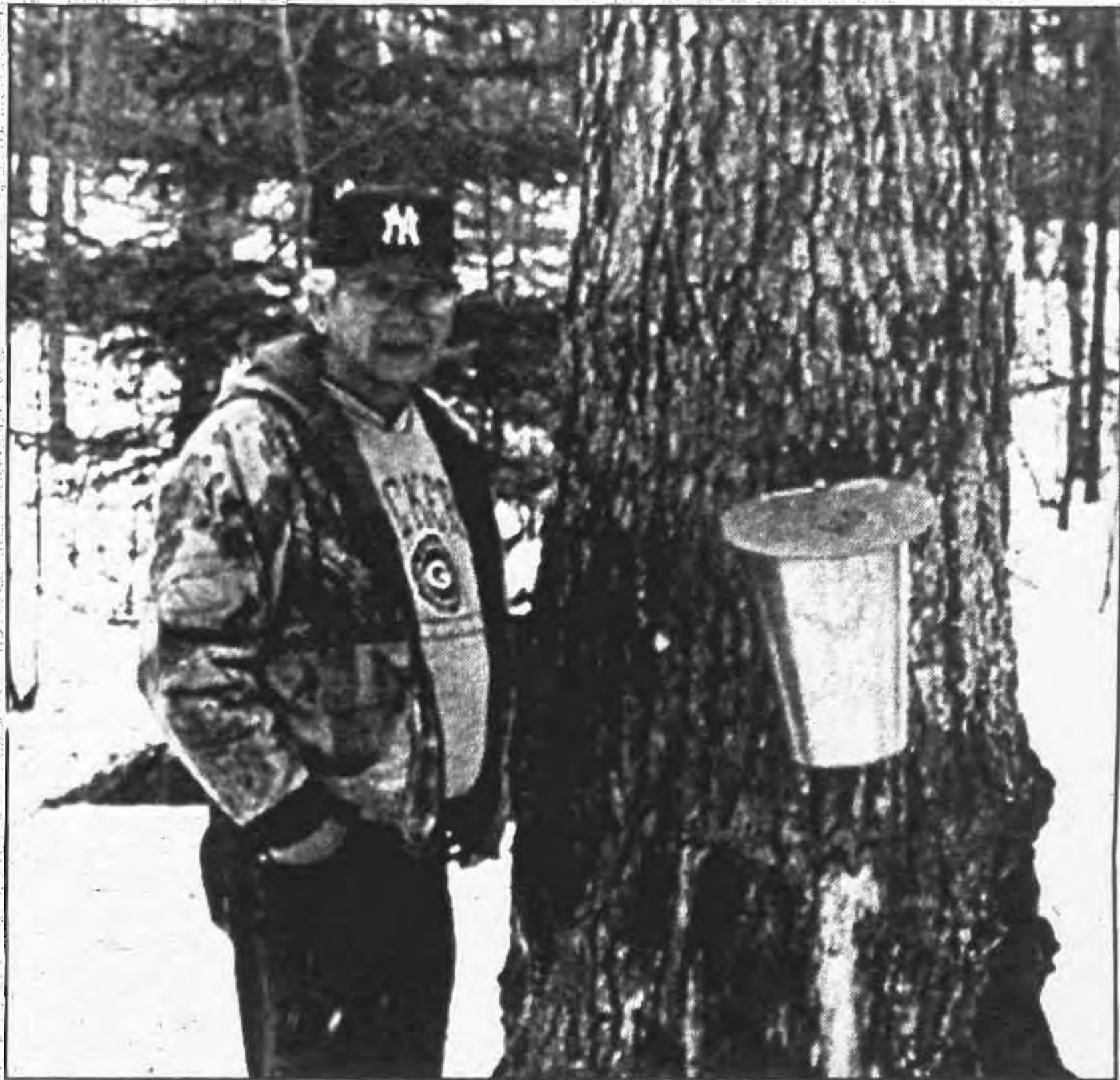
Other bands to hold sugarbush workshops included Lac Courte Oreilles and Red Cliff. In addition, Lac Courte Oreilles and Red Cliff elders told traditional stories to the tribal youth,

and Bad River elders demonstrated how to carve wild rice knockers from cedar.

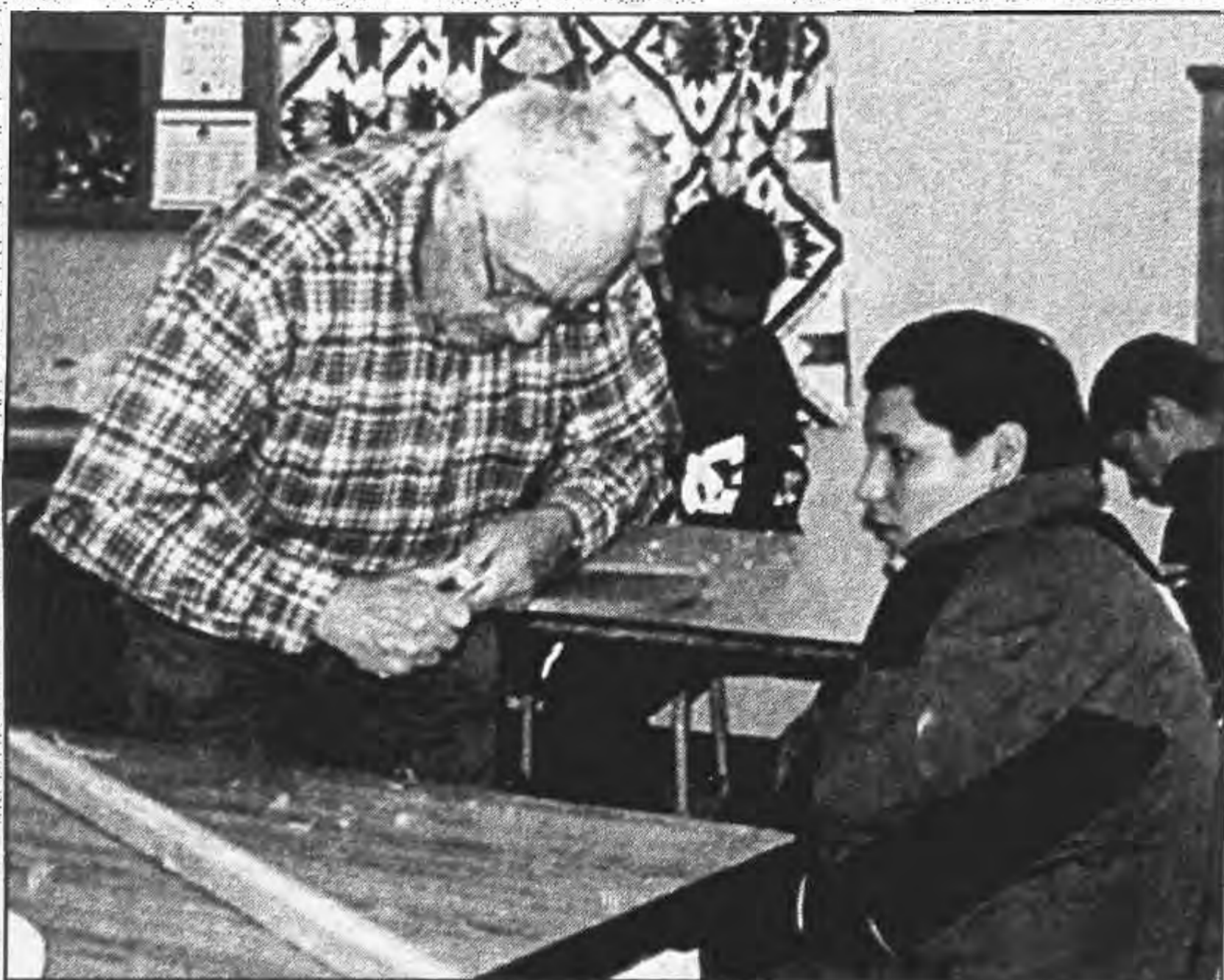
Everyone who has participated seems to have really enjoyed all aspects of these workshops. Though at times the teachings harbored a very serious tone, laughter frequently penetrated the discussions and smiles tended to maintain a high profile.

Of course, the concept of these workshops dates back generations. Ojibwe elders have been teaching youngsters since time immemorial. Only now, for the purpose of this grant, the word "workshop" has been introduced.

Future workshops will occur throughout the summer months. Some of the planned activities include the gathering of birch bark, wild rice, and other wild plants. Many more elders and youth expect to participate and share in the knowledge, stories, and laughter.



Peter McGeshick, Jr., Mole Lake elder, shares his knowledge of gathering and processing maple sap with Mole Lake youth. (Photo by Karen Danielsen)



Ernest Carpenter, Bad River elder, demonstrates how to carve wild rice knockers from cedar to Bad River youth. (Photo by Karen Danielsen)



Carol Jorgensen, (center) U.S. Forest Service Tribal Governments Program Manager, addressed the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF) at Mille Lacs on March 1. Also pictured are Michael Prouty, (left) Forest Service Field Representative and VITF Chairman Tom Maulson. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Wisconsin off-reservation treaty furbearer harvest 2000-2001

Tribal Registration Station

	Otter	Species Fisher	Bobcat
Bad River	1	4	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	6	45	1
Lac du Flambeau	0	1	0
Red Cliff	1	39	0
Totals	8	89	1

Did you know???

- ✧ Botanists have yet to discover in 400 years any medicinal herb that was not first used by Native Americans.
- ✧ The rubber ball was invented by Native Americans.

(Reprinted from the Fond du Lac Environmental Program newsletter.)

International concerns for traditional medicinal plants

By Karen Danielsen
GLIFWC Forest Ecologist

Odanah, Wis.—Worldwide, indigenous people retain an expansive knowledge of the natural world. They also share a grave concern for the continuing degradation of the natural world.

Last autumn, Sylvia Cloud, a Bad River tribal member, met with traditional medicine healers from around the world during two separate conferences to discuss global policies and environmental issues affecting indigenous people.

Funding for her trip came primarily from the Sven Liljeblad Memorial Fund. Sven Liljeblad, a Swedish activist, dedicated many years to environmental causes and to the concerns of indigenous people. His widow, Astrid Liljeblad, invited Sylvia to be a recipient of this fund. Sylvia still feels greatly honored to have received this invitation.

The first conference Sylvia attended was in Sweden with members of the Saami of northern Scandinavia. The Saami culture dates back almost 10,000 years beginning with the last glacial retreat.

Their religion, language, and customs differ significantly from the dominant Scandinavian society. As with many other indigenous people, they have been persecuted and forcefully discouraged from continuing their traditional lifeway.

Interestingly, Sylvia recently discovered Saami heritage in her father's family. Consequently, this segment of her trip gave her additional personal satisfaction.

Topics presented during this conference in Sweden included Saami traditional medicine, Ojibwe traditional culture and religion, Native American traditional medicine and cooperation with mainstream health care, and the World Health Organization Program for Traditional Medicine. Discussions often focused on the effects of global pollution, loss of natural habitats, and other environmental changes on the many plants used for traditional medicines.

The conference also included visits to Tåssåsen Saami Community and Áhkká Mountain (Holy Mountain or Grandmother Mountain). During these visits, Sylvia recognized similarities between the Saami people and many American Indian cultures. In particular, they share a profound bond with nature.

The Saami relationship with the reindeer have paralleled the American Indian relationship with the bison—at least until the time when foreign governments implemented policies that transformed those relationships. The Saami still construct shelters in the shape of tepees using reindeer hides for covering.

Similar to most American Indian cultures, drums play an integral role in Saami ceremonies. Saami plant gathering traditions are reminiscent of Ojibwe traditions, and the Saami even gather sweet grass for decoration in their basketry designs. Sylvia felt very welcome among the Saami. Either due to her Saami ancestry or the similarities with American Indian cultures, she had a feeling she had



Participants of the World Congress of Traditional Medicine "Voices of the Spirit World" in Germany, Fall 2001. (Photo submitted)

once before spent time with these people. In any case, she hopes to visit again sometime soon.

After leaving Sweden, Sylvia traveled to Germany to attend the World Congress of Traditional Medicine "Voices of the Spirit World." Participants arrived from many different countries including Russia, Peru, South Korea, Nepal, Columbia, Switzerland, United States, Turkey, Mexico, Australia, India, Germany, and West Africa. Traditional healers, as well as scientists and physicians, attended.

During this conference, participants exchanged ideas and experiences regarding traditional and western medicine. Those practicing western medicine have begun to appreciate the focused complexity and values of traditional medicine.

Through working together, traditional and western medicine practitioners hope to develop interdisciplinary and comparative approaches to healing, and thus, provide beneficial care for people of many different cultures.

All throughout her trip to Europe, Sylvia shared her knowledge and experiences. She also learned much through her participation. She became aware of the similarities found among different indigenous cultures.

More importantly, she realized that similar traditions and parallel paths may have brought together indigenous peoples to fulfil the need to protect their heritage and their inherent relationship with nature.

Angler survey on Lac Vieux Desert meshes with wild rice restoration

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Watersmeet, Mich—As far as entry level, 40-hour-a-week jobs go, Vera Klingman's is one of the more demanding, maybe even a little peculiar.

The Lac Vieux Desert (LVD) tribal member plans on working every weekend, from May 5 through the end of October, along with every major holiday. A computer program randomly selects her work schedule, sometimes following a late night shift with an early morning assignment. Only under dangerous weather conditions will she be entitled to leave her outdoor post.

Klingman is involved in a survey of anglers on Lac Vieux Desert, a Wisconsin-Michigan border lake containing nearly 5,000 acres and the headwaters of the Wisconsin River.

This summer she will be gathering data on the number of fishing boats



using the lake and number of occupants. She'll also interview a sample of fishermen to determine the composition and level of their harvest. It is similar to surveys conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources every summer on select Wisconsin lakes to estimate angler effort, catch, and harvest.

The information Klingman is gathering has a unique purpose, however, since her work is part of an effort to restore historic wild rice beds on the lake.

Lac Vieux Desert once supported large rice beds vital to the local Ojibwe subsistence economy. Those rice beds disappeared decades ago and have only come back in recent years following a restoration program initiated by the tribe.

The USDA Forest Service is leading a group of natural resource agencies, including the LVD Band and the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, working to ensure that the wild rice beds thrive and continue to expand.

One major component of this effort hinges on slightly lowering the maximum water level—by less than a foot—so that the areas housing suitable rice habitat are not inundated with deep water, drowning the sensitive plants.

Tribal, federal, and state resource agencies are proposing that Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company support the effort by making the necessary adjustments on the water control structure the utility operates at the head of the Wisconsin River.

The data Klingman gathers will provide valuable baseline information that can be used to assess if any unanticipated changes occur in fishing pressure or harvest.

Klingman has studied for an elementary education degree at Central Michigan University and Gogebic Community College, but her experience on Lac Vieux Desert has spurred a change in career aspirations.

"This job has become a deciding factor for me," Klingman said. "I've been considering a biology degree and now I'm sure I want to go after it."

Klingman plans on attending Northern Michigan University in January 2002.

GLIFWC evaluates potential candidates for noxious weed "hit list"

By Miles Falck, GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—The exercise of off-reservation treaty rights depends on the maintenance of native plant and wildlife communities. The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) is active in research, management, and policy development for several exotic plant and animal issues affecting native resources in the ceded territories.

The wetland-invading plant purple loosestrife continues to receive the brunt of GLIFWC's control efforts; however, staff are looking closely at the impacts of other exotic plants in the region to determine if they should be added to our "hit list." This summer, control crews will be using integrated pest management techniques to control purple loosestrife populations in the Bad River-Chequamegon Bay watershed. Integrated pest management simply means using the right tool for the right job.



Pots of purple loosestrife plants dug from the Sioux River Slough were unloaded at the Ashland Agricultural Research Station by GLIFWC staff working with the noxious weed program. The plants will be used as hosts for the growing of *Galerucella* beetles being introduced to control the spread of purple loosestrife. Pictured above are GLIFWC staff Steve Garske, exotic plant aid, and Dan North, wildlife technician. (Photo by Miles Falck)

GLIFWC crews have manual, chemical, and biological control methods, which they employ to control purple loosestrife, depending on how large the infestation is, where it is located in the watershed, and the physical characteristics of the site.

GLIFWC's philosophy is to use the least disruptive method that will provide effective control. Small sites that can be easily eradicated receive the highest priority for control and are either pulled by hand or killed with a small amount of herbicide applied directly to the plant. Larger sites with difficult access are good candidates for biological control.

GLIFWC will be rearing and releasing *Galerucella* beetles again this year to combat purple loosestrife. Last year approximately 70,000 beetles were released in several infested wetlands in the Bad River-Chequamegon Bay watershed. Research has shown the *Galerucella* beetles to be very host-specific, meaning they will only feed and lay eggs on purple loosestrife.

Results from previous releases show that it takes 3-4 years for the beetle populations to grow large enough to have a visible impact on purple loosestrife abundance. The progress of GLIFWC's loosestrife control efforts can be monitored at <http://www.glifwc-maps.org>.

Purple loosestrife is just one of many exotic plants that degrade native habitats by displacing native flora and fauna. This year GLIFWC staff will be collecting field data and reviewing previous research to determine the future direction of GLIFWC's noxious weed program. This process will look at the ecological harm caused by specific exotic plants, their current distribution and abundance, and the effectiveness of various control methods.

These criteria will be used to determine for which, if any, additional species GLIFWC may pursue active control measures. Species that cause substantial ecological degradation, have low abundance and limited distributions, and have effective control measures will rank highest on the list.

This research is being funded by the Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office, and the results should be widely applicable throughout the upper Great Lakes.

GLIFWC's purple loosestrife control efforts received national attention this spring when it was included in the television production, "Plants Out Of Place." This program demonstrated the ecological impacts of exotic plants throughout the country and the ongoing efforts to control and prevent their spread.

A segment on the Great Lakes region featured the efforts of GLIFWC and the Bad River Tribe to control the spread of purple loosestrife in local wetlands. Watch for re-broadcasts of this program on public television this summer.

Eight bands participate in Mille Lacs treaty harvest

(Continued from page 1)

between hours. Spearfishing takes place at night, often not concluding until midnight or after, and nets are lifted around 7:00 a.m. Once nets are picked, fish weighed, and data recorded, it's around noon. Staff then have a break until early evening when nets are set once more.

Some evenings required an all night vigil to check nets, due to shifting wind and ice conditions, according to Gerald White, GLIFWC Chief of Enforcement.

White also noted that windy conditions made it difficult for some tribal members with small boats to set or retrieve nets, and GLIFWC wardens assisted when necessary.

Full-time GLIFWC staff monitoring the Mille Lacs Lake during the entire season included Enforcement Area Supervisor James Mattson, Officer Jason Forcia (from the Keweenaw Bay enforcement satellite office), and Nick Milroy, inland fisheries biologist for the Minnesota treaty, ceded area.

Other enforcement staff assisting during the season included Chief Warden Gerald White, Red Cliff Area Supervisor Mark Bressette, Western District Supervisor Ken Pardun, Officer Jim Stone, Bad River, and Central Dis-

trict Supervisor Vern Stone. Biological staff assisting included GLIFWC's Biological Services Director Neil Kmiecik and Inland Fisheries Section Leader Joe Dan Rose.

Conservation Officers from the Mille Lacs band monitored harvests at on-reservation landings during the season, and the Fond du Lac band brought both conservation officers and biological staff to monitor Fond du Lac's harvests.

GLIFWC's Biological Services Division also provided creel clerks at all on and off reservation landings to record statistical data on the tribal harvests for both spearing and netting activities.

One incident of concern occurred on April 28th near the Malmo landing. Spearers from Fond du Lac reported a man on shore tried to "sick" his dogs on their boat and yelled for someone to bring a gun. The spearers left the area and reported the incident to enforcement personnel at the landing.

GLIFWC Officer Jim Mattson reported the incident to Aitken County Sheriff's Department. Officers from the county and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as well as Fond du Lac conservation officers Mark Zacher and Jason Loons investigated the case.

As for a few early birds on Mille Lacs Lake

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Onamia, Minn.—It's hard to wait—especially hard to wait for the ice to go out after a long winter. A person gets anxious for that spring fishing season and a taste of walleye, and all you hear is forecasts for snow and freezing nights.

Testing the waters early for spring netting on Mille Lacs Lake required a little innovation and some work with ice augers for some Mille Lacs tribal members who took to the lake early with nets. Fishing began as early as April 8th for the Mille Lacs band.

For Leonard Sam, Mille Lacs, time with the chainsaw rendered a hand-hewn crack in the ice to nicely accommodate his 100 foot net for some early April fishing. No sense waiting for the ice to leave.

And that worked fine enough to set a net in the evening and pull in the morning, with a catch featuring some northerns, a few walleye, and an eelpout or two.

Reaching the net became a little trickier when the ice started to deteriorate and Sam's 4-wheeler was no longer a good bet. It was a slight problem but nothing insurmountable. Open water on the immediate shoreline simply re-



quired a short trip in his canoe to the ice, still 2' thick, and then a quarter mile jaunt on foot to his net—a beautiful morning walk.

Sam admits to getting wet a few times out there, but nothing serious enough to deter his enthusiasm for fishing.

Other Mille Lacs members also set nets through the ice or used areas of open water along the shoreline to set some early nets by boat, generally catching northern pike and a few walleyes. The early sets were a little ahead of the spring walleye run, but still provided a good taste of fresh fish and the fun of the spring season.

As always, landings with net sets were monitored by Mille Lacs and GLIFWC enforcement. GLIFWC creel clerks recorded statistical information on the catches.

The early season provided a warm-up for staff, in anticipation of several very busy weeks ahead once the season began in full.



Tribal commercial fishermen harvest predominantly whitefish

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—“There is a popular misconception that tribal commercial netting is depleting the Lake Superior lake trout fishery; however, it is just that—a misconception,” according to Bill Mattes, Great Lakes fishery biologist with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

While netting is an efficient method, tribal regulations governing tribal commercial fishing in the U.S. waters of Lake Superior are in place and enforced to prevent overharvest. In other words, the treaty fishery is closely managed.

In the Marquette harbor and Presque Isle area tribal harvest has been predominantly whitefish, Mattes says. This is also true of all treaty commercial fishing in the U.S. waters of Lake Superior. Catches of other species, such as lake trout, siscowet, herring and salmon, fall well below the numbers of whitefish harvested by treaty, commercial fishermen in Lake Superior.

The impact of tribal commercial harvest is limited by a number of fac-

tors, according to Mattes. For one, the numbers of fishermen are small. In the Marquette area, four small boat fishermen from Keweenaw Bay constitute the treaty commercial fleet.

In MI-5, the fishery management unit in the Marquette area, tribal commercial and subsistence fishermen harvested a total of 46,979 lbs. of lake trout in 2000. State-licensed sport fishermen harvested 43,588 lbs. of lake trout in the same unit. “Both harvests, tribal and sport, were under the quota for the year,” Mattes says.

Tribal fishermen fish lake trout under a quota determined in coordination with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, GLIFWC and the Keweenaw Bay, Red Cliff, and Bad River tribes. Tribal codes regulate all treaty commercial fishing activities and are enforced through tribal and GLIFWC conservation officers, who are authorized to inspect equipment and catch.

Regulations are designed to protect the fishery from over exploitation. For instance, tribal commercial fishermen cannot set nets less than a quarter mile from the mouths of rivers and one-half mile from river mouths during the spring and fall salmon runs.

The Marquette harbor and Presque Isle area, considered a seasonal refuge, are closed from October 15th to November 27th. Tribal commercial fishing in other areas of Lake Superior is also closed during spawning seasons.

Mesh size regulations are set according to target species, limiting the numbers and species caught. Each fisherman has a set number of tags available each year, and all lake trout taken are individually tagged before being sold. Tribal commercial catches are also subject to biological sampling.

Tribal nets must be clearly marked with buoys and identified by tribe and license number. Lost nets must be reported within eight hours, and a tribal commercial fisherman cannot resume fishing for two days unless the net is retrieved.

“Tribal interest in the fishery extends way beyond the harvest,” Mattes says. “Both GLIFWC and tribal biologists have been active in performing fishery population estimates, including lake trout and whitefish, for years. Biological and statistical information is collected from assessment netting, by monitoring commercial fishermen, and from catch reports filed by tribal fisher-

men. Information is shared with state fishery biologists and used to determine the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) or quota for fishery management units.”

In addition, Bad River, Red Cliff, and Keweenaw Bay run successful fish hatcheries and stocking programs, rearing species such as lake trout, walleye, lake sturgeon, and coaster brook trout.

Tribal biological staff also participates in other programs related to improving the Lake Superior fishery and habitat. Some of these projects include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s lamprey control program, zebra mussel and river ruffe studies, participation in the International Joint Commission and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Tribal commercial fishermen are harvesting fish under the 1842 Treaty between Chippewa bands and the U.S. government. The eastern boundary of the 1842 Treaty area is the Chocolay River.

Under the treaty provisions, bands signatory to the treaty reserved the rights to hunt, fish and gather in ceded areas. Treaty-reserved rights in the 1842 Treaty and other treaties have been upheld by federal court rulings.

Keweenaw Bay treaty fishermen hash out problems

Including continued vandalism and harassment

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Baraga, Mich.—On May 3 Don Tollinen and Dominic Durant, Keweenaw Bay small boat fishermen, headed out on Huron Bay, Michigan waters of Lake Superior, to lift his nets. However, when he arrived at the set, the legally marked and set nets were gone, cut loose from their buoys.

4,000 feet of net were absent with no indication whether someone had simply cut it loose to continue fishing on the bottom of the bay, or balled it up and discarded it.

Not only the net was lost, but also the fish—a loss comparable to cattle stolen from a beef farmer. Fish provide Tollinen and Durant with a livelihood, and they work hard as small boat fishermen to make ends meet.

The vandalism not only deprived Tollinen of a sale, but required him to invest about \$3,000 in replacing the stolen net and the endless hours involved in tying net, Durant says.

Tollinen’s problem was one of many discussed during a May 11th meeting of the Keweenaw Bay tribal fishermen at the Keweenaw Bay Community Center. Tribal Chairman Bill Cardinal, fisheries biologists and conservation officers were also present.

The recent incident was not the first time tribal nets have been stolen or damaged. Far from it, Durant says. Keweenaw Bay fishermen have been harassed in this manner for years, even though they are fishing under carefully set quotas with legal, well-marked nets.

For now, Tollinen has a twenty-four hour watch on his nets—the only solution he can find to the problem, Durant says.

Other small boat fishermen have been encountering significant problems in Marquette Harbor. Two Keweenaw Bay members, Dan Gauthier and Dan Alexander, deal with vandalized nets routinely in the Marquette Harbor, along with negative and sometimes racist taunts and signs. They are licensed by the tribe to fish under quota, and they target whitefish. For Alexander his license limits him to MI-5, which includes Marquette Harbor. Designation of fishing areas represents an effort by fishery managers to avoid a heavy impact in any one fishery management unit.

If Alexander is going to fish, for his living, Marquette Harbor is where he will have to do it. For Alexander, that’s fine, because there is a healthy whitefish fishery in the unit, and he fully intends to continue fishing for his livelihood. However, he questions the necessity of dealing with deliberate destruction of nets, hostile remarks, and unquestioning blame of the Indian if a net is found washed ashore.

Both Alexander and Gauthier claim that some non-Indians do set illegal nets. This is no big secret, they say. But a washed up net is always “known” to be an Indian net. However, if an Indian net is adrift or balled up, it is unlikely an Indian cut it loose.

Gauthier says a common practice by “sporties” is to cut Indian nets loose from their buoys, ball them up with the weights and send them to the bottom. Another practice is to hook the net, pull it into their boats, remove fish from a



Commercial fishing has long provided a livelihood for Keweenaw Bay tribal members. Currently, tribal fishermen are targeting whitefish for the market. The tribe licenses both large and small boat fishermen, both are managed through tribal regulations designed to provide fishing opportunity while protecting the fishery. (Staff photo)

section of net and cut the net before releasing it again.

“Sporties think we are taking their salmon and lake trout. We’re fishing whitefish and limited number of lake trout as incidental catch, but they just won’t believe it,” Alexander says.

Many incidents have been reported to law enforcement. The Catch-22 in enforcement is that someone has to witness the act, and probably not only witness the act, but take pictures to prove it.

As Richard Semasky, retired Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission conservation officer at Keweenaw Bay, noted, “Over fifteen years, not one arrest could be made for vandalizing nets.”

At the conclusion of the meeting, discussion centered on problem-solving and a proposal to organize as the Keweenaw Bay tribal fishermen. It was clear numerous hard issues face this small group of Indian fishermen if they are to continue their lifeway.

WDNR invites public comment on Lake Superior fisheries' goals

Document developed with tribal input

Bayfield, Wis.—People interested in Lake Superior's fisheries are encouraged to submit written comments by June 1 on a draft document that will guide how Wisconsin, other states, Canadian provinces and tribes collectively manage the fishery of the world's largest lake.

The document, "Fish Community Objectives for Lake Superior," will provide the framework that Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff will use to work with interested citizens in Wisconsin in coming years to develop strat-

egies to achieve the broad goals the document sets for Lake Superior fisheries management, says Mike Staggs, director of the DNR Bureau of Fish Management and Habitat Protection.

"We want to hear from area clubs, organizations and individuals and would like your input and comments on the draft objectives in this report," Staggs says.

"These objectives aren't going to tell us how to manage but will provide us with guidelines we will look to as we set our regulations, determine to stock

or not stock, and make decisions on how to manage Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior," Staggs continued.

The document outlines general goals for preserving and restoring habitat, including water quality, and for managing fish species that commercial and sport anglers are interested in: lake trout; lake whitefish; walleye; lake sturgeon; brook trout; Pacific salmon; rainbow trout; and brown trout; and the prey species those fish eat, such as lake herring.

The document also outlines goals for protecting and sustaining the diverse community of native fish species not individually listed, and for managing exotic nuisance species, including the sea lamprey.

"Fish Community Objectives for Lake Superior" was developed by the Lake Superior Committee, representing management agencies from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority.

The draft document is intended to make sure Wisconsin, other states, provinces and tribes share a common understanding of how the lake ecosystem functions, and to set a unified direction to guide many management practices, Staggs says.

That includes understanding that with its low water temperatures, low levels of nutrients, narrow shoreline zone and low levels of dissolved minerals, Lake Superior has been, is, and will be much less productive as a fishery

than any of the other Great Lakes. It also includes understanding that the fishery itself has significantly recovered from the declines that resulted from logging, dam building, over-fishing, and the introduction of exotic species such as the sea lamprey.

The document credits as "critical factors" in the recovery the suppression of sea lamprey; regulation of fisheries by provincial, state and tribal governments; the stocking of lake trout, improved recruitment of lake herring; abatement of pollution, a lessening of habitat destruction and reforestation.

"The present status of the fish community in Lake Superior is the closest to the desired condition that it has been since sea lamprey control began in the early 1960s," the document says.

At the same time, challenges remain, among them exotic species, habitat degradation, global climate warming and atmospheric pollutants such as DDT and PCBs that float into the Lake Superior basin from sources outside the basin.

The draft document can be viewed on Department of Natural Resources website at www.dnr.state.wi.us by clicking on "Outdoor Activities," then "fishing," then "Fish Community Objectives for Lake Superior." A copy can also be obtained by calling Bill Horns at (608) 266-8782. Written comments can be addressed to Bill Horns at DNR, 101 S. Webster St., P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53703.

(Reprinted from Wisconsin DNR News & Outdoor Report.)



Mike Plucinski, GLIFWC Great Lakes fisheries technician (center), shows interns Julie Nelson and Ben Basley how to insert a PIT tag in a walleye. The interns will be working with the juvenile sturgeon study on the White River this summer and will be marking captured sturgeon with PIT tags. (Photo by Bill Mattes)

Politics and the Great Lakes

This spring Ann McCammon Soltis, policy analyst with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, attended meetings in Washington, D. C. relating to legislative issues impacting the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Commission, a binational, public organization representing the eight Great Lakes states and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and the Northeast-Midwest Institute, a group focusing on Great Lakes legislative issues, sponsored the briefings last March. Soltis outlines several key initiatives and legislative proposals discussed during the briefings.

Great Lakes Congressional delegation calls for development of Great Lakes "vision"

There was a call for the development of a collective "vision" for the Great Lakes from the Congressional delegation. With a collective vision the Great Lakes delegation thinks it could more easily justify a large appropriation for the region. A letter has been sent from a number of Congress members to the eight Great Lakes governors asking for their priorities for the Great Lakes. It was also noted that the Great Lakes region would lose 9 seats during re-apportionment.

Great Lakes Commission announces legislative priorities

The Great Lakes Commission has drafted a proposal entitled "The Great Lakes Program to Ensure Environmental and Economic Prosperity." On March 15th in Washington, a representative of the Great Lake Commission outlined its legislative and appropriations priorities for the coming year. It focuses on seven themes—cleaning up toxic hot spots, shutting the door on invasive species, controlling nonpoint source pollution, restoring and conserving wetlands and critical coastal habitat, ensuring the sustainable use of water resources, strengthening decision support capability, and enhancing the commercial and recreational value of the Great Lakes.

Legislation being considered in 107th Congress

A number of bills being considered address issues including: brownfields, water infrastructure financing, a multipollutant bill (4 pollutants are currently being considered—mercury, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides), contaminated sediments, Water Resource Development Act 2002, Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), and National Invasive Species Act (NISA) re-authorization.

Harmful Nonnative Weed Control Act of 2000—This bill (S. 198) would provide funding for weed management entities to control or eradicate nonnative weeds on public and private land. Currently, all the funds are funneled through the states. A provision to include tribes in the bill is needed.

National Invasive Species Act (NISA) re-authorization—No legislation has been introduced, but this issue seems to be receiving a fair amount of discussion. The Northeast-Midwest Institute will be working on a coalition bill that would include a core set of provisions that different regions of the country could, if necessary, adapt into their own legislation. Candidate areas for the development of core provisions include: pathways/vector risk analysis, mechanisms for implementing controls in vectors other than ballast, standards for coastal (as opposed to transoceanic) voyages, incentives for ballast technologies, and rapid response. It was also noted that the International Joint Commission's Water Quality Board is working on a report on invasive species.

Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) reintroduced—This bill was not passed during the last Congress but some of its provisions were included in other legislation. The bill has been reintroduced this session (H.R. 701) with the hope of passing the legislation as a whole. Congressional staff has indicated that CARA could move quickly in the House. Paul Palagyi, staff of Senator DeWine, thought that it would take movement in the House for CARA to move in the Senate. Senator Murkowski (R-AK), who chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, is busy with energy policy issues and is not currently focused on CARA.

It should be noted that some of the Great Lakes delegation has been lukewarm toward CARA; at least one member of the Wisconsin delegation is adamantly opposed to it. This is not because of the tribal provisions, but for several other reasons—the Great Lakes do not get a large share of money, the appropriation would be "off-budget," and the appropriation would (according to those sources) leave a large hole in the Interior budget.

Tribes are included in Title III after work by the Red Lake tribe and others last session got language inserted into the bill. Title III is entitled Wildlife Conservation and Restoration and would provide tribes a share of funds under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act.

Tribes are still not included in Title I, which provides the largest share of money of the seven Titles. It is unclear whether it will be possible to get language inserted into Title I.

One fish, two fish: GLIFWC keeps count as fish come in



Creeling the catch of David Sam, Mille Lacs, at an on-reservation landing is Jessie Kegg, GLIFWC creel clerk. Also present are GLIFWC wardens Jason Forcia (left) and Jim Mattson (center).



Pete Halfaday, GLIFWC creel clerk, records statistics as another creel clerk calls out species, length and sex of measured fish. Weight of the catch is also recorded at Mille Lacs Lake landings.



Picking fish from a net—a common scene during the spring netting season at Mille Lacs Lake. Above, Clarence Crowe, Bad River, works a fish through the mesh.



Mike Dorr and Leonard Sam, both from Mille Lacs, bring in a catch at an on-reservation landing.



Jim and Margaret Schlei, Lac Courte Oreilles, head in after setting a net at Mille Lacs. (Photos by Sue Erickson)



Creel clerks and biological staff put in many hours to record necessary data on both netting and spearing harvests at Mille Lacs Lake. Above Eli and Zeb Retka, GLIFWC creel clerks, take information on a catch. Pete Halfaday, GLIFWC creel clerk and Joe Dan Rose, GLIFWC inland fisheries section leader, look on.



Focus on fish 2001





Catch 'em and count 'em action at landings



*Photos by: Sue Erickson,
Nick Milroy
& Charlie Otto Rasmussen*



Keepers of the data

In-office staff keep daily profiles of fishing activity

Article & photos by
Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Once ice begins to leave the lakes in the Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota ceded territories, creel clerks, biologists, and conservation enforcement officers with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) head out to lakes and landings where treaty fishing and netting will occur. The harvest activity is intense, usually nightly over a period of several weeks, and spans much of the ceded territory in the three-state area.

Monitoring the season requires more than presence at the landings, however. It requires the efficient handling of data on a daily basis for the entire tribal spearing and netting harvests. Consequently, there is also an in-office staff putting in long hours and working weekends in order to help coordinate the season and tabulate data.

Enforcement Division

In the Enforcement Division a twenty-four hour dispatch is maintained. Dispatch is essentially the link maintaining communication between the main office in Odanah, and the enforcement personnel on the various member reservations. Two dispatchers, Gerald W. White and John Shubat each put in twelve hour shifts throughout the season, and Kim Campy, administrative assistant, fills in.

Dispatch receives reports from the GLIFWC's satellite stations with lists of lakes declared by each tribe in the morning. At noon, dispatch contacts the Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) with lists of selected lakes in the respective states.

At 6:00 p.m. the satellite stations once again contact dispatch with lists of lakes where spearing or netting will be taking place and the number of permits issued. Once again this information is forwarded through dispatch to the state agencies. Dispatch also checks nightly with all open landings to be sure they are closed and everyone is safely off the lakes.

Harvest summaries for the night from each open lake are also provided to dispatch nightly. If incidents, such as gun shots are reported, information is given to other GLIFWC conservation officers or to local law enforcement officials to investigate.

Campy also puts in seven day work weeks throughout the spring season. She types the nightly lists of lakes, reports any incidents to Gerald L. White, Chief of



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Enforcement, and GLIFWC Executive Administrator James Schlender, helps coordinate travel, and processes nightly reports.

With additional seasonal staff hired, Campy oversees much of the paperwork related to travel and distribution of uniforms and equipment for seasonal employees.

Biological Services Division

Coordination of crews on lakes and landings as well as daily record keeping throughout the spring run of walleye, keep several GLIFWC staff busy occupied with data entry.

As fish are harvested, creel crews take necessary data on each fisherman's catch on a nightly basis. This information is fed into a database at GLIFWC's main office and is used to determine remaining quotas on lakes each day.

Several staff focus just on receiving and tabulating the daily flow of information from the catch reports. They must enter all the figures into the database and adjust quota balances on speared or netted lakes daily.

Leanne Thannum, administrative assistant for Biological Services, records the harvest from the previous night and sends the information to the Minnesota and Wisconsin DNR by 10:00 a.m. She and Jennifer Krueger, database manager, tabulate remaining quota balances for each lake and update the figures from the actual catch reports.

Once the list of lakes and bag limits selected for a night are reported by a tribe, Thannum reviews the remaining quotas on selected lakes with the tribal representative and the number of spearing permits or nets allowed is determined. Thannum then forwards this information to the Wisconsin and Minnesota DNRs.

Krueger enters all the harvest figures daily for each tribe on a spreadsheet, providing a daily tally of number of spears, lakes speared, and numbers of fish or poundage harvested for each species.

After the season is complete, Krueger enters each fish into her data base, recording for each tribe species of fish harvested, sex, length, date speared, lake, and tag information, if a fish is tagged. This information provides the basis for a comprehensive yearly report on the spring season.

Besides spear and net harvest, other fishery data is collected by the assessment crews. Rick Madsen, data analyst, keeps track of numbers of fish captured during the nightly electrofishing surveys.

Statistics from the assessments are reported daily from the crews. Madsen compiles the information daily and uses the information to help schedule lakes for assessment that evening.



Leanne Thannum, administrative assistant with Biological Services, records information from nightly catch reports and takes calls from tribes as they select lakes each night.



Database Manager Jennifer Krueger calculates numbers from the nightly catch reports.



Rick Madsen, data analyst, keeps the numbers from nightly walleye population estimates during the spring electrofishing season and helps coordinate schedules for the electrofishing crews.



Kim Campy, administrative assistant, Enforcement Division, makes sure nightly lists of lakes are available, records daily harvest reports as well as incident reports.



Manning Enforcement Division's dispatch office is Gerald W. White. Dispatch receives nightly harvest reports and is the central communications link between the various on-reservation satellite offices.



Jon Shubat, Enforcement Division's dispatcher. A twenty-four hour dispatch is maintained throughout the spearfishing/netting season.

Bush proposes \$65.9 million increase for major Indian programs

By Brigid Maher for Masinaigan

Washington, D.C.—Most of the talk in DC has been about President Bush's proposed budget and its implications for various governmental departments and programs. The budget is subject to change as the House and Senate range with numbers. However, here are the numbers that President Bush would like to see for the major Indian departments.

The requested amount for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is \$2.2 billion, which is an increase of \$65.9 million over last year's budget. Most of these proposed funds would go toward education, trust management, and settlement of land and water claims. Some programs within the BIA will see an overall reduction in funding. Among these are welfare assistance, self-governance grants, endangered species and distance learning programs.

The Indian Health Service proposed budget includes a \$107 million increase since last year. This includes an additional \$55 million to fully cover pay cost increase for the National Indian Health Service's employees and to allow tribally-run health programs to provide comparable increases to their staffs. The increase also includes funding for self-determination contracts and health care facility construction.

President Bush has also announced his choice to head the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Neal A. McCaleb, a Chickasaw Indian from Oklahoma. He was appointed in 1972 by Richard Nixon to serve on the National Council on Indian Opportunity for two years. He also served on the Commission on Indian Reservation Economics, appointed in 1983 by former president Ronald Reagan. From 1967 to 1972 he served on Oklahoma's Indian Affairs Commission.

Many tribal leaders are skeptical of McCaleb's adherence to tribal sovereignty because of his position under the Reagan administration. According to Ron Allen, vice-president of the National Congress of American Indians, tribal leaders were distrustful of any proposals made by the Reagan administration. "The people who were assigned to the commission weren't tribal leaders. They were hand-picked by the administration based on who knows what criteria. They were not people actively involved in advancing the rights of Indians."

While serving on this commission McCaleb helped write a report in 1984 that was highly critical of the BIA. The report criticized the BIA's inefficiency and incompetence, and its over-regulation of tribes. It also suggested that tribes give up some sovereignty in order to attract investment to reservations, among other ideas in regard to economic development. This gives some idea as to what direction McCaleb might take the BIA, but tribal leaders are trying to be optimistic about his appointment.

Two pieces of legislation have been introduced in the 107th Congress so far that have important implications for Indian Country. The Indian Health Care Improvement Act Reauthorization Bill was introduced in the House and the Senate. This bill provides overall guidance and authority for the programs of the Indian Health Service and it resembles a Tribal Steering Committee proposal, which was delivered to Congress in 1999.

EPA to issue tribes wastewater-treatment permits

Tribes will now turn to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) when seeking wastewater-treatment permits, rather than to states.

EPA ruled on April 18 that it, not states, is responsible for issuing wastewater-treatment permits to plants on American Indian reservations. The decision further clarifies the authority of states over tribes in environmental decisions.

The decision came as a result of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's 1997 plan to reissue discharge permits to the Pender and Walthill treatment plants on the Omaha Indian Reservation. An EPA regional office objected to Nebraska's action, stating that the agency was the proper authority to issue permits under the Clean Water Act.

In yet another wastewater dispute with far reaching implications, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court ordered that the Penobscot Nation and Passamaquoddy Tribe must provide three paper companies any communications with the state and federal governments concerning regulation of water quality.

Minutes, agendas and notes regarding tribal council meetings are exempt.

The paper companies, Great Northern Paper Inc., Georgia Pacific Corp. and Champion International Corp., requested the documents last year under the state's Freedom of Access Act. The tribal governors said the tribes are sovereign nations not subject to Maine's access law.

Tribal leaders may appeal to the Supreme Court. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is still deciding on whether Maine's high court has jurisdiction over the dispute.

The case revolves around a dispute in which the state sought to become the sole overseer of wastewater discharges into Maine waters. In the first week of May, the federal government filed a claim against Lincoln Pulp and Paper Co. on behalf of the Penobscot Nation seeking up to \$60 million to rectify damages the company has done dumping dioxin into a river on the tribe's reservation.

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

The other bill deals with American Indian children and foster care. Indian children suffer from the highest rates of abuse and are placed in foster care or adoptive homes at rates higher than any other racial or ethnic group in the U.S.

Approximately 6,500 Indian children living on or near tribal lands are placed in foster care or adoptive homes. Yet many of these children do not receive important federal financial support, despite their eligibility. Between 3,900 and 4,600 of Indian children are income eligible for foster care and adoption assistance through Title IV of the Social Security Act.

The Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Act (Title IV-E of the Social Security Act) covers \$6 billion in adoption and foster care maintenance costs. These funds are available to adoptive and foster care families with qualifying, low-income children for food, shelter, clothing, daily supervision, school supplies or liability insurance for children.

Many Native American children who are adopted or are in foster care should qualify for these funds. However, under current law, children who have been placed by tribal, rather than state or public, agencies do not have access to these funds. S. 550 would amend the Social Security act to authorize funding for adoption and foster care maintenance for Native American children placed by tribal agencies.

On March 15, Senators Daschle (SD), McCain (AZ), Inouye (HI), Baucus (MT), Feinstein (CA), Cochran (MS), and Johnson (SD) introduced S. 550. This bill would help correct a major flaw in the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Act which deprives Native American children of much needed support. S. 550 would amend the Social Security act to authorize funding for adoption and foster care maintenance for Native Americans.

Through self-governance programs, tribes have taken on a variety of responsibility previously carried out by the federal government. Following this successful trend, S. 550 would authorize funding for tribes to administer adoption and foster care programs and to train tribal social workers.

A 1994 Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General Report on the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program concluded that the best way to provide services to Indian children under the act would be to provide direct tribal government access to the program.

Tribal child welfare programs are key to tribes' cultural and social health. In the past, welfare agencies inappropriately targeted Indian families with charges of neglect. By the 1970s, 25 to 35 percent of Indian children were living in mostly non-Indian adoptive or foster homes or institutions. Eighty-five percent of these families and institutions were non-Indian. Tribal child welfare programs have reversed this trend. They continue to help tribes preserve their families and cultural traditions for the coming generations.

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

Book Review The Place of the Pike (Gnoozhekaaning)

A History of the Bay Mills Indian Community

By Charles E. Cleland

Throughout much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Ojibwe people of Michigan's Bay Mills Indian reservation endured hopeless poverty, cultural repression, and deep racial prejudice.

Despite such odds, they have survived as a people and a community through reliance on the bond of kin, the ability to reap and share the abundance of nature, and a strong belief in their identity as a native people.

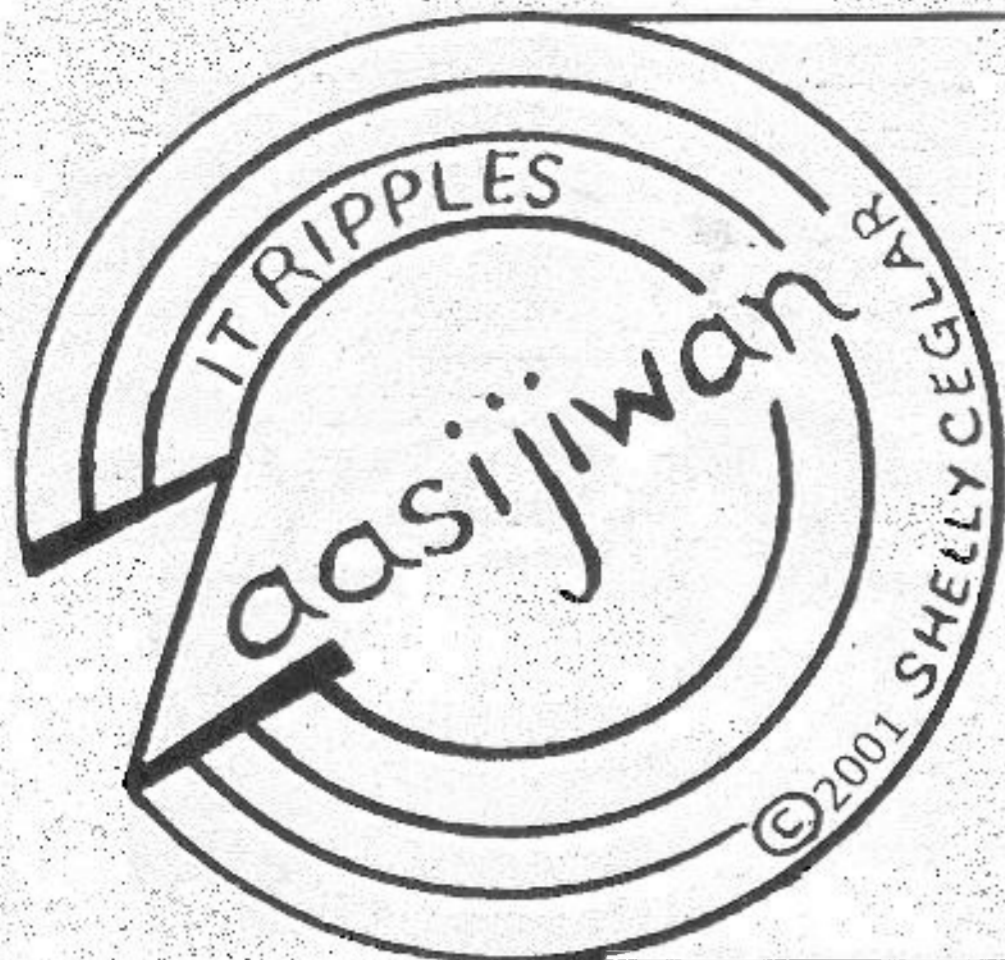
A unique history of an Indian community drawn from oral accounts of tribal elders, *The Place of the Pike* provides the perspective of the people themselves, whose own view of the past is not cast in terms of federal Indian policy, academic theories, national economic trends, or the personages of typical American political life—the perspective of the nonnative West—but in the life struggles of the people's own tribal heroes.

As is traditional to the Ojibwe, the history is woven around both stories and images; over 130 illustrations bring alive the chronological account of the Bay Mills Community from the early seventeenth century to the end of the twentieth.

Charles E. Cleland is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Michigan State University and Curator Emeritus at the Michigan State University Museum.

He is the author of numerous articles and books on Great Lakes archaeology as well as the ethnohistory of the region's native peoples.

The Place of the Pike (Gnoozhekaaning) by Charles E. Cleland
8 1/2 x 11, 164 pages, 3 drawings, 125 photographs, 9 maps.
Cloth, ISBN 0-472-09740-7, \$27.95; Paper, ISBN 0-472-06740-0, \$18.95



Niibin—It Is Summer

Ani-niibing, ninoondawaag ingiw omakakiig.
 Niwaabamaag ingiw bineshiiyag. Nimbakite'waag ingiw ojiig.
 Ginoondawaag ina ingiw obiigomakakiig?
 Giwaabamaag ina ingiw migiziwag? Gibakite'waag ina ingiw zagimeg?
 (When it is coming up in time—summer, I hear them, those frogs.
 I see them those birds. I swat them those flies.
 Do you hear them those toads?
 Do you see those eagles? Do you swat those mosquitoes?)

Bezhiig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
 —Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
 Waabam—as in father
 Inashke—as in jay
 Niibin—as in seen
 Biiboong—as in moon
 —Short vowels: A, I, O
 Omakakii—as in about
 Migiziwag—as in tin
 Opichi—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.

Animate (VTA) Verbs/Nouns

VTA's: I and You to Him/Her.
 opichi(yag)—robin(s)
 maang(wag)—loon(s)
 ezigaa(g)—woodtick(s)
 zaagi—like or love him or her
 Ninzaagi'aa a'aw maang zaagi'iganing.
 I love him/her that loon at the lake.
 Gizaagi'aag ina ingiw ezigaag?
 Do you like them those woodticks?
 nandawaabam—look for him/her
 Ninaandawaabamaa a'aw opichi.
 I look for him/her that robin.
 Ginaandawaabamaa na a'aw ezigaa?
 Do you look for him/her that woodtick?

Niizh—2

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

A. Nindashamaag ingiw bineshiiyag agwajiing.

B. Ninandawaabamaag ingiw migiziwag ishpiming.

C. Gijigashamaag ina ingiw gijigaaneshiyyag biiboong?

D. Inashke! Ininaatigong namadabi a'aw mooningwane.

E. Agamiing niwaabamaa a'aw ajijaak.

F. Giminotawaa na opichi nagamod?

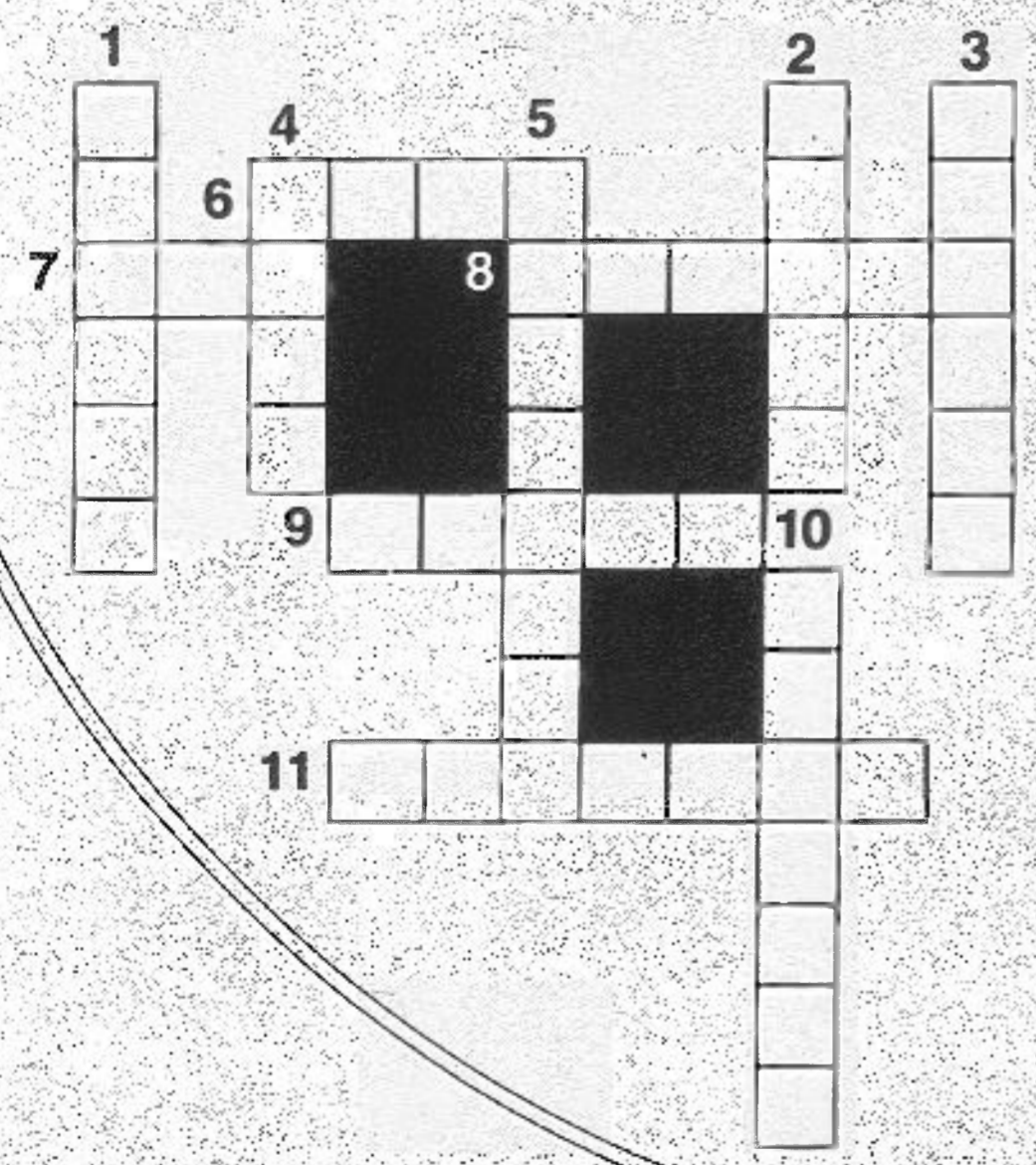
G. Inashke! Wadiswan i'iw. Gego daanginaan!

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

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

- Down:
- Woodtick.
 - Flies (insects).
 - Robin.
 - Also.
 - Frog.
 - Look! Behold!
- Across:
- Don't!
 - Question marker word.
 - Eagle.
 - Loon.
 - Heron.



Niiwin—4

I, You Action and Animate Nouns.
 1st learn animate command form of Verbs!
 Minotaw.—Like listening to Him/Her!
 Niminotawaa.—I like listening to Him/Her.
 Giminotawaa.—You like listening to Him/Her.
 Ojibwemotaw!—Speak Ojibwe to Him/Her.
 Nindojibwemotawaa.—I speak Ojibwe to Him/Her.
 Gidojibwemotawaa.—You speak Ojibwe to Him/Her.
 Asham.—Feed Him/Her!
 Nindashamaa.—I feed Him/Her.
 Gidashamaa.—You feed Him/Her.

- ni- -aa
- gi- -aa
- gid- -aa
- nind- -aa

- Goojitoon! Try it!**
Translation below.
- asham a'aw bineshii.
 - Dibikak minotaw a'aw omakakii.
 - Waabang minotaw gaye.
 - ojibwemotaw na a'aw migizi?
 - minotaw na a'aw maang zaaga'iganing?

Translations:
Niizh—2 A. I feed those birds outside. B. I look for them those eagles up above, in the sky. C. Did you feed those chickadees in the winter? D. Look! In the maple tree he is sitting that yellow flicker. E. On the shore, I see him that heron. F. Do you like listening to the robin when she sings? G. Look! That is a bird's nest. Don't touch it!
Niswi—3 Down: 1. Ezigaa. 2. Ojiig. 3. Opichi. 4. Gaye. 5. Omakakii. 10. Inashke. Across: 6. Gego. 7. Ina. 8. Migizi. 9. Maang. 11. Ajijaak.
Niiwin—4 1. I feed him/her that bird. 2. When it is night I like listening to him/her that frog. 3. At dawn I like listening to him/her also. 4. You speak Ojibwe to him/her (?do you) that eagle? 5. You like listening to him/her (do you?) that loon at the lake? The question marker is always the second word in the sentence.
 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.

Hominy-making 101 at Bad River

Required materials: corn, lye, and patience

Odanah, Wis.—“You can’t even watch t.v. when you do this,” commented Rose Wilmer, Bad River, as she patiently picked through a pile of dry corn on a plate, examining each kernel and discarding those with a crack.

Annette Crowe, Bad River, who sorted corn until 1:00 a.m. in preparation for hominy class the next day, never guessed the procedure would be so time-consuming. “It takes longer than cleaning wild rice,” she says.

Annette and Rose were among about ten other people sitting at tables in the Bad River Community Center on Saturday morning, May 5, each with their pile of corn and each carefully discarding flawed kernels. Actually, all the participants who signed up for Bad River’s hominy-making class had been given a bag of corn to sort a week prior to the session.

They came to learn how to make hominy from scratch, a process much predating the television and common to many of the North American tribes. Sorting the corn is just one step in the process.

For the sake of speed in this modern-day world, Larry Tutor, Bad River resident hominy-making expert, made sure a quantity of pre-sorted corn was available for use during the class and that the lye was made up the day before.

As people picked and sorted, Tutor explained that cracked kernels are not allowed because the kernels are steeped in a lye solution to remove the outer husk, and you don’t want the lye to penetrate the meat of the corn because it is poisonous.

Necessities for preparing hominy—the essential ingredient in that delicious Indian corn soup—include dried field corn, lye, a large enamel or stainless steel pot, and patience.

Tutor suggests making the lye the night before you make the hominy. Lye is made by boiling hardwood ash in water at a ratio of one gallon clean, hardwood ash to two gallons of water. He also suggests sifting the ash before use, to eliminate any large chunks or debris.

You simply simmer the ash for about an hour and then let the solution sit overnight so the ash sediment settles to the bottom. The resulting liquid is a dark amber color.

This is the lye, a caustic acid that requires careful handling. Tutor also does not recommend using aluminum pots because the acid can react with the aluminum.

Once your corn kernels are sorted, they are transferred to the pot or kettle and lye solution is added to cover the corn. Turn on the burner and bring the mixture to a simmer, stir occasionally, and wait.

Time varies, depending on the thickness of the kernels’ husks and the strength of the lye, Tutor says. You just have to keep checking the corn to see if the outer husks loosen. It took about one hour of simmering during the class to loosen the husks.

Once the husks are loose, the lye can be drained, and the corn thoroughly washed several times to be sure all the lye and husks are removed. The kernels are rubbed as they are washed to help remove the husks.



Sirella Ford, Lac Courte Oreilles tribal member, sorts dried corn kernels during the hominy-making class at the Bad River Community Center. Cracked kernels cannot be used, so sorting is important before simmering the corn in a lye solution.

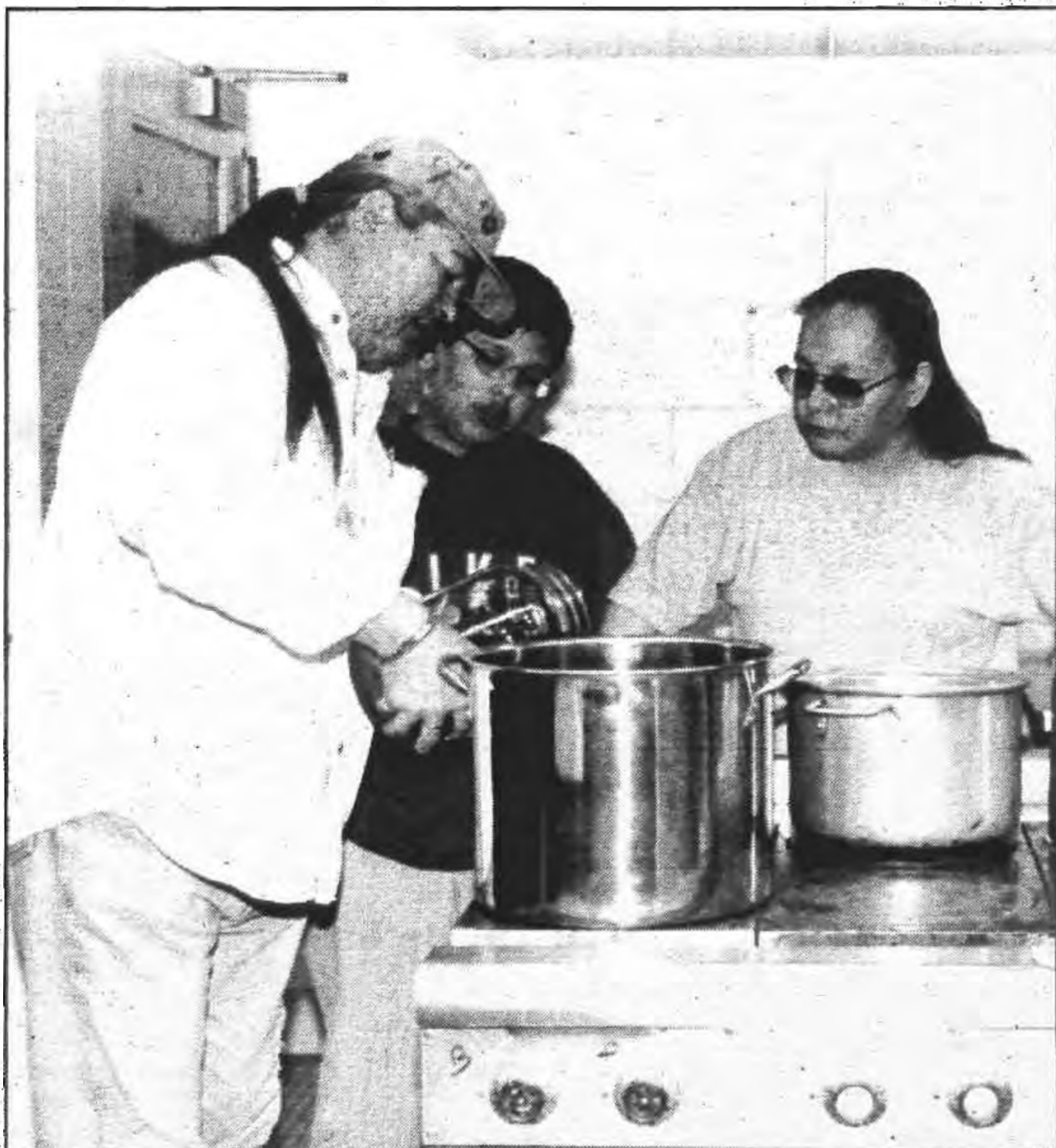
The finished product is hominy—yellow hominy from yellow corn or white hominy from white corn. However, it is still quite hard, and must be boiled for another 1 to 1½ hours before edible. During the class, it was added directly into a soup and cooked until full and tender.

The hominy can be used immediately or stored by freezing or canning. Information on hominy from the Internet indicates hominy should be canned only with a pressure cooker to keep from spoiling in the jars. Quart jars should be pressured at 10 pounds for twenty minutes.

Norma Soulier, Bad River librarian, who also provided informational materials on corn and lye, organized the hominy-making session.

Several participants plan to meet again on June 2 for another cooperative hominy-making adventure, each person bringing in their presorted corn. They hope to make up a batch of hominy for the Bad River elders.

So, a few Bad River tribal members will be having some real corny evenings, getting their corn ready for the next session of Bad River’s hominy-making 101.



Larry Tutor, Bad River tribal member and instructor of the hominy-making session, shows the ash sediment remaining in a jar of lye water to Dan Soulier and Cia Soulier. Tutor makes his own lye solution from hardwood ash.

Hominy Soup

By Marilyn Charette, Red Cliff

- 1 quart hominy
- 2 tablespoons baking soda
- 2 pounds boiled meat (beef, pork, venison)
- 1 pound salt pork
- 1 package onion soup mix
- vegetables (optional)
- salt and pepper to taste

Cook hominy first: Add hominy and baking soda to a stock pot with about 1/2 quart of water. Continue to add hot water as needed, until hominy is done. Boil 3 to 4 hours or until corn pops open. Rinse in cold water until soda taste is gone, about 20-30 rinses in colander.

Combine the remaining ingredients: meat, salt pork, soup mix, and vegetables, if desired, in a large stock pot. Add double the amount of water as ingredients in the pot. Cook 1-2 hours or until meat is tender. Salt and pepper to taste.

Varation: Vegetables can be added (celery, carrots, potatoes, etc.). Dumplings can also be added at the end if desired.

(Reprinted from *Tribal Cooking*, a publication of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc., P.O. Box 9, Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538.)

Article and photos by:
Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Student scientists present studies of black bear and fisher

Editor's note: Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) Wildlife Biologist Jonathan Gilbert served as a technical advisor for high school classes studying fisher and black bear in the Wisconsin northwoods.

Gilbert spoke to classes in both Mercer and Hurley regarding fisher ecology and various techniques used to study fisher. Gilbert has been studying predator-prey relationships in bobcat, fisher and marten over the past ten years, using radio telemetry to track movements of the animals.

Diane Daulton, Conservation Educator with Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, & Iron Counties' Land Conservation Department submitted the following article on the student projects.

"What is it like to radio-track a black bear to her winter den and measure and hold her young bear cubs? What kind of a den does a female fisher choose to have her kits? How can high school students provide meaningful data for natural resource research and management?"

These were a few of the questions that were addressed during a daylong conference held at the Hurley High School recently. The conference brought together over 40 high school students from Ashland and Iron Counties who have been conducting scientific studies of wildlife and forest habitats.

Students working with the Iron County Woods and Waters Project presented data on fisher and forest habitats. Hurley students shared information on four fisher rest sites and a den site they have located in the Iron County Forest.

Their radio-collared fisher used slash piles from logging operations to provide warmth and shelter during the winter months. They also found their female fisher, nicknamed "Half-pint", sheltering in tree cavities, once in a large aspen and once in a black ash tree.

As part of their research project the Hurley students hypothesized that their fisher would have kittens in a tree den. During the last week of fieldwork, students located their fisher at a den site, but it was on the ground and buried in over two feet of snow.

The last day of their work, the fisher had moved its kits to a nearby hollow tree, and students were able to hear them in the tree high above! As weather warms and as snow melts, the initial den structure will be visible. Snowmelt is likely to reveal a hollow log or brush pile.



Students from Hurley High School's Ecology Club demonstrate telemetry equipment used to track fishers' movements throughout the winter. (Photo submitted)

Ashland students presented the results of their study on black bear. Their work includes monitoring black bear movements, using radio-telemetry as well as finding the bear's dens in winter. The students described research methods for measuring growth of bears by tracking them to winter dens year after year. They also shared their experiences with the cuddly young cubs, collecting data on their health and size. This study has been ongoing for several years under the direction of dedicated Ashland teachers Judy Gilbert and Bruce Prëntice.

Mercer students also shared results of their winter work on fisher and forests. Highlights included discovery of five winter resting sites, again in brush piles and hollow trees. They suggested that forest managers could consider the importance of tree cavities and slash piles as potential habitat for fisher.

Their research hypothesis, "as snow depth increased their fisher's home range would decrease" did not appear to be accurate. Students explained that they now believe snow depth alone does not explain home range size. Their collared fisher, nicknamed "Chache," actually moved more during January and February.

The students suggested that formation of a thick crust on the snow helps fishers move larger distances over the landscape.

They also learned that proving a hypothesis incorrect is just as important as proving one correct. The goal is to find new information by proving the hypothesis either right or wrong.

The day ended with a panel discussion. Students posed questions to three resource managers: Jeff Wilson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Wildlife Technician (retired), Sarah Boles, Shoreland Restoration Consultant & DNR Wolf Program tracker, and Diane Daulton.

Principle sponsors of the conference included the Ashland, Hurley, and Mercer Schools, North Lakeland Discovery Center, and Iron County Land Conservation & Forestry Departments, with the support of the WDNR and GLIFWC.

For more information about the conference of projects, please contact the Discovery Center (715) 543-2085 or County Land Conservation Department (715) 682-7187.



Hurley student Christine Zani holds the anesthetized fisher, while Beverly Hanson looks on. The fisher, nicknamed "half-pint," was the focus of the Woods & Waters Project's study of forest habitats, soils, and wildlife. David Mullard (background) was also involved in the project. (Photo submitted)

US Civil Rights Commission takes a stand against Indian mascots and logos

Editor's Note: The following is a statement by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights calls for an end to the use of Native American images and team names by non-Native schools.

The Commission deeply respects the right of all Americans to freedom of expression under the First Amendment and in no way would attempt to prescribe how people can express themselves.

However, the Commission believes that the use of Native American images and nicknames in schools is insensitive and should be avoided. In addition, some Native American and civil rights advocates maintain that these mascots may violate anti-discrimination laws.

These references, whether mascots and their performances, logos, or names, are disrespectful and offensive to American Indians and others who are offended by such stereotyping. They are particularly inappropriate and insensitive in light of the long history of forced assimilation that American Indian people have endured in this country.

Since the civil rights movement of the 1960s many overtly derogatory symbols and images offensive to African-Americans have been eliminated. However, many secondary schools, post-secondary institutions, and a number of professional sports teams continue to use Native American nicknames and imagery.

Since the 1970s, American Indians leaders and organizations have vigorously voiced their opposition to these mascots and team names because they mock and trivialize Native American religion and culture. It is particularly disturbing that Native American references are still to be found in educational institutions, whether elementary, secondary or post-secondary.

Schools are places where diverse groups of people come together to learn not only the "Three Rs," but also how to interact respectfully with people from different cultures. The use of stereotypical images of Native Americans by educational institutions has the potential to create a racially hostile educational environment that may be intimidating to Indian students.

American Indians have the lowest high school graduation rates in the na-

tion and even lower college attendance and graduation rates. The perpetuation of harmful stereotypes may exacerbate these problems.

The stereotyping of any racial, ethnic, religious or other groups when promoted by our public educational institutions, teach all students that stereotyping of minority groups is acceptable, a dangerous lesson in a diverse society.

Schools have a responsibility to educate their students; they should not use their influence to perpetuate misrepresentations of any culture or people. Children at the elementary and secondary levels usually have no choice about which school they attend.

Further, the assumption that a college student may freely choose another educational institution if she feels uncomfortable around Indian-based imagery is a false one.

Many factors, from educational programs to financial aid to proximity to home, limit a college student's choices. It is particularly onerous if the student must also consider whether or not the institution is maintaining a racially hostile environment for Indian students.

Schools that continue the use of Indian imagery and references claim that their use stimulates interest in Native American culture and honors Native Americans. These institutions have simply failed to listen to the Native groups, religious leaders, and civil rights organizations that oppose these symbols.

These Indian-based symbols and team names are not accurate representations of Native Americans. Even those that purport to be positive are romantic stereotypes that give a distorted view of the past.

These false portrayals prevent non-Native Americans from understanding the true historical and cultural experiences of American Indians.

Sadly, they also encourage biases and prejudices that have a negative effect on contemporary Indian people. These references may encourage interest in mythical "Indians" created by the dominant culture, but they block genuine understanding of contemporary Native people as fellow Americans.

The Commission assumes that when Indian imagery was first adopted for sports mascots it was not to offend (See Indian mascots, page 20)

New inland fisheries biologist arrives just in time for spring electrofishing surveys

Philip Doepke joined the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission's (GLIFWC) staff as an inland fisheries biologist on April 16th — just in time for the spring round of electrofishing assessments in ceded territory lakes.

The uncooperative April weather, however, allowed him a brief reprieve from the field and time to get acquainted in the office.

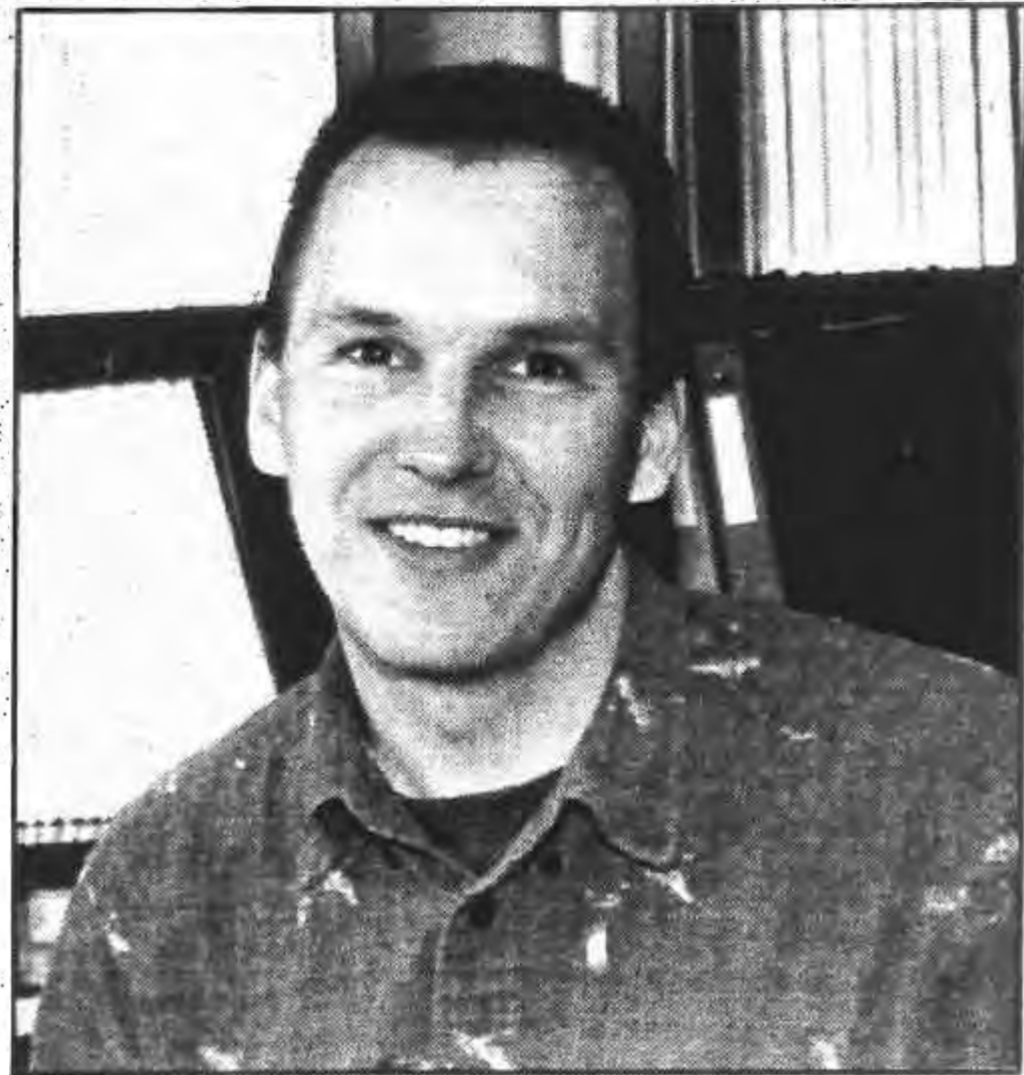
Phil hails from Houghton, Michigan. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in biology/ecology from Northern Michigan University, Marquette, and is currently completing his Master of Science degree in biology at Michigan Technical College, Houghton. His thesis research pertains to cutthroat trout in the Big Horn National Forest, Wyoming.

While completing his education, Phil worked at seasonal positions in his field. He worked for five seasons on the Ottawa National Forest, Michigan, as a fisheries technician, largely involved with sampling fish through fyke netting and electrofishing.

He also spent two seasons with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's sea lamprey management program, assessing the effectiveness of control methods and two seasons with the Big Horn National Forest as a fisheries technician.

Phil was attracted to the inland fisheries biologist position with GLIFWC because it entails work with the fisheries and keeps him in the northern midwest region. He will largely be responsible for the summer and fall electrofishing surveys on identified lakes within the ceded territories of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Time off work and studies brings Phil outdoors for recreational fishing, hunting, and canoeing.



Philip Doepke, inland fisheries biologist.

Invasive plants in the Lake Superior watershed are focus of plant ecologist, Steve Garske

Steve Garske began work as an invasive plant aid for GLIFWC last March. His task is to inventory and prioritize invasive plant species in the Lake Superior watershed, focusing primarily in Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas Counties.

Funded through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, Garske will be inventorying invasive plants both through recorded data and extensive fieldwork this summer.

Ultimately, managers would like to use the information to project which invasive species are most likely to become problematic in the watershed and take measures to prevent or control their spread.

For instance, exotic plants like garlic mustard or buckthorn have not become widely established in northern Wisconsin as yet, but have already taken over some forest areas in southern Wisconsin. By documenting their occurrence in the north, preventative measures may be taken before the species can take hold.

Steve received his Master of Science in biology with an emphasis in plant ecology from the University of Minnesota—Duluth in 2000. He and his wife, Nancy, have lived in Marenisco, Michigan for the past ten years.

As might be expected of a plant ecologist, Steve enjoys gardening in his spare time and also searching for rare plants in the Ottawa National Forest. He's also a fisherman, happy to be fishing for most any species.



Steve Garske, invasive plant aid.

GLIFWC fisheries team gains Nick Milroy to focus on Minnesota inland fisheries

In the nick of time for the fast-paced spring netting and spearing season, Nick Milroy stepped into the position as Minnesota inland fisheries biologist with GLIFWC on April 16th.

Nick, a native of Superior, Wisconsin, will be responsible for monitoring the treaty harvest in the 1837 Treaty ceded territory in Minnesota.

He will also work with tribal and state biologists in setting harvest quotas and perform spring population assessments and fall recruitment assessments on identified lakes.

While his office will be based at GLIFWC's main office in Odanah, he will spend substantial field time in Minnesota.

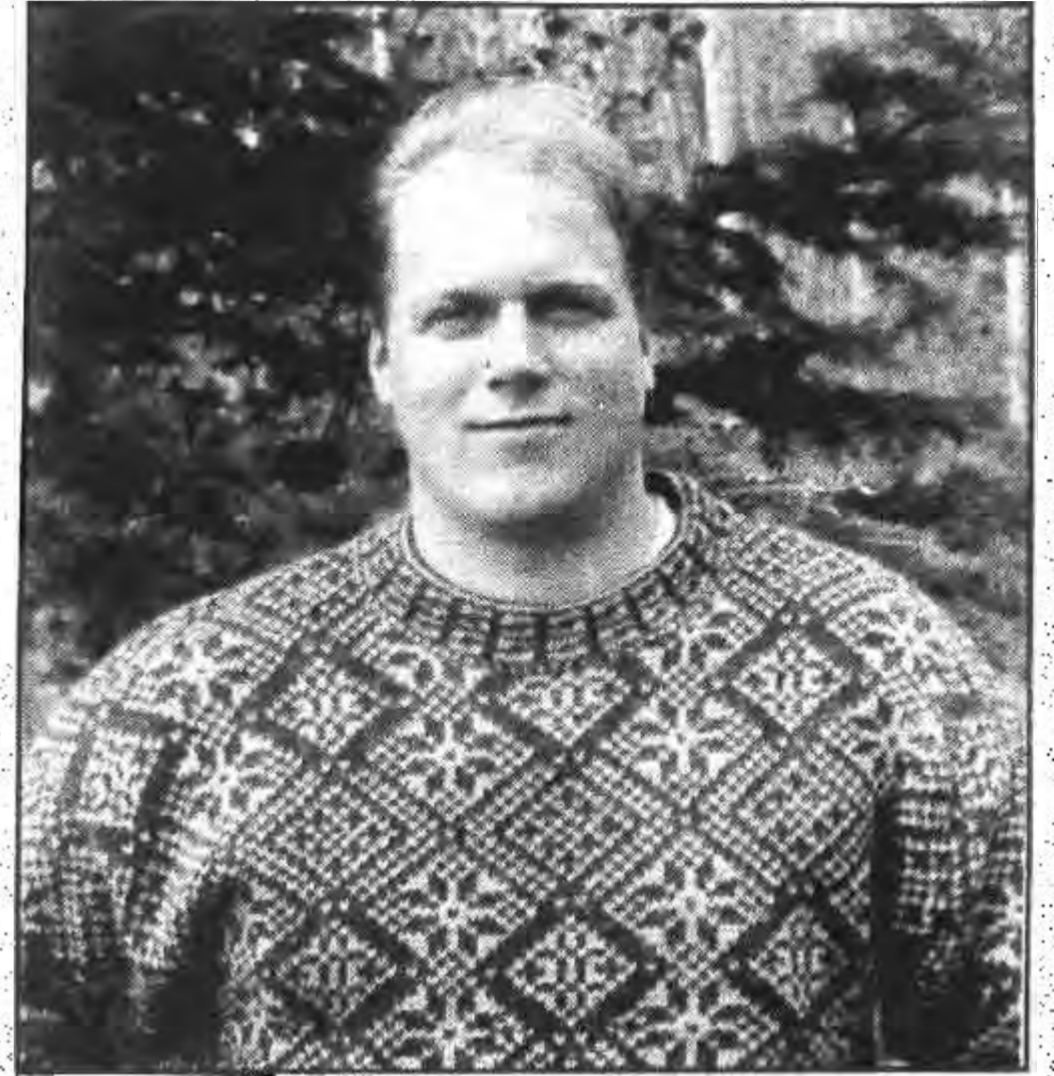
Nick completed his Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a fishery science emphasis at UW-Superior. He has completed all the course work towards his Masters degree at UW-Eau Claire, UW-Superior and the University of Minnesota—Duluth. He hopes to identify a thesis topic that applies to his scope of work with the treaty fisheries.

Prior to joining GLIFWC's staff, Phil put in time with the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Navy Reserve while attending college. He also spent one season working as a fisheries biologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources performing lake trout population assessments in Lake Superior. He has worked for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the Lake Explorer, EPA's research vessel. His work centered on ecological toxicology with fish and invertebrates.

He also worked for UW-Eau Claire as a research and graduate assistant, teaching freshman biological laboratory for general zoology and assisting with department research. At UW-Eau Claire he also worked as a laboratory manager and fish collection manager.

Interest in the treaty rights issues and the challenges of inter-agency resource management attracted Nick to apply for a position with GLIFWC.

Nick lives in Superior and his long-time girlfriend, Julie Powle, teaches in Superior. For enjoyment, Nick goes fishing, mostly on the big lake for lake trout, salmon and walleye. He also enjoys river fishing in the St. Louis River. However, ice fishing on Lake Superior is his passion.



Nick Milroy, Minnesota inland fisheries biologist.

Articles by: Sue Erickson
Photos by: Charlie Otto Rasmussen & Sue Erickson

Environmental biology aid, Ed Kolodziejski, to assist with mercury level testing

Ed Kolodziejski, Bad River, joined GLIFWC staff in March for a three-month stint as an environmental biology aid. Working under Kory Groetsch, environmental biologist, Ed assists with the study of mercury levels in fish.

In 2001, GLIFWC will be sampling about 300 walleye, 100 muskellunge, and 25 northern pike for mercury levels.

Ed assists with collecting samples and preparing them to be sent to the Lake Superior Research Institute for testing. He also keeps the computer database on the project up-to-date.

Ed holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Northland College and plans to pursue a Master of Science degree in biochemistry in the future. Previous work experience includes work/study employment while at Northland College as a laboratory assistant, which entailed setting up the lab for class and running laboratory sessions in the absence of a professor.

On down time, Ed enjoys traveling, hiking, walking and enjoying the outdoors.



Ed Kolodziejski, environmental biology aid.

Sparky Waukau honored posthumously with induction into Conservation Hall of Fame

On April 7 Native American environmental leader, Hilary "Sparky" Waukau, (1922-1995) was inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. Sparky was a member of the Menominee Nation and was involved in environmental and conservation causes most of his adult life and was an early and unyielding protector of the Wolf River.

He is credited with playing an important role in no fewer than six separate efforts to protect or enhance the Wolf River and the surrounding environment in northeast Wisconsin. The following is a resolution, which was unanimously adopted by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress on May 11th, 1996.



Hilary "Sparky" Waukau held the Protect the Earth staff during a protest of the proposed mine near Crandon, Wisconsin, which took place shortly before he walked on. Sparky was a true warrior, actively protecting both the earth and tribal rights and sovereignty. (Photo by Amoose)

Creator of "Maawanji'iding" (Gathering Together) CD ROM, Alexandria Smith, walks on

Alexandra Smith died while on a desert trip in Mauretania, West Africa on April 12, 2001 at the age of 41.

Alexandra's central project for the last eight years was creating Brainbox Digital Archives using multi-media to communicate powerful stories and important history. She authored, produced and published a CD ROM called *Gathering Together* which brings to life oral histories and contemporary narratives about the Ojibway people in the Lake Superior Region.

After it was published in 1999 she continued to work in the Wisconsin schools to create a curriculum guide and a website for school use. Schools, universities and libraries use the CD-ROM. Her great respect for the native people of the midwest included a walk from northern Wisconsin to Madison to

present an amendment to the legislature calling for the consideration of people seven generations in the future in regard to the exploitation of the air, land, and water.

To honor her life and perpetuate her lifetime of work to promote respect and for the earth and for the rights of indigenous people everywhere, her family and friends have created the Alexandra Smith Endowment Fund. Contributions may be sent to the Seattle Foundation, 425 Pike Street, Suite 510, Seattle, Washington 98101-2334. Two gatherings have been scheduled to honor her life. On Sunday, May 27, 2001, at 11 am at the Roaring Brook Nature Center, 70 Gracey Road, Canton, Connecticut. The second will be on Saturday, June 2 at 11 am at the Red Cliff Campground in Bayfield, Wisconsin.

Whereas, on October 13, 1922 there was born, on the Menominee Reservation, a boy baby who was named Hilary, and

Whereas, this boy child grew in stature and wisdom, and acquired from his elders a reverence for the waters and the forests and the fish and the wild-life, and

Whereas, shortly after Pearl Harbor was bombed in December of 1942, Hilary Waukau, in the tradition of his people, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps to defend his country, and

Whereas, because of his assigned duties as radioman, he was nicknamed and was forever after known as "Sparky", and

Whereas, in the defense of the United States, his country, "Sparky" Waukau fought in the battles for Tarawa and Siapan, and

Whereas, in his travels, both in the United States, and abroad, "Sparky" came to realize what a crown jewel of Wisconsin, was the Menominee Reservation, and

Whereas, upon his return to the reservation, he became involved in the affairs of the tribe and held many positions including telephone repairman, highway supervisor, tribal judge, and senior legislator, and

Whereas, beginning in the early 1950's, "Sparky" Waukau became a leader in the fight against many actions that would cause harm to his reservation and his beloved Wolf River Watershed, and

Whereas, these actions included a darn on the upper Wolf River, a giant landfill at the junctions of the Wolf and Lily Rivers, a Nuclear Waste Repository deep in the Wolf River Batholith, and a proposed sulfide mine on the headwaters of the Wolf River, and

Whereas, "Sparky" Waukau was extremely involved in actions by the Menominee Tribe which designated all of the waters within the Menominee Reservation to be Outstanding Resource Waters, and

Whereas, this action by the Menominee people eventually convinced the Wisconsin DNR to designate the Wolf River, from the northern border of the Menominee Reservation to its source at Pine Lake, to be an Outstanding Resource Water, and

Whereas, it was greatly due to "Sparky's" close acquaintance with Wisconsin governors, and state and federal legislators, that the Wolf River, within the borders of the Menominee Reservation, was forever declared to be a National Wild and Scenic River, and

Whereas, despite failing health including loss of parts of both feet and failing eyesight brought on by diabetes and heart trouble, when Exxon and Rio Algom again proposed to open a mine on the headwaters of the Wolf River, "Sparky" Waukau, the U.S. Marine Corps veteran, again took up his spear and

Whereas, late last July just a few days before his death, "Sparky" Waukau, in his wheelchair, lead a march up Spirit Hill, just east of the Mole Lake reservation to protest the impending mine, and

Whereas, on August 2, 1995, "Sparky" Waukau, the tired old veteran, was finally called to the Spirit World,

Now therefore be it resolved: That this 1995 session of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress recognize his fifty years of outstanding efforts in the conservation and protection of our environment, and

Be it further resolved: that this 1995 session of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress proclaims Hilary, "Sparky" Waukau to be one of the outstanding environmentalists in the history of Wisconsin.



Indian mascots & logos

(Continued from page 18)

Native Americans. However, the use of the imagery and traditions, no matter how popular, should end when they are offensive.

We applaud those who have been leading the fight to educate the public and the institutions that have voluntarily discontinued the use of insulting mascots. Dialogue and education are the roads to understanding.

The use of American Indian mascots is not a trivial matter. The Commission has a firm understanding of the problems of poverty, education, hous-

ing, and health care that face many Native Americans.

The fight to eliminate Indian nicknames and images in sports is only one front of the larger battle to eliminate obstacles that confront American Indians. The elimination of Native American nicknames and images as sports mascots will benefit not only Native Americans, but all Americans.

The elimination of stereotypes will make room for education about real Indian people, current Native American issues, and the rich variety of American Indians in our country.

Former Kimberly man receives posthumous award for volunteer service with the Forest Service

Park Falls and Rhinelander, Wis.—Ken Keliher, a former teacher at Kimberly High School, was recently honored at a National Volunteer Week celebration in Washington, D.C.

His family will receive a USDA–Forest Service National Volunteer Award plaque and a letter recognizing his exemplary volunteer service. Keliher was a participant in the Pass-

port In Time (PIT) program from 1991 to 1998.

Passport In Time is a national volunteer program that invites the public to participate in heritage resource management projects on national forests across the country.

Keliher's contributions to the PIT program took place at various locations on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in northern Wisconsin. Volunteers such as Keliher assist heritage resource specialists at archaeological and historic sites with activities such as excavation, site mapping, laboratory and art work, collecting oral histories, restoring historic buildings, library archival research, exhibit design or site monitoring.

Over the past eight years, he volunteered at a variety of historic and archaeological sites, contributing over 600 hours of voluntary service.

Keliher had a passionate voice for history and devoted time each summer discovering and learning about past cultures through the PIT program. Working shoulder to shoulder with fel-

low volunteers and Forest Service archaeologists, Keliher brought enthusiasm and unique skills to each project.

As his expertise grew over time, he served as a visitor guide and mentor for new volunteers. During an excavation in 1996, he drafted the initial field maps for the site and took them and the field notes back to his graphic arts students in Kimberly where they created a working map for the Forest Service.

"Ken was a wonderful person and he provided many, many hours of dedicated service to the program," recalls Geoff Chandler, Ecosystem Group Leader for the forest, "I worked beside Ken with my trowel in hand, and he patiently explained what we were doing and how to do it. His passion for our cultural heritage was contagious."

A USDA–Forest Service National Award is considered the highest award in the agency. Lynn Roberts, Forest Supervisor, echoed this recognition, "We will remember Mr. Keliher as a great friend, teacher, and volunteer for Passport In Time. His presence will truly be missed."



Ken Keliher was honored posthumously with a USDA–Forest Service National Volunteer Award plaque and a letter recognizing his volunteer service. (Photo submitted)

Spring electrofishing assessments

(Continued from page 4)

determine the water temperatures on walleye spawning reefs and whether a relationship between temperature and reproductive success is discernable, Doepke says.

Electrofishing crews also collected fish from five lakes to be used as samples for mercury-level testing.

In the area of public relations, electrofishing crews welcomed visitors from two local lake associations aboard for a night's run. Jeff Zanski, Squaw Lake, Vilas County, who has ridden with a crew during previous fall assessments, spent a spring night aboard one of the shocking boats on Squaw Lake. Doug Hanson, Whitefish/Bardon Lake Association, rode along with the St. Croix crew on a recap of Whitefish Lake.

Hanson noted how pleased he was that the assessments were taking place and applauded GLIFWC's efforts.

Of the seven electrofishing boats and crews that completed spring adult walleye assessments, four belong to GLIFWC. Other participants include a boat and crew from the St. Croix tribe, the Mole Lake tribe, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Doepke especially thanks the fisheries aides who put in long hours during the short seasons, and also the Mole Lake tribe for donating the time of their new electrofishing boat and crew.

Juvenile walleye assessments are scheduled for Mille Lacs Lake in Minnesota later in May. Otherwise, crews and boats won't return to the waters until fall assessments take place.



New kids on the block. A state-of-the-art electrofishing boat owned by the Mole Lake/Sokaogon band assisted with scheduled electrofishing assessments this spring. The crew surveyed Pelican, Enterprise, and Lucerne Lakes. The boat features a few extras like a steering console, a liquid crystal depth finder, and an automatic pump to fill the holding tank. Besides helping out with GLIFWC's scheduled assessments, the boat will be used on other lakes the tribe would like sampled and for research projects, such as mercury assessments. The crew also collected walleye spawn from Lake Lucerne to be incubated in the Mole Lake Hatchery. Pictured above with the new boat are Justin Pelletier, fishery biologist technician, (left) and Michael Preul, fishery biologist and crew leader. Not pictured is Gilbert Hammer, seasonal fisheries aide. (Photo submitted)



The St. Croix electrofishing crew and ride-along visitor prepare to do a recap run on Whitefish/Bardon Lake. From the left are: Travis Taylor, Jeff Nelson, Doug Hanson, Whitefish/Bardon Lake Association, and Don Taylor, crew leader. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

The Tribal Season

By Linda Amman Preul

Pines sigh—loons wail,
melted now—the sledder's trail.
Tribal spears begin to sing,
fashioned for the spawning spring.

Tribal boats—their lights explore,
return their catch to the lapping shore.
An assistant helps with the harvest line,
stirs the eggs with a feather fine.

Protected, guarded, hatched nearby,
walleye larval valued high!
Then released—a special reason,
maturing for the tribal season.

This poem is dedicated to members of the Mole Lake Indian Reservation, Crandon, Wisconsin and also to Michael Preul, Sokaogon Fisheries Biologist (my son).

Ondakwaziwe Kekiwed Inakwaziwe (Paddle-Portage-Paddle)

Sandy Lake Memorial Monument Dedication
July 29, 2001 at the Sandy Lake site
Noon ceremony and feast

Everyone welcome to attend!

The Sandy Lake Memorial Monument honoring the Ojibwe ancestors who perished as part of the 1850 Sandy Lake tragedy will be completed this summer. A formal dedication of the monument is scheduled for July 29th at noon at the Sandy Lake Recreation Area, north of McGregor, Minnesota.

Mikwendaagoziwag (remember them) Paddle

Prior to the monument's dedication ceremony and feast on the 29th, there will be a paddle from the east bank of Sandy Lake to the west bank near the memorial. In 1850 many Ojibwe arrived at the Sandy Lake annuity distribution site by canoe, but departed on foot as winter set in and waterways became iced-over.

Persons interested in participating in the paddle should contact GLIFWC for more information at (715) 682-6619.

Madeline Island - Sandy Lake Ondakwaziwe Kekiwed Inakwaziwe (Paddle-Portage-Paddle)

Persons interested in joining the Madeline Island to Sandy Lake Paddle should contact GLIFWC for more detailed information. **Participants must assume personal liability as well as responsibility for their own costs.**

A paddle across Lake Superior to Oliver, Wisconsin is being planned in conjunction with the Sandy Lake Memorial Monument dedication. Boats will be portaged from Oliver to the east bank of Sandy Lake in time for the Mikwendaagoziwag Paddle on the 29th. Participants will run from Oliver to the east bank of Sandy Lake.

The paddle will begin on Madeline Island on July 21st, following a ceremony and feast dedicating the memorial marker on Madeline Island on July 20th.

The July 20 to July 29 dates chosen for the paddles and dedications coincide with the dates that the 1837 Treaty was negotiated and signed.

MIKWENDAAGOZIWAG

Sandy Lake Tragedy & Memorial

The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) has recently released a brochure that explores the Sandy Lake Tragedy of 1850-51 and how the event shaped the future of Ojibwe treaty rights in Upper Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

Entitled "Sandy Lake: Tragedy & Memorial," the color brochure is the result of extensive historical research and consultation with scholars and Ojibwe elders. GLIFWC seeks to foster better historical understanding among all people with this publication and honor the sacrifice made by those Ojibwe who suffered and died at Sandy Lake, Minnesota.

GLIFWC Executive Administrator Jim Schlender presented the brochure this past spring through a speaking tour of colleges and universities in northwest Wisconsin, drawing diverse audiences of students, local residents, and seniors.

The brochure and speaking tour was funded in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the HRK Foundation.

The Wisconsin Humanities Council supports public programs that engage the people of Wisconsin in the exploration of human cultures, ideas, and values.

The brochure "Sandy Lake: Tragedy and Memorial" is available at no cost from GLIFWC's Public Information Office. Call or write: GLIFWC PIO, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861; phone (715) 682-6619 or e-mail pio@glifwc.org.

Digging deep into the past

In researching the deaths of hundreds of Ojibwe in 1850, Pheng Vang and Xwm Richard Vang learned how a nation's history is shaped—and—by those who get to write it.

By Paul Tosto
Pioneer Press

St. Paul, Minn.—When Pheng Vang and Xwm Richard Vang began looking for a project to take on for Minnesota History Day, they wanted to find an episode that didn't get a whole lot of press. They found it in a 151-year-old Minnesota tragedy.

Acting on an idea from their teacher, the pair, eighth-graders at Washington Middle School in St. Paul, delved into an incident at Sandy Lake, near Mille Lacs, in 1850, when hundreds of Ojibwe died after promised government supplies and payments came late.

The students began digging deeper than they needed into the original historical record, even traveling to the Mille Lacs Indian Museum in Onamia to understand what happened. They competed May 5 in the Minnesota History Day competition along with 1,100 other middle-, junior- and senior-high students across the state.

They made it to the final round. Even more important, they opened a door to a controversial piece of the state's past that's largely unknown outside the American Indian community—and they got a strong sense of how history is written and who gets to write it.

"We thought it would be good to do something on a part of history that really isn't talked about," said Pheng Vang, 14. "Primary sources are more exact."

Hoping to move Indians into Minnesota from northern Wisconsin and Michigan, the federal government in the fall of 1850 directed Ojibwe tribes to travel to Sandy Lake instead of LaPointe, Wis., to collect provisions and annual payments promised in past treaties in exchange for land.

But the provisions and materials were late. The Ojibwe had to wait until December before receiving limited supplies. A history published by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, said that in 1850 game was scarce, fishing was poor and high water wiped out the wild rice crop.

Disease and starvation killed 170 Ojibwe at Sandy Lake. Another 230 died on the bitter winter march back through Wisconsin.

Pheng Vang and Xwm Richard Vang started their research at the Minnesota History Center. They found some general information on what happened at Sandy Lake but not enough specifics. At Mille Lacs, they interviewed Ojibwe people and reviewed a copy of the 1837 treaty that traded land for provisions.

Looking back on their research, Pheng Vang said they were amazed at the involvement of people in power in the federal and territorial governments.

"I didn't expect all those important people to be doing that to people who are innocent," Pheng Vang said.

"Back then there were many incidents like Sandy Lake, many incidents that weren't written down," said Xwm Richard Vang.

Steve Cox, who coordinates the History Day program at Washington, said only a handful of students took their investigation to the same depths as Richard and Pheng.

"I am most impressed with the extent of their research and the enthusiasm they had toward this project," Cox said. "I hope the skills in researching history carries them through high school and college."

Both boys would like to turn their research skills eventually to the history of Southeast Asia and, perhaps, the history of their families.

(Reprinted from the St. Paul Pioneer Press.)



GLIFWC's Jim Zorn keeps a cautious eye on Bruce Goman, Mille Lacs Community Development, as he bores out a hole in the pedestal of the Mikwendaagoziwag Memorial at Sandy Lake on November 9, 2000. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Red Cliff partners with UW-Superior on demonstration aquaculture facility

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Bayfield, Wis.—The selection of the Red Cliff reservation as a site for a demonstration aquaculture facility is a real plus for the entire community, says Greg Fisher, Red Cliff Hatchery manager.

Fisher mentions jobs, training, and access to substantial information relating to fish and fish farming as some of the benefits.

"But partnerships is the big deal. There will be five or six agencies plus the tribes working in partnership. I think the project will have far-reaching, positive ramifications," Fisher says.

The opportunity to work in partnership with UW-Superior and other agencies came to Red Cliff last April when the Red Cliff tribe and UW-Superior signed a cooperative agreement, formally making Red Cliff the site for a demonstration aquaculture facility.

The facility will be located on a 40-acre parcel of land adjacent to Red Cliff's hatchery that will be leased from the Red Cliff tribe.

Red Cliff's existing hatchery helped secure the reservation as a home for the \$3 million dollar project, Fisher says, because the hatchery already has needed facilities, such as suitable wells, sewer, power, and a passive wetland treatment system for effluent.

The new aquaculture facility will not be geared to production, but rather will be a demonstration facility, designed to train and encourage people interested in aquaculture. Training in the treatment of effluent from fish farming, in hydroponics, and marketing fish and fish by-products are part of the long-term vision, Fisher says.

As a resource for fish farmers and hatcheries, it will have fish health capabilities, including diagnostics. Geneticists will also be on staff, and the library will provide a full course of information on fish farming accessible in one spot.

"At the hatchery, we get lots of questions from people trying to raise fish in a pond, for instance," Fisher

says. "This facility will be a resource for those people as well as fish farmers and hatchery staff."

As far as the kind of fish to rear, feasibility studies will be performed to make that determination. Rainbow trout and yellow perch are potential candidates.

Fisher does not believe the fish farming should be in conflict with the tribal commercial fishery because aquaculture does not target whitefish or lake trout, the primary species for the commercial fishermen. He also noted that markets for wild vs. farmed fish are different. All in all, the aquaculture facility will promote more information on fish as a desirable food, so should help expand the market for fish in general, Fisher explains.

Tribal youth compete in statewide Envirothon



Youth from Red Cliff and Bad River participated in the 2001 Envirothon at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station east of Stevens Point, Wisconsin on May 4th. Accompanied by Jim St. Arnold, Administrator for Native Americans (ANA) program at the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and staff from the Bayfield High School and the Bad River Tribal School, students competed as teams. Pictured above, the Red Cliff team does an oral presentation as part of the competition. Students are, from the left, Karlyn Gordon, Sarah Thomas, Bruce Soulier, and Katrina Werchouski.



The Envirothon, sponsored by Canon, tests each competing team at five stations representing different topics—forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife and oral presentation before a panel of judges. Above the Bad River team answers questions at the soil station. Bad River students pictured above are, from the left, Charmaine Couture, Shanna Ford, Mike Delgado, Quay Whitebird and J.R. Bigboy.

Photos by Jim St. Arnold



Jim St. Arnold, ANA program administrator, coordinated the student participation in the 2001 Envirothon through a Wisconsin Environmental Education grant. Last year he and a group of students visited the 2000 Envirothon to better understand the expectations of competing students. Pictured above is the Red Cliff team and their coach (from the left): Bruce Soulier; Katrina Werchouski; Karlyn Gordon (in back); Mike Anderson, Bayfield Middle School Science Teacher; and Sarah Thomas.



Both the Red Cliff and Bad River teams did well in the Envirothon and the firsthand experience will better prepare them for next year's competition. The Bad River team was complemented on its oral presentation and especially their ability to tie-in cultural components with the subject matter. Pictured above, back row (from the left): Mike Delgado, Charmaine Couture, J.R. Bigboy and Shanna Ford. Seated: Quay Whitebird and Jan Gangelhoff, Cultural Teacher, Bad River Tribal School.



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Masinaigan

A Chronicle of the Lake Superior Ojibwe



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

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

Ojibwe Ceded Territories and Member Tribes of GLIFWC

