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A Chronicle of the Lake Superior Ojibwe

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2002 Mille Lacs Lake quotas set

Minneapolis, Minn.—The 1837 Ceded Territory Fisheries Technical Committee (CTFTC), composed of tribal and state biologists, agreed on quotas for the upcoming 2002 fishing season in Minnesota's Mille Lacs Lake. The committee met January 16-17 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center in Minneapolis.

Consensus recommendations from the CTFTC for 2002 Mille Lacs Lake Harvestable surplus (safe harvest levels) are: 400,000 pounds for walleye; 270,000 pounds for yellow perch; 23,000 pounds for northern pike; 24,000 pounds for tullibee; and 28,000 pounds for burbot.

Based on the first five-year management plan for the treaty fishery in Mille Lacs Lake, the 2002 tribal quota is 100,000 pounds of walleye, which will be allocated among eight Ojibwe bands. Thus, with walleye harvestable surplus at 400,000 pounds for 2002, the state allocation is 300,000 pounds of walleye.

"We are confident the 2002 quotas offer good opportunity for sport and subsistence fishing alike, while also protecting the fishery," said Ron Payer,

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries director. "Calculations are based on sound data and sound fish modeling techniques. The expectations are that both the state and bands will regulate its harvest to stay within its allocation."

"Tribal and state fisheries biologists are dedicated to maintaining and refining a comprehensive and reliable data base for shared, treaty fishery lakes and are committed to protecting a healthy and sustainable fishery and fish populations," said Neil Kmiecik, Biological Services director, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission. "The bottom line while setting harvest figures is to maintain a spawning stock biomass for each species, guaranteeing the ability for the species to reproduce."

The abundance of tullibee, an important forage fish for walleye, was discussed by the committee as well as northern pike harvest levels. These were identified as areas for further research and consideration.

Federal courts have ruled since 1994 that the state and eight Ojibwe bands share fish and game in the 1837 treaty ceded territory. To ensure the

long-term health of the Mille Lacs walleye fishery, the yearly walleye harvest has been managed so that it does not exceed the harvestable surplus (safe

harvest level) as directed by the court order. The court left determination of harvestable surplus levels and other biological issues up to the CTFTC.



Lifting a net in Mille Lacs Lake, Dan North, Bad River, brings aboard a nice catch. GLIFWC staff as well as tribal fishermen are beginning to make preparations for the 2002 spring netting & spearing season. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

The Waabizheshi (pine marten) Project

Why isn't the pine marten flourishing in the Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest?

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Waabizheshi (marten), a sleek, furry spitfire, hisses and growls as researchers approach its trap camouflaged with pine boughs and snow. Its bright brown eyes stare out from the dark trap, bold and alert, letting everyone know this little guy means business.

On this particular day, the trapped marten was "Pale-face," a pine marten frequently captured on the Chequamegon side of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and named because of the light-colored fur on his head and face.



Pale-face, a marten captured in the Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest, peers out from his trap at his captors—a scientific team studying the small woodland animal. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

After a quick prick with a needle containing an immobilizer, Pale-face lost his aggression and was lifted peacefully out of the cage to undergo testing.

Collaborating research teams from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) are trying to understand why pine marten populations have failed to thrive after reintroduction efforts in the 1970s and 1980s.

Unlike the marten's larger relative, the fisher, whose populations have flourished, martens remain rare, seem not to be reproducing and are dispersing only minimally from reintroduction sites, says GLIFWC Wildlife Section Leader Dr. Jonathan Gilbert.

In fact, the pine marten, once extirpated in Wisconsin as a result of over harvest and habitat loss, was reintroduced in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNF) by the late Dr. Ray Anderson in a collaborative effort between the USFS, the state of Wisconsin, and UW-Stevens Point. However, pine martens remain on Wisconsin's "threatened species" list today.

The USFS is interested in the marten because of its threatened status and the possible relation to patterns of forest management that impact the species, according to Pat Zollner, USFS research ecologist.

Besides being an endangered species, GLIFWC is concerned about the fiery, little predator as an important Ojibwe clan symbol, reflective of Ojibwe lifeway and culture.

This fall the USFS and GLIFWC launched a three-year study of pine martens in the Chequamegon side of the CNF. A Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies outlines the study plan. The study seeks answers to several questions: 1) How much energy (food) does a marten require? 2) How vulnerable are they to predation? 3) How do they move through the forest to find a place to live?

To date researchers have ten radio-collared martens. The radio-collars allow researchers to track the animals' movements through telemetry, and thus study their habitat, habits and determine cause of death, if that occurs.

The first year of the study, which began last fall, focuses on energetics, Gilbert says, or the amount of food required by a pine marten to live. Gilbert points out that the marten has a high rate of metabolism and does not store much body fat; therefore, it must eat frequently to stay alive.

(See The Waabizheshi Project, page 5)



Joint walleye tagging study scheduled for Mille Lacs Lake

By Joe Dan Rose, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—A collaborative effort is underway between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), Fond du Lac Band (FDL), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to develop and implement a joint, multi-year walleye tagging study in Mille Lacs Lake.

In the spring of 2002, fisheries assessment crews from MnDNR, GLIFWC, FDL, and USFWS will use fyke-netting and electrofishing survey gear to capture, tag, and release up to 40,000 adult walleye.

County challenges Mille Lacs boundaries

By Sue Erickson Staff Writer

Onamia, Minn. — It's just three years ago that the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling, affirming the 1837 Treaty rights of the Mille Lacs Band. The favorable decision was subsequent to years of litigation between the band and the state of Minnesota.

The litigation cost Minnesota taxpayers between four and one-half to five and one-half million dollars, according to Ken Peterson, Minnesota Deputy Attorney General.

Now the Mille Lacs Band is facing yet another court battle. This time Mille Lacs County is challenging reservation boundaries in a lawsuit filed in Federal District Court on February 21. In question is the 61,000-acre Mille Lacs Reservation, which the county would like to see diminished to about 2,300 acres of trust land.

Attorneys hired by Mille Lacs County, Tom Tobin, a South Dakota attorney and Peter Pustorino, a Minneapolis-based lawyer, filed a brief asking the court for a declaratory judgment to uphold a 1913 Supreme Court decision, which they say disestablished the Mille Lacs Reservation boundaries as set in the 1855 Treaty.

The state of Minnesota does not anticipate joining the lawsuit, according to Peterson, but would rather work out differences with the band out of court. One deterrent he cited is the expense already incurred by the state during the lengthy 1837 Treaty litigation.

Attorney Marc Slonim, who successfully represented the Band in the 1837 Treaty litigation, will represent the Mille Lacs Band in this case as well. The Mille Lacs Band does not believe the 1913 court decision provides a basis for disestablishment of the reservation. In fact, the 1913 ruling recognized that the 1889 Nelson Act provided Indians residing on the named reservations with a choice to take an allotment on the reservation where they lived rather than be removed.

State and tribal fisheries biologists have contemplated the possibility of conducting a walleye tagging study in Mille Lacs Lake for several years. In January 2002, the state and tribes made a commitment to jointly proceed with the study at a meeting of the Minnesota 1837 Ceded Territory Fisheries Committee.

State and tribal fisheries biologists are undertaking this tagging study to provide an estimate of walleye abundance that is independent of ongoing modeling efforts. Harvest characteristics and impacts will also be examined as will the seasonal movements and the spatial distribution of walleye in Mille Lacs Lake.

GLIFWC, FDL, and USFWS assessment crews have committed to providing 50-70 crew nights of electrofishing survey effort to capture walleye for the marking phase of this study. MnDNR expects to provide a comparable amount of fyke-netting effort during this same time period.

Tribal electrofishing crews also plan to conduct an initial recapture survey shortly after tagging is completed and a post-spawning juvenile walleye survey later this spring. Additional walleye will be tagged in conjunction with these surveys.

Tribal spearers and netters should expect to see some walleye in their catches that are marked with plastic "spaghetti" or cylinder shaped tags



Waiting to start a night of electrofishing on Mille Lacs Lake, one of GLIFWC's electrofishing crews enjoys the sunset. Crews will be back on the lake this spring as part of a multi-year joint walleye tagging study. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

which stick out from the side of the fish at the end of the dorsal fin.

These tags will be yellow in color and will have "MN DNR" plus a number printed on them. Tagged walleye will also have the 2nd or 3rd dorsal spine removed from them as a secondary mark so that biologists can evaluate the rate of tag loss.

Tribal and GLIFWC creel clerks will document tag numbers and fish

with secondary marks as they are encountered in tribal spearing and netting catches monitored in 2002 and in future years.

MnDNR creel clerks are planning to collect similar information from state-licensed anglers in conjunction with their annual creel surveys. Several state-licensed commercial fishing launch operators in Mille Lacs Lake may also assist with the study.



The Minnesota Treaty Fisheries Technical Committee met January 17 in Minneapolis to discuss issues and share information related to the 1837 Treaty fishery. Staff from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and the Fond du Lac and Mille Lacs Bands participated. Above are (from the back): Charles Anderson, MnDNR; Nick Milroy, GLIFWC; Rick Madsen, GLIFWC; Paul Radomski, MnDNR; Curt Kalk, Mille Lacs Band; Joe Dan Rose, GLIFWC; Rick Bruesewitz, MnDNR; Keith Reeves, MnDNR; Kit Nelson, MnDNR; Jack Wingate, MnDNR; Brian Borkholder, Fond du Lac Band; Neil Kmiecik, GLIFWC; Don Pereira, MnDNR, and Jason Loons, Fond du Lac Band. Seated are: James Schlender, GLIFWC; Tim Goeman, MnDNR; John Hoening, band consultant, and Ransom Myers, band consultant. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

ON THE COVER—Myra VanZile, Mole Lake/Sokaogon, and her niece Lisa Milligan, Forest County Potawatomi, joined representatives from many places and walks of life on the steps of the Capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin on March 5. They were there to urge the Assembly to pass two important bills related to ensuring safe mining in Wisconsin. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Citizens lobby hard for passage of critical mining bills

Bills fail to come up for an Assembly vote

Madison, Wis.—Chill March winds did not discourage the nearly one hundred people who gathered on the steps of Wisconsin's Capitol building March 5 in support of two mining bills currently stalled in Assembly Environment Committee.

Supporters of the bills were there to encourage legislators to get the bills, SB 160 and SB 271, out of committee and into the Assembly for a floor vote before the end of the legislative session on March 14.

However, that did not happen.

On March 7 Representative Spencer Black attempted a "pulling motion" to remove the bills from the Environment Committee and bring them directly to the Assembly without a committee vote. However, the motions to pull the bills did not pass the Assembly, and the bills remain stalled.

"The Republicans voted as a block to prevent the bills from coming out of committee," Black says. "Essentially, they are doing the mining companies' bidding." Representative Black blames the Republicans for prohibiting votes on the bills over a period of months.

Failure to pass in this legislative session means that legislators will have to go back to "square one" in order to get the bills passed in the next legislative session.

Senate Bill 160, if passed, would ban the use of cyanide in all Wisconsin

mines without exception. Those seeking the ban say that less toxic alternatives are available to mining companies and point to numerous instances of environmental disasters due to cyanide spills.

Senate Bill 271 would make the state's hazardous waste laws apply to the mining industry, which is currently exempt from many of those regulations. Both bills passed the Senate in November.

The broad-based support for the bills was reflected in the crowd at the March 5 rally. People spoke from the perspective of sportsmen, labor, tribes, environmental organizations, and students.

A petition with over 16,000 signatures from Wisconsin residents asking for passage of the bills was also presented to Representative Black.

The Mole Lake/Sokaogon Drum opened and closed the rally with songs, and Robert Van Zile, Mole Lake/Sokaogon offered a prayer recognizing the spirits of all the animals as those gathered at the Capitol lobbied on behalf of the environment and a healthy habitat for all living species.

Of particular concern to the tribes and many others present is the proposal to open a copper/zinc mine near Crandon, Wisconsin. At stake are the Wolf River and other irreplaceable water resources. Tribes feel it is urgent to

protect water and other natural resources from degradation as a potential result from mining operations.

"Treaties were made to protect our resources. We must hold the government accountable so our children can

have clean air, clean water, and a clean environment," said Ken Fisher, Menominee Treaty Rights and Mining Impacts Office. "We have to remind the Assembly that we vote, corporations don't."



The Mole Lake Drum provided both an opening and closing song during a rally in Madison on March 5. Nearly 100 people gathered to encourage state representatives to pass two important mining bills held up in committee.

Articles & photos by Sue Erickson, Staff Writer



Signs in the shape of tombstones encircled the steps of the Capitol Building during the March 5 mining rally—grim reminders of deadly results from past mining activities.

Agreement between Town of Nashville and Nicolet Minerals upheld

Wausau, Wis.—Wisconsin's 3rd District Court of Appeals upheld a 1996 agreement between the Town of Nashville and the Nicolet Minerals Company (NMC), an agreement which resolved zoning issues to allow the development of a copper-zinc mine near Crandon.

After the agreement was signed, a newly elected Nashville Town Board voted to rescind the local agreement in 1997. This was challenged in court by NMC, and the agreement was upheld in Forest County Circuit Court.

The case was then appealed. However, the three-judge panel also found the original agreement between the town and the mining company to be "valid and enforceable" and the town's resolution to rescind the agreement not valid.

Tribes, WDNR disagree on monitoring Flambeau Mine site

Odanah, Wis.—One of the major concerns when the Flambeau Mine near Ladysmith, Wisconsin began operation was its proximity to the Flambeau River and the potential contamination of the river. This is why John Coleman, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission's Environmental Section leader, believes monitoring needs to continue even though the mining company and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) are now recommending it be scaled back.

Although the actual shipment of ore from the site stopped in 1997, the Flambeau Mining Company (FMC) has continued monitoring for contaminant levels in the Flambeau River above and below the mine site in order to test for possible mine-related pollution. This is in compliance with requirements of the 1990 Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Recently, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) recommended that the monitoring efforts be scaled back in the Flambeau River, subsequent to an FMC proposal that the same level of monitoring was no longer needed. The WDNR says monitoring can be eased because the metal levels in the Flambeau River are relatively low and do not seem to threaten aquatic species and because the

metal concentrations will be diluted in the river.

However, the metal levels in the re-flooded mine pit are up to 70 times what was predicted in the 1990 EIS, says Coleman, who begs to differ with WDNR conclusions.

Coleman thinks data show that the monitoring needs to continue. While the WDNR characterizes the levels of some metals in the river as "extremely low and well below the established criteria for protection of aquatic species," Coleman points out that copper has frequently been close to the chronic toxicity criteria over ten years of sampling of the river and found to exceed that criteria twice. Also on occasions, cadmium and zinc in the river were both found to be over the chronic toxicity criteria established in the 1990 EIS. Chronic toxicity refers to the level at which a substance may become dangerous to an organism, such as crayfish, which have been tested in the Flambeau River.

Coleman is concerned that the high levels of metals in the re-flooded mine pit could pose a further threat to the river. "If enough contaminants leak from the re-flooded pit, the river could be degraded. At this point, only continued monitoring of water quality in the river and the re-flooded mine pit will answer the quest," Coleman says.



2001/2002 final deer harvest for the Minnesota and Wisconsin portion of the 1837 & 1842 ceded territory

Registration Station*	Antlered	Adult doe	Fawn buck	Fawn Doe	Totals
Bad River	93	93	3	13	202
Lac Courte Oreilles	230	299	46	47	622
Lac du Flambeau	242	281	49	25	597
Mille Lacs	52	44	21	9	126
Mole Lake	96	159	8	4	267
Red Cliff	242	225	7	10	484
St. Croix	133	181	21	18	353
TOTALS	1088	1282	155	126	2651

*Numbers indicate registration by station, not by tribal affiliation.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) found in southern WI deer

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) sounds ugly, and it is. It is a neurologic disease fatal to deer and elk.

CWD belongs to a family of diseases known as prion diseases and its presence has been confirmed in a sampling of south central Wisconsin deer as of this February.

The findings prompted action from the Wisconsin's Joint Finance Committee, which voted to provide quarantine authority to the Department of Agriculture to help prevent the spread of CWD. The legislators also voted to impose health disclosure and monitoring requirements on animals imported into Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) received

an alert from a testing facility that CWD was detected in samples from three bucks taken from Deer Management Unit 70A in Dane and Iowa Counties. While not all final results are in, samples were taken from a total of 445 deer statewide for CWD testing in 2001.

The good news is that, so far, CWD has not been found in northern Wisconsin deer. However, it is a highly transmissible disease among deer and elk. Also, CWD is not believed transferable to humans or cattle, and there is no evidence that the disease can be contracted by eating the meat of an infected animal.

According to a WDNR release, the World Health Organization (WHO) says there is no scientific evidence that CWD can infect humans; however, WHO does not recommend humans or animals eat parts of animals known to have the disease.

CWD is transmitted through close contact, says Dr. Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC Wildlife Section leader. So the disease is more readily spread in areas where deer are above population goals or in areas of congregating deer, such as feeding areas.

Since it attacks the brain, a CWD infected deer or elk may display abnormal behavior, appear undernourished, lose bodily functions in later stages and, ultimately die. However, in the early

stages, it may not be visibly detectable at all, according to Gilbert. This makes it difficult for hunters to know whether an animal is infected or not. Detection of the disease must be performed through a microscopic examination of a brain sample, he says.

CWD has been in United States for several decades. Like Mad Cow Disease, CWD is difficult to get rid of once it takes hold. Prevention is the best route, Gilbert says.

What hunters should do

- ✓ Do not shoot, handle or eat any animal that appears to be sick.
- ✓ Wear rubber gloves when field dressing carcasses.
- ✓ Minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues.
- ✓ Bone out the meat from your animal.
- ✓ Wash hands and instruments thoroughly.
- ✓ Do not eat brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils or lymph nodes.

What the WDNR is doing

- ✳ Along with cooperating landowners, killing 500 deer in a 415 square mile area for CWD testing.
- ✳ Establishing a CWD "surveillance area" in the vicinity of Vermont Township where three deer tested positive for the disease.
- ✳ Contacting all hunters who submitted deer tissue samples at Mt. Horeb over the gun deer season's opening weekend to learn where they shot their deer.
- ✳ Holding a public meeting in the Mt. Horeb area in the near future after state agencies have firmed up their response plans and can answer specific questions.
- ✳ Flying aerial surveys to identify deer concentration areas.
- ✳ Collecting heads from vehicle-killed deer in the area as another source of tissue samples.
- ✳ Developing a website with up-to-date information on CWD in Wisconsin.

(Reprinted from WDNR Reports.)

2001 Wisconsin off-reservation treaty bear season

Registration Station	Males	Females	Total
Bad River	3	3	6
Lac du Flambeau	1	3	4
Mille Lacs	1	0	1
Mole Lake	9	1	10
Red Cliff	6	4	10
St. Croix	5	3	8
TOTAL	25	14	39





VITF discusses black bear nuisance management

Who's the problem—man or makwa (bear)?

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—The issue is handling “nuisance” makwag (black bears)—a wildlife management program, which is in the hands of the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service—Wildlife Service (APHIS). The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) contracts with the APHIS to handle nuisance wildlife, such as zhigaagwag (skunks), esibanag (raccoons), and makwag.

APHIS has recently asked for comments as it prepares an Environmental Assessment on the black bear

nuisance program. Under consideration is whether APHIS should continue to provide the black bear nuisance program, and if so, how it would best be managed.

At its March meeting in Bad River, the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF) decided to invite APHIS representatives to meet with the VITF for government-to-government consultation on the issue in recognition of the federal trust responsibility and because the tribes maintain a unique relationship to makwag. As expressed by the VITF, people encroaching on the black bear territory may be viewed as the nuisance rather than black bear encroachment on human habitat.

The VITF is concerned that black bear are respected by any agency involved in “nuisance” management, says Dr. Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC Wildlife Section leader. He points out that makwa is culturally important to the Ojibwe as a clan symbol. Gilbert also notes that the Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Tribal Council prohibits off-reservation harvest of black bear by tribal members, recognizing it as a clan symbol for many LCO members.

According to background information from the APHIS, the bear nuisance problems have intensified in Wisconsin due to “increased human development, recreational activity, and agricultural expansion in northern Wisconsin.”

Complaints relate to bears feeding on garbage at homes, restaurants and campgrounds, disturbing apiaries, crop and livestock damage, and property damage.

In 2000, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reported 1,282 bear complaints; 74% were nuisance complaints.

Wisconsin has maintained an agricultural damage compensation program since 1931 to compensate for bear damage. When the program first started, compensation averaged less than \$50 per claim.

In 2000 the WDNR received 85 claims for \$110,393 of bear damage to agriculture resources.

The Waabizheshi (pine marten) Project

Photos by Sue Erickson, Staff Writer



Returning Pale-face to the woods after gathering needed information, GLIFWC's Jonathan Gilbert (left) and Joe Dumyahn, USFS, carefully nestle the trap under an arbor of pine boughs and snow.

(Continued from page 1)

In order to determine the amount of energy used by the animals, captured martens are immobilized, a blood sample is drawn, and the animal is injected with “double-labeled” water, or water in which the oxygen atoms are marked.

During the procedure, the team handles Pale-face gently and with respect. Although immobilized, Pale-face remains conscious and aware. Since his eyes are wide-open, they are first treated with ointment to stay moist.

Once a blood sample is drawn and the water injection given, Pale-face is wrapped-up in a cozy wool blanket to stay warm until the immobilizer begins to wear-off. He is then returned to the trap, and the trap returned to its setting.

Three hours later, the procedure occurs again, this time only to draw another sample of blood, the two samples providing baseline information on oxygen levels for comparison at a later date.

In another few days traps are reset, aiming to recapture martens which were tested previously. Another blood sample is drawn and analyzed to determine how much oxygen has moved from water to become carbon dioxide in the

blood. Since carbon dioxide is a by-product of respiration, this will allow researchers to estimate the amount of energy consumed, Gilbert explains.

Beginning in the fall of 2002, the study will focus on availability of prey and vulnerability to predation. Typically, pine martens eat red-backed and meadow voles (a mouse-like rodent) and red squirrels but will also scavenge on venison and consume nuts, berries and grapes in the summer months.

On-the-other-hand, owls, hawks and fishers consider pine marten to be fine dining. Female martens range between one to one-and-a-half pounds and males two to three pounds, so large predatory birds can easily carry them. Gilbert believes the more time a marten must spend out hunting, the greater is its own chance of becoming prey.

Tracking through use of radio-collars will help study predation, but not enough martens are collared to be conclusive. Enter “robo-marten” to the rescue! Robotically-moving martens made from stuffed martens from Canada will be used to study predation. Placed near the robo-martens will be a small camera sensitive to heat.

The body heat from a warm-blooded predator will trigger the cam-



Getting a weight on Pale-face. John Wright, USFS, and GLIFWC's Ron Parisien (right) use a ventilated bag in order to get a weight on the immobilized marten. Researchers are trying to determine why the marten is not prospering, like the fisher, in the Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest.

era to snap a shot when approaching a robo-marten, giving researchers a better picture of just who is killing the martens.

The radio-collars also help gather information on dispersal. Young marten, born in the spring, set off to find their own territory in the fall. Martens are solitary animals, Gilbert explains. They each have their own territory or home range of about 300-600 acres. The young must establish their own home range. In so doing, some enter areas with more natural predators and diminished chances for survival.

Zollner notes that martens have been successfully reintroduced and flourished in parts of Canada and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Researchers are trying to determine which variables make for successful survival and dispersal as witnessed in these areas.

In conjunction with other information, researchers are taking teeth samples from trapped marten for aging purposes. Of the ten collared martens, eight of them have been captured in previous years. Gilbert estimates them to be six to eight years old. Only a few

new martens have been captured and collared. These he believes to be relatively young, but results of aging studies will confirm age estimates.

But Gilbert worries about the potential large gap between the old and the young martens. As the older martens die-off, there remain few to replace them. This situation could cause a population crisis for a species already threatened.

The third and final year of the collaborative study will be used to collect additional information deemed necessary by the researchers. On the basis of the study's findings, recommendations will be made to federal, state and tribal resource managers to help ensure the survival of waabizheshi.

Zollner is the lead scientist for the USFS and Gilbert leads GLIFWC's team. Working in the field are John Wright, USFS wildlife technician; Joe Dumyahn, USFS; Ron Parisien, GLIFWC wildlife technician and Dennis Soulier, GLIFWC field assistant.

Zollner notes that the collaborative effort makes it possible to bring a variety of resources to bear on the study serving to make it a better project. ■

Fur trapper carries on tradition

Combines state and tribal methods for good harvest

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Staff Writer

Hayward, Wis.—With some exceptions, the era of the secretive northwoods trapper has faded along with the value of fur prices. Demand for furbearers spiraled downward in the 1980s, leaving little incentive for trappers who had cashed in on high prices only a decade earlier.

While savvy trappers can still turn a modest profit from their efforts, many people simply enjoy the time outdoors, participating in the ancient tradition. Spurred by both tradition and a few extra dollars, trapper Steve Barnaby, Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO), has found a way to make the most of trapping opportunities in northern Wisconsin.

"I buy a state trapping license and start knocking on doors to ask for permission to enter private land," he said. As part of the judgment handed down by the Seventh Circuit Court, private land is off limits for treaty trapping.

To adhere to sometimes complex trapping laws, Barnaby has become a student of state and off-reservation tribal regulations. He must always be aware of where property boundaries are in order to target furbearers with legal trapping methods.

"I ask a lot of questions," Barnaby said. "I'm on the phone with people at GLIFWC, game wardens, whoever can give me answers."

Barnaby, an avid houndsman, also purchases state licenses to hunt coyote, raccoon, and on one occasion, black bear. "You can almost bet that when you're hunting a large block of public

land, the dogs are going to end up on that one private 40-acre piece in the middle of it all," Barnaby said. "So I'm at the door talking to landowners to avoid any conflict. I'd bet nine out of 10 people will give permission to cross their lands. There's always a farmer or someone who tells me that I'm the only one who has asked for permission. It means a lot."

While driving to work or traveling around northwest Wisconsin, Barnaby keeps a notebook in his vehicle, logging the locations of good trapping prospects visible from the road, like beaver colonies. Between deep woods locations and sites near roads, through private lands and public forests, Barnaby tries to lay out a fairly continuous trapline to save on time and expense.

By March 7, Barnaby pulled in a respectable catch of 120 beavers and 10 otters using conibear and leg-hold traps. In addition, he said he's been using snares to catch beaver.

"Snares are light and easy to pack into places that require some hiking. They've been effective as feed beds go 'sour' late in the winter," he said.

Barnaby cuts a length of popple, attaches snares to it, and secures it under the ice. Confined to dining on branches submerged before the winter freeze, beavers become hungry for fresh wood as spring approaches, making the popple-snare-set a good option, Barnaby said.

Family tradition

A fifth generation descendant of Thad Thayer, Barnaby has family ties going back nearly 140 years to the twilight of the fur trade era. Well-known

by local history buffs, Thayer established a trading post at Pahquahwong near the present-day LCO community of New Post.

Beginning in the mid-1970s, Barnaby's trapping career originated during his grade school days. "I started trapping muskrats in the Hayward area, mostly out of the Namekagon River," he said. Over the years, Barnaby said he's trapped on and off. More recently, he's increased his time afield and become more involved with hunting dogs.

Barnaby's Mountain Cur—a moderately sized hound—was recently recognized as a 2002 Minnesota Champion Dog by the National Coon Dog Association, he said.

Barnaby's six-year-old son Haze may be the next trapper in the family. He's already started following his father's footsteps.

"He likes to tag along," Barnaby said. "As long as it isn't too far."

The treaty trapping season for all species ends March 31.



GLIFWC Enforcement Officer Ken Rusk attaches a CITES tag to an otter pelt trapped by Steve Barnaby, Lac Courte Oreilles. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Apostle Islands studied for possible wilderness designation

The Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF) recently established a work group to provide government-to-government consultation with the National Park Service (NPS) regarding the NPS' Apostle Island Wilderness Suitability Study. The NPS is considering whether the Apostle Island National Lakeshore (Lakeshore) should be designated as a wilderness area.

Discussions between the VITF workgroup and NPS have focused on any potential impact a wilderness designation may have on the exercise of off-reservation treaty rights in the proposed wilderness area. Consideration has also been given to establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the tribes and the NPS similar to the MOU between ten GLIFWC member tribes and the US Forest Service.

The NPS is also working directly with the Bad River and Red Cliff tribes in relation to areas of the park on reservation and on-reservation treaty rights.

Congress established the Lakeshore in 1970, and a 1989 management plan for the Lakeshore recognized that 97% of the Lakeshore's land-based had wilderness characteristics. Consequently, those lands have been managed as wilderness for over a decade. The NPS does not expect major changes in the way the Lakeshore is managed if designated as wilderness.

GLIFWC explores options for CITES tag distribution

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Wouldn't it be easier if GLIFWC could issue federally required CITES tags to tribal trappers for otter and bobcat harvested off-reservation? Access to the CITES tags was one issue before the Voigt Intertribal Task Force at its February meeting at Bad River.

As a result, GLIFWC staff was directed to explore options and has subsequently contacted the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the agency overseeing the federal CITES program.

So, what is a CITES tag and why do trappers need one? CITES is the acronym for Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. It is an international treaty that was developed to protect endangered species by regulating commerce worldwide.

One problem encountered in the marketing of furs is the ability to distinguish the exact species of an animal once reduced to just a pelt, explains GLIFWC Wildlife Section Leader Dr. Jonathan Gilbert.

For example, the pelts of a river otter and a sea otter (an endangered species) look very similar. The same is

true of bobcat pelts and the pelts of other spotted cats, some of which are endangered.

Consequently, special tags, known as CITES tags, must be attached to certain species, such as otter and bobcat, before they enter the international market. The tag is proof that the animal was legally obtained and assures other countries that the United States is following CITES, Gilbert says. Bobcat and otter are the only species trapped by GLIFWC's treaty trappers that require a CITES tag before the pelts are sold.

The federal government through the USFWS approves state programs to tag CITES species, and the federal government has approved several tribal CITES programs (Navajo, Penobscot, Wind River).

The federal government through the USFWS runs the CITES program. It certifies state programs and provides an allotment of CITES tags to the states for distribution.

Obtaining CITES tags has been burdensome for GLIFWC's tribal trappers. GLIFWC approached the USFWS in the late 1980s in an effort to certify GLIFWC to distribute CITES tags for off-reservation harvests. The request was rejected, Gilbert says, because it

was prior to the Phase II of the Voigt litigation, which resolved regulatory issues with the treaty rights. The USFWS claimed they were unsure whether GLIFWC and its member tribes had the regulatory authority to run the program. The USFWS also said the tribes didn't control enough of the species' habitat to effectively manage a region.

Approaching the state of Wisconsin for assistance in making the CITES tags more available, GLIFWC was told GLIFWC wardens who are cross-deputized with the state can receive an allotment of tags for distribution. This helped to some extent, but on some member reservations, no GLIFWC wardens were cross-deputized, thus access to the tags has remained a problem for some treaty trappers.

Gilbert also notes that access to tags can vary from state to state. Minnesota, for example, provides an allotment of tags to the 1854 Authority, an inter-tribal agency focused on treaty harvests, and to the Fond du Lac tribe.

Now that the Voigt litigation is over, and given the US Supreme Court decision in the Mille Lacs case, Gilbert hopes that the USFWS will reconsider certifying GLIFWC to run a ceded-territory CITES program on behalf of its member tribes.

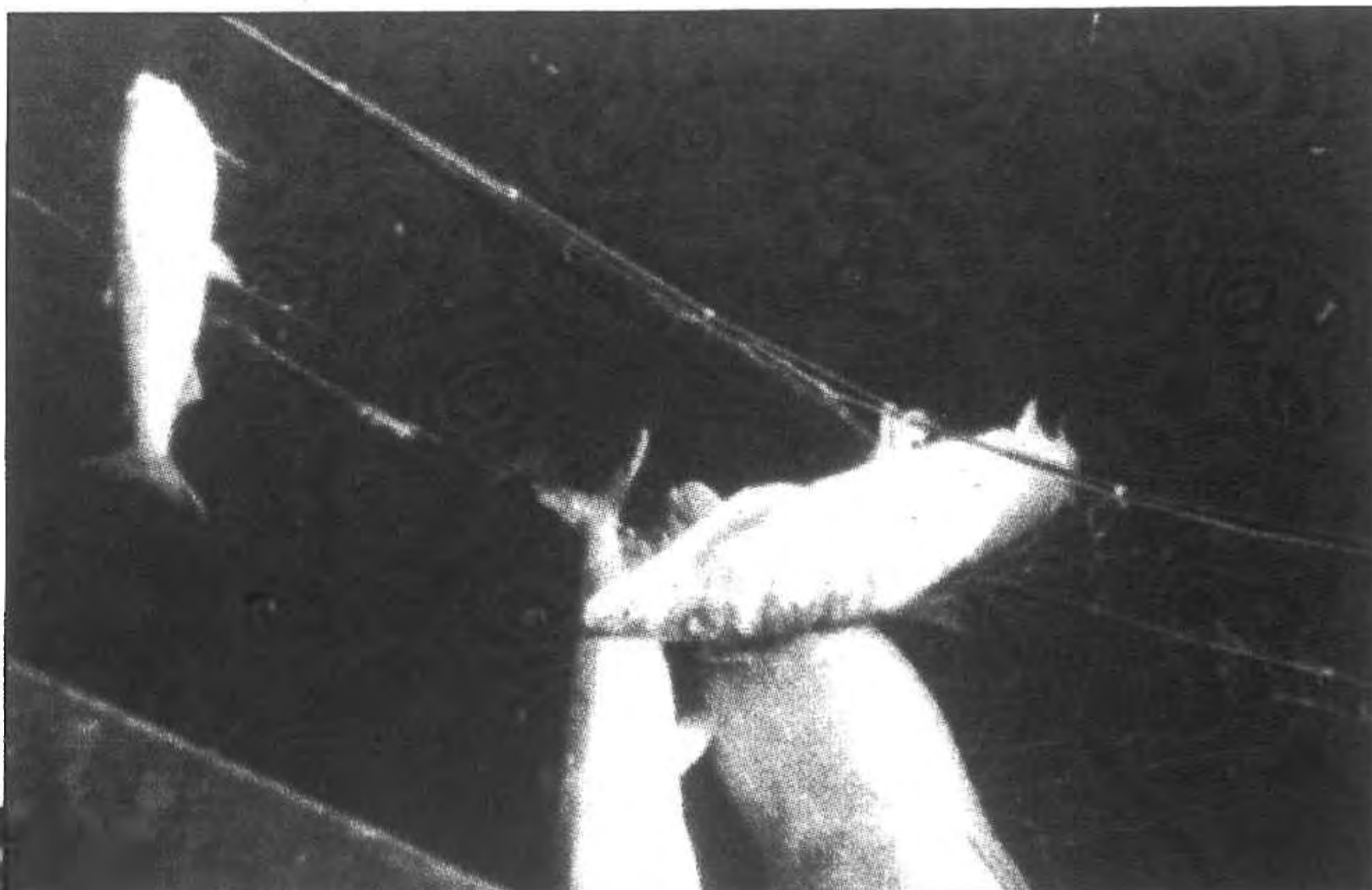
Data from Lake Superior treaty fishermen used to establish fish population models

By Bill Mattes, GLIFWC Great Lakes biologist

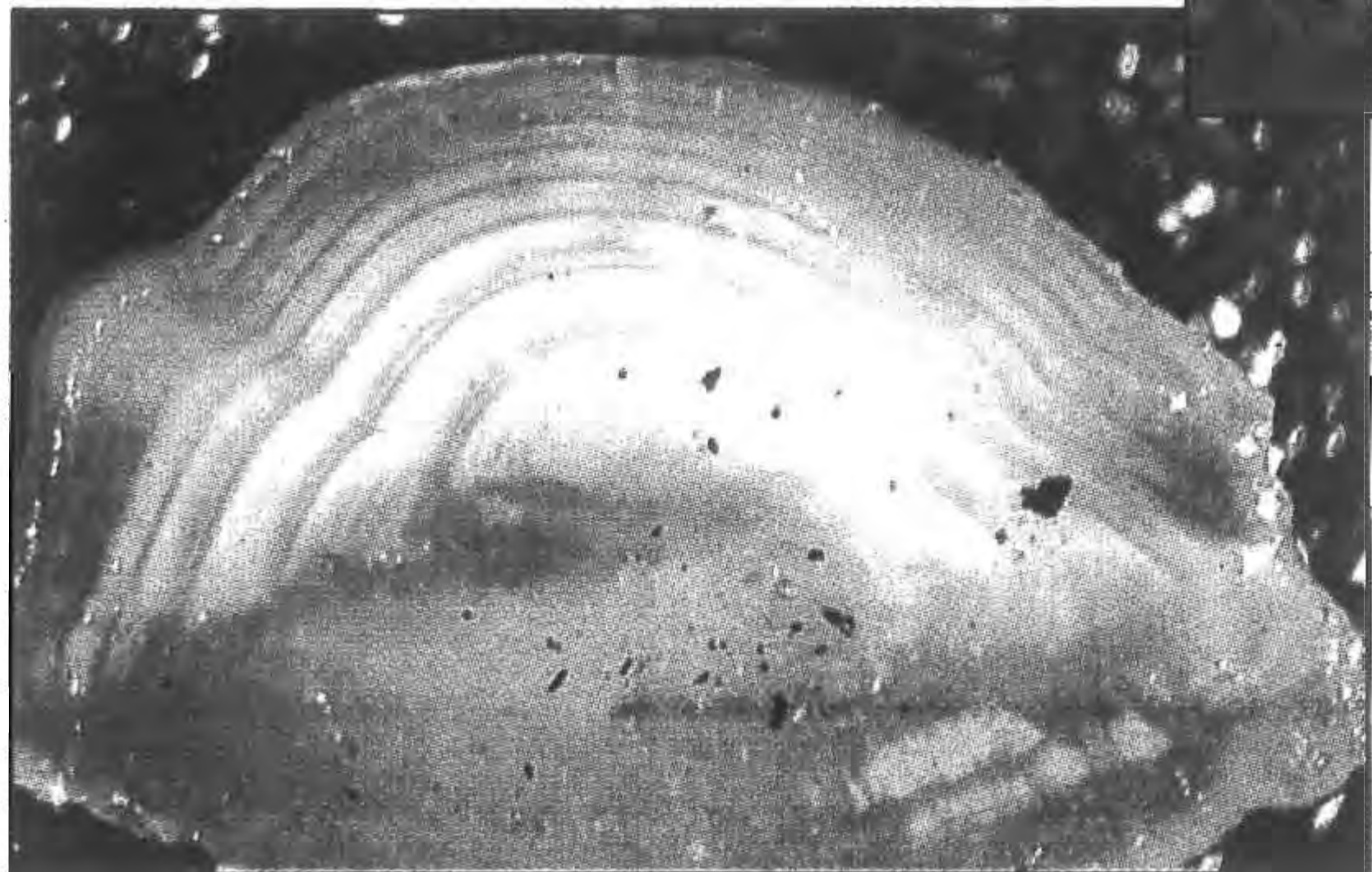
Monitoring the commercial fish harvest is a priority task of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission's (GLIFWC) Great Lakes Section. Throughout the fishing season Mike Plucinski, Great Lakes technician and Bill Mattes, Great Lakes biologist monitor off-reservation fishing in the 1842 treaty ceded area within Michigan waters of Lake Superior one-two times per month with help from seasonal staff.

GLIFWC monitors fishermen both dockside and on commercial fishing vessels. During a monitoring trip, fish are sampled from commercially fished gill nets. The fish are identified by species, then measured and weighed. Scales or otoliths (fish ear bones) are also collected and used to age the fish (see photo below). These "lay down" rings are similar to rings in a tree.

In 2001, over 2,600 fish were measured, weighed, and sampled for age. During the winter the fish were aged from the collected scales and otoliths, and the data was then entered into a computer database. This information is then summarized and used in modeling the fish populations.



GLIFWC's Great Lakes Section monitors the commercial fish harvests in the off-reservation waters of the 1842 treaty ceded area within Michigan waters of Lake Superior. (Photo by Mike Plucinski)



Scales and otoliths (fish ear bones) are collected and used to age fish. The "lay down" rings are similar to rings in a tree and can be counted. An otolith is shown above. (Photo by Bill Mattes)

GLIFWC study tracks lake trout movement

Odanah, Wis.—Two tagged lake trout have been returned to GLIFWC biologists since early November 2001. Fish with tag 777 was "at large" 41 days.

During this time the fish traveled over 150 miles (see map) from its release site into Traverse Bay on the east side of the Keweenaw Peninsula, to be recaptured in Pancake Bay, Ontario.

The lake trout was in depths from zero to 284 feet (see depth profile). "We found the lake trout was very active throughout the water column. For example, in one 20 minute period on November 17 the fish went from the surface down to 139 feet, back up to within 7 feet of the surface then down to 145 feet," said Bill Mattes, GLIFWC Great Lakes biologist.

Fish with tag 767 was at large 89 days, and ranged in depth from 4 to 267 feet. The depths it inhabited also varied greatly over short periods of time.

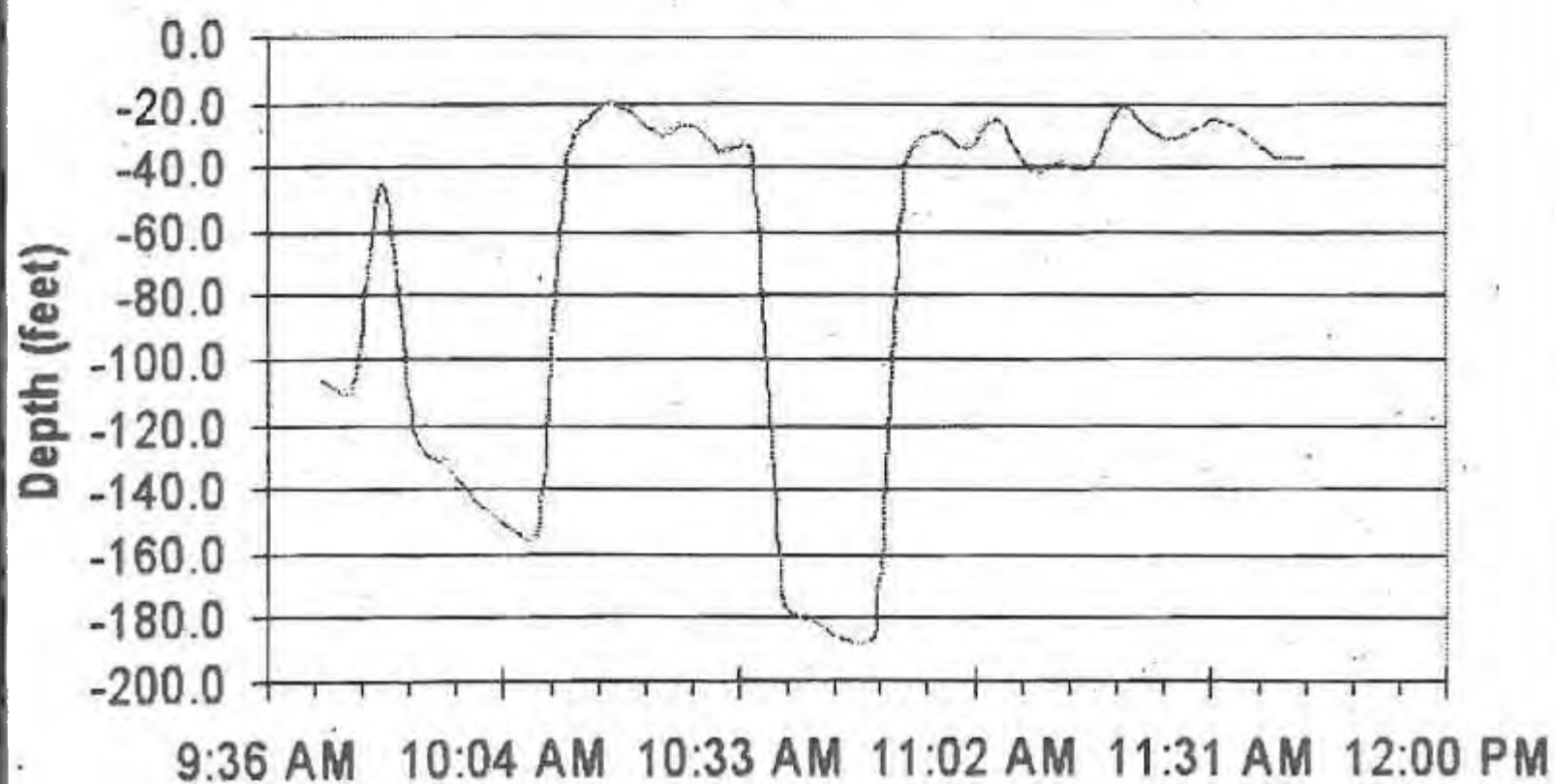
The hi-tech tags which can record water temperature and depth information for three years were surgically placed in lake trout in early November by staff from GLIFWC's Great Lakes Section with help from Ed Leoso (Bad River Natural Resources Department), Roger Bergstedt (US Geological Survey-Hammond Bay), fisherman Mike Peterson, and staff from the USFWS-Sea Lamprey Control and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in Marquette.

Mattes would like to say miigwech (thanks) to the commercial fishermen who assisted by returning tags.

Location where fish 767 and fish 777 were caught

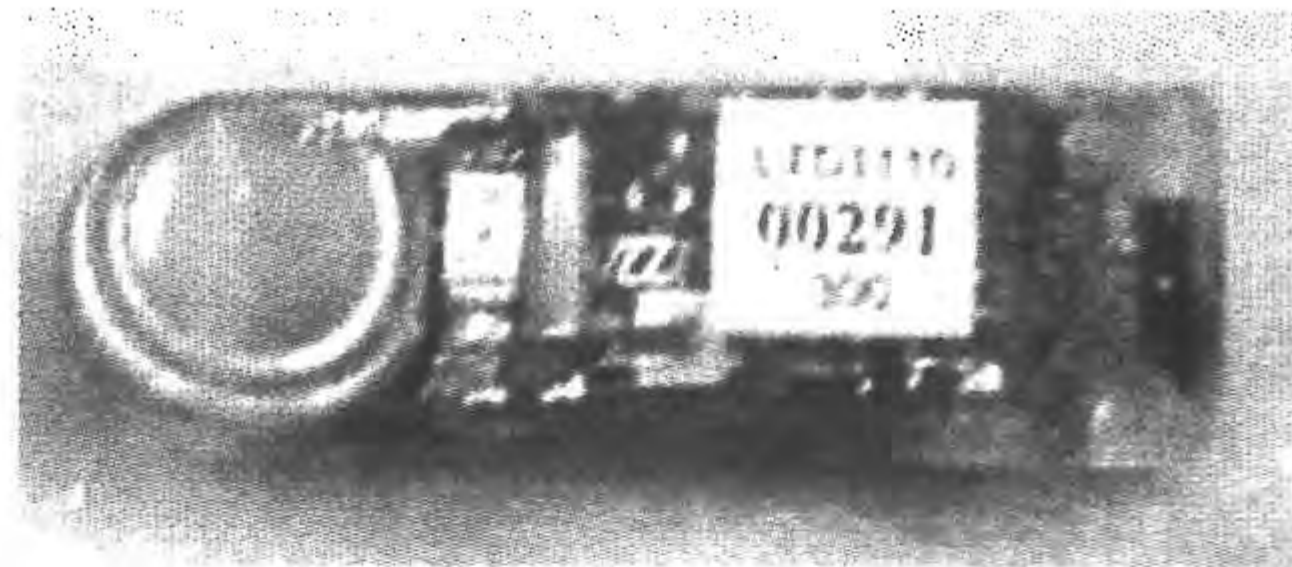


Two hour depth profile of fish 777



(Graphics by Bill Mattes)

\$100 reward for return of tagged fish



Internal tags (upper photo) surgically placed in lake trout can record water temperature and depth information for three years. A floy tag (lower photo) identifies a lake trout carrying an internal tag and offers a \$100 reward for the return of the ungutted, unfrozen fish with the internal tag.

If you catch a lake trout with the pictured floy tag, do not gut or freeze the fish. Please call (715) 682-6619, leave your name and phone number. You will be contacted to receive a \$100 reward for the fish with the internal tag contained in the fish.

Bad River Hatchery adds solar/wind power

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

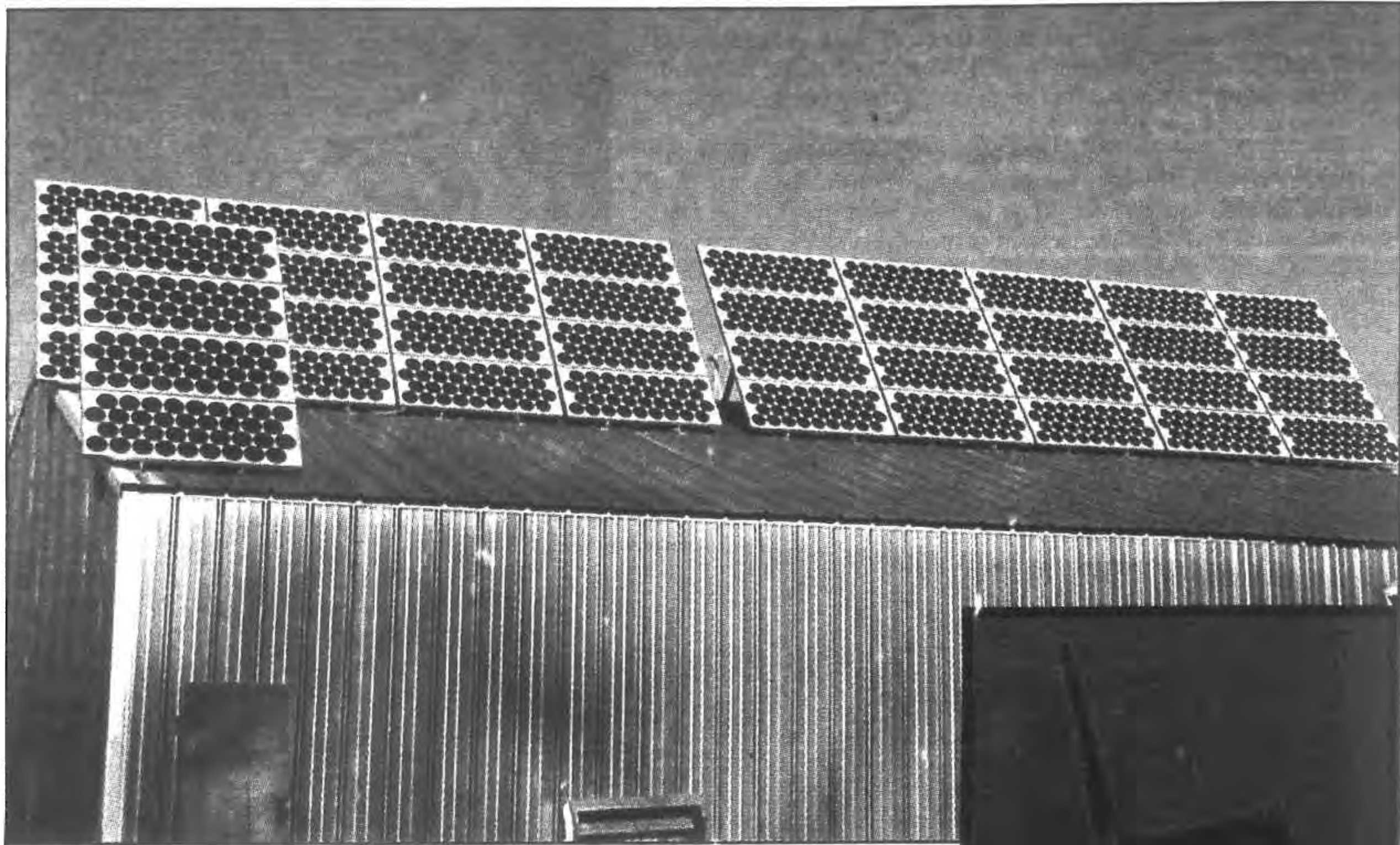
Odanah, Wis.—The Bad River Hatchery has been energized over the fall and winter. It is the first tribal hatchery in the nation to have wind and solar power as energy options.

Savings in utility costs are already being realized, according to Bad River Fisheries Specialist Rick Huber. For example, the utility cost in January 2002 is about one-third of the cost realized in January 2001, when the hatchery was entirely dependent on power from the commercial electrical grid.

Thanks to a grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), the tribe's hatchery can now access energy from both wind and the sun. The solar/wind generating system, activated in October 2001, has consistently shown a savings in energy costs since that time.

A streamlined version of an old-fashioned windmill, an 84-foot tall, 2.5 kilowatt wind turbine now towers outside the Bad River Hatchery, harnessing wind power for energy. Optimum conditions for the wind turbine are about 25 mph, steady winds, says Huber.

The wind turbine operates in conjunction with 40 solar panels mounted on the hatchery's roof, designed to capture energy from the sun. The panels require adjustment four times a year in order to optimize the radiant energy from the sun; otherwise, only yearly maintenance is required for the wind/



The Bad River Hatchery began using solar/wind power in October 2001, making it the first tribal hatchery in the nation to have an alternative power source. Designed to capture energy from the sun, the 40 solar panels (above) are mounted on the hatchery's roof. The 84-foot tall, 2.5 kilowatt wind turbine (right) operates in conjunction with the solar panels. (Photos by Rick Huber)

solar system, which was purchased from Great Northern Solar, Port Wing, Wisconsin.

While the system is new, Huber is pleased with its early success and also

about the cooperation received from Bayfield Electric Cooperative.

The company agrees to purchase surplus energy from the system on a 1:1 basis, or at the same price it sells energy.

The hatchery can now access four sources of energy, including the standard, commercial electrical grid, battery-stored power, wind power and solar energy. Huber believes the alternative power sources, wind and solar, will provide the bulk of the hatchery's energy needs through the year, with the exception of about three months when the hatchery is in full swing, operating its Bell jar incubation system.

Once eggs are in the hatchery system, any power failure can prove disastrous because a continuous flow of water and stable water temperatures are critical to the delicate eggs' survival.

As a safety measure, the hatchery has had a back up generator and energy stored in batteries to tide the system through emergency power outages. Now they are even better equipped to meet power shortages from the commercial grid and protect the season's crop of collected walleye eggs.

Bad River's hatchery has about twenty years of successful operation under its belt and a strong record for production and on-reservation stocking. In 2001 the hatchery released 8 million walleye fry into the Kakagon River and 40,000 walleye fingerlings into the Bad River.

New equipment increases hatchery capacity

After twenty years of operation, the hatchery's equipment began to show signs of wear and need for replacement became obvious, Huber says. That's when the tribe sought as-

sistance from the ANA, and after four years of planning, received a grant for over \$200,000 to update and renovate the hatchery facility.

Besides the conversion to alternative energy, the hatchery replaced two intake pumps with larger capacity pumps; purchased a new back-up generator and an electrical monitor to keep tabs on water temperature, water levels, and power.

Sixty-four old Bell jars were replaced with 128 new Bells jars, increasing the hatchery's capacity to produce fry and fingerlings and to extend production to other fish species, such as northern pike, muskellunge or suckers.

Other improvements covered by the grant include two new ATV's and a trailer; a removable, floating dock; a new pump and pump house for the rearing ponds; a catch basin at the outlet of the ponds; a knife gate at the ponds' culverts; and installation of a lavatory and shower in the hatchery building.

Two new fingerling ponds are also underway, with site testing being completed this spring. The ponds are expected to be ready in 2004.

Bad River's hatchery is currently managed by Richard Connors, hatchery foreman, and staffed by four, limited term employees.

Looking spiffy as a result of all the renovation, the hatchery operations will open April 1 in preparation for the 2002 season. □

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 April through June 2002 are as follows:

Wisconsin 1837, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

- Spearing
- Netting
- Hook and line fishing
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Spring turkey season
- Maple sap gathering

Minnesota 1837 Treaty ceded territory

- Spearing
- Netting
- Hook and line fishing
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Spring turkey season
- Maple sap gathering

Michigan 1836, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

- Spearing
- Netting
- Hook and line fishing
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Maple sap gathering

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

Voigt Task Force honors Lynn Roberts, US Forest Service

The Voigt Intertribal Task force (VITF) recognized the work of Lynn Roberts, Forest Supervisor, Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest at their January 10 meeting in Watersmeet, Michigan. She was presented with a resolution expressing appreciation (below) as well as a few small gifts of manoomin and birch bark.

Roberts is leaving her position with the Chequamegon/Nicolet to assume another position within the US Forest Service (USFS) as a Deputy Regional Forester in Montana.

Roberts' work with the VITF to forge a Memorandum of Understanding between the tribes and the USFS was groundbreaking and much appreciated.

WHEREAS, Lynn Roberts has served as the Forest Supervisor of the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest and is leaving that position to pursue other opportunities within the Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Roberts has recognized and has endeavored to fulfill the trust responsibility and treaty obligations of the United States and the USDA-Forest Service toward the member Tribes of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Roberts has recognized and respected the Tribes' inherent sovereignty and retained regulatory authority regarding their ceded territory treaty rights; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Roberts was instrumental in completing the *Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Tribal—USDA—Forest Service Relations on National Forest Lands Within the Territories Ceded in Treaties of 1836, 1837, and 1842*, and has been vigilant in ensuring that the parties faithfully implement that agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission hereby expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Lynn Roberts for her dedication and service as Forest Supervisor for the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest, for her commitment to honoring the United States' trust responsibility and treaty obligations toward the Commission's member Tribes, and for her honesty and integrity in dealing with the Commission and its member Tribes.



"You have been a friend to Indian Country and GLIFWC," Mic Isham, Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF) vice-chairman, told Lynn Roberts, Forest Supervisor, Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest, as he presented her with a framed resolution. Roberts was honored for her work on behalf of the tribes at the January VITF meeting at Lac Vieux Desert. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Masinaigan Mailing List

Have you stopped receiving Masinaigan in the mail?

If the *Masinaigan* is no longer being delivered, please re-subscribe. It's free! When the US Postal Service converted to using fire numbers for mailing addresses, many *Masinaigans* mailed to rural homes were returned because of incorrect addresses. *Masinaigan* would like to update its mailing list and reinstate subscribers lost due to the address changes. Contact *Masinaigan* at P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861; phone (715) 682-6619; e-mail: pio@glifwc.org. We will put you on the mailing list.

Ceded territory news briefs

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

VITF concerned about patents, genetically altered wild rice

The Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF) instructed GLIFWC staff to further explore issues related to genetic manipulation of wild rice and patents on genetically altered wild rice during the February 7 VITF meeting at Bad River. Mille Lacs VITF Representative Leonard Sam brought the concerns to the attention of GLIFWC following the January "Wild Rice Convening" held at Fond du Lac's Black Bear Casino.

Discussion during the Wild Rice Convening focused on two patents secured by the California-based Norcal Wild Rice Company, one on "cytoplasmic male sterility" and another on the propagation of such plants.

Of primary concern to the VITF is the possible impact of genetically manipulated wild rice on the native wild rice crop. Contamination of the native, naturally-occurring wild rice with the pollen of genetically altered wild rice is one possible case in point.

GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist Peter David will be looking into the issue and plans to attend the next wild rice meeting later in March. Listed as a contact person on the issue is Winona LaDuke at email: welrp@unitelc.com or muskrat@unitele.com.

Wisconsin fishers doing well in Tennessee

Wisconsin fishers seem to be enjoying a more southerly climate. Word has come from Tennessee that all the 20 fishers trapped in northern Wisconsin and transported to Tennessee as part of a fisher re-introduction effort survived the trip and have successfully been released.

Bruce Anderson, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, wrote: "It is rare not to loose any animals during a restoration project. I think a lot of the success we have had is due to the fact that we had good talent handling them from capture to release."

This was good news to GLIFWC's Wildlife Section staff, who assisted with the preparation of the animals for transportation! The animals were captured by Red Cliff trappers, Mike Gustafson and Curt Basina.

Bill to prohibit use of "squaw" endorsed by legislative committee

A bill banning the use of "squaw," a derogatory term for American Indian women, was unanimously endorsed by the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Universities, Housing and Government Operations.

This was a positive sign for the bill authored by Sen. Robert Jauch (D-Poplar). If passed into law, the bill would require name changes for a number of Wisconsin's lakes, rivers, and roads containing the term "squaw." Several other states, including Minnesota, Montana, Maine and Oregon, have already passed similar legislation.

GLIFWC monitors potential impact of BIA reorganization proposal

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) proposal to establish a separate office dealing only with the management of tribal trust assets raised eyebrows throughout Indian Country. The proposal to restructure came in response to *Cobell v. Norton*, a lawsuit revealing BIA mismanagement of tribal trust assets.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) took a lead in opposing the proposal by adopting a resolution in opposition and calling for BIA consultation with the tribes prior to making any decisions.

GLIFWC was particularly concerned about the proposal's impact on funding for existing tribal, treaty natural resource management programs, such as GLIFWC.

In comments provided to the BIA at a December consultation meeting in Minneapolis, GLIFWC noted that treaty-guaranteed rights and resources are trust assets, and the BIA must continue to ensure the protection of ceded territory treaty rights and the natural resources. This means decisions made by the BIA should not undermine tribal, ceded territory, self-regulatory programs set-up under numerous court decisions.

LaMP 2002 report to be released

The Binational Program to Restore and Protect Lake Superior is developing a report to document progress on implementation of the Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) for Lake Superior. The LaMP was originally published in 2000 and is to be updated every two years.

In April of 2002 the first of these updates is scheduled to be published—the LaMP 2002. GLIFWC and a number of tribes participate in the Binational Program and have worked on portions of the LaMP 2002, which includes sections on progress in reaching zero discharge of nine chemicals, progress in implementing terrestrial, aquatic and habitat related projects, and sustainability. Read the summer issue of *Masinaigan* for more on the LaMP 2002.

—Ann McCammon Soltis

Elder/youth jam session yields blackberry jam & pies

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Baraga, Mich.—At Keweenaw Bay a late winter “jam” session made use of last summers’ berry harvest as elders and youth stirred up blackberry jam and made-from-scratch pies—blackberry and blueberry pies to be enticingly specific.

Meeting at the Keweenaw Bay Senior Citizen Center on March 7, six tribal elders guided five youth in the art of jam and pie making as part of GLIFWC’s Wild Plant Grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA).

The grant has focused on learning firsthand from tribal elders about plants traditionally harvested by Ojibwe people and how they have been used, according to ANA Coordinator Jim St. Arnold.

Six fresh and steaming pies and about 21 pints of blackberry jam re-

sulted from the three-hour mixing, stirring and rolling-out session. Many of the youth were unfamiliar with rolling out piecrust dough and learned that “you have to put some muscle into it” when it comes to rolling out a nice flaky crust.

The jam session proved fun and productive for young and old. In fact, some talk started about doing something similar at apple-picking time, talk of making things like apple pies, apple butter and applesauce. Sounds good!

Everyone went home from the jam session with a container of freezer blackberry jam in hand, and for the youth, at least, freshly acquired knowledge on putting blackberries and blueberries to a tasty use.

The youth decided to leave five pies for the elders’ lunch the next day. One pie was sent to GLIFWC’s main office and was relished by all who got a taste of the homemade, blackberry pie. Miigwech!



Youth were told to “put some muscle into it” when rolling pie dough during a elder/youth session at Keweenaw Bay this winter. Shannee Menard learns to roll out pie crust dough from Evelyn Holappa, while Corey Pietila and Stephanie Raymond look on. The group also produced 21 pints of freezer blackberry jam. (photo by Jim St. Arnold)



Above: Relaxing after a pie and jam making session, elders and youth at Keweenaw Bay could be proud of their work. Pictured from left to right are, Shannee Menard, Evelyn Holappa, Kelly Dowd, Corey Pietila, Joe Dowd, Chrelle Loonsfoot, Virgil Loonsfoot, Ariel Gougeon, Myrtle Gauthier, Barb Mantila, and Stephanie Raymond.

Below: Ariel Gougeon scoops out blackberries in preparation for making jam. (Photos by Jim St. Arnold)



Wild harvest recipes

Manoomin (Wild Rice) Recipes

Ruth Holmes, a St. Croix tribal elder, and Margaret Ojibway, a Fond du Lac tribal elder, prefer preparing their manoomin using just a few additional ingredients. Both women dislike overwhelming the subtle nutty flavor of manoomin with elaborate spices or sauces.

Ruth simply boils manoomin (1/2 cup) in chicken broth (16 oz. can). Then she adds butter, to taste, to the cooked manoomin.

Margaret first par boils manoomin, just a little, while browning venison in oil. Next, she mixes the manoomin and venison in a casserole with cream of mushroom soup (16 oz. can), 1/4 can of milk, chopped onions, salt and pepper. Finally, she cooks it all in a 350 degree oven, making sure it stays moist.

Miigwech to Ruth and Margaret for sharing your recipes!

Mom’s Recipe for Dying Wiigob (basswood twine)

Mildred Ackley McGeshick, a Sokaogon tribal elder, provided this description of her mother’s method for dying wiigob.

Her mom collected various plants for different colors. She used beets, love lies bleeding, and strawberries for shades of red; blackberries and blueberries for shades of blue; bloodroot for yellow or orange; and raspberries for pink.

First, she mixed the plant colors with apple juice. Then, she added dandelion wine which had turned to vinegar so that the colors would stay. She got the dandelion wine from her neighbors.

She soaked the wiigob in hot water before placing it the plant dye (heated up). After removing the wiigob from the dye, she would dry it out and roll it or wrap it up.

Though she used Ritz Dye in her later years when she had money, she would still say that mother earth had everything a person needs. She and Mildred’s dad always looked for supplies in the woods. Her mother was artistic and made lots of crafts, canoes, teepees, and beadwork.

Miigwech Mildred for your story!

Raspberry Stem Tea

Fold and tie the raspberry stems. Boil. Strain and drink.

Anishinabe Neebeesh (rose hip tea)

After the first frost, gather plump rose hips. Wash and drain in colander. Spread on cookie sheet. Place in warm oven. You can dry rose hips in three or four days with just your pilot light burning. If you use low heat, check frequently.

Remove from oven when rose hips are dry. They will look very dark red and shriveled. Roll them briskly between the palms of your hands to crumble bud ends. Crush rose hips and store in dry place.

Raspberry stem tea and rose hip tea recipes reprinted from *Tribal Cooking*, available from the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc., P.O. Box 9, Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538

Zhaabomin (gooseberry): Wrongly accused?

Odanah, Wis.—The Crowe family (Harold and Delma, and their son, Clarence) from the Bad River Reservation remembers that years ago zhaabomin (gooseberry) grew everywhere. They used to gather baskets of zhabominesan (gooseberries) to eat raw or to make into wine.

Joe Rose, also a Bad River tribal elder, remembers his grandmother using zhabominesan to make jams and jellies.

Now, zhaabomin grows less abundantly and cannot be as easily located. Many factors have probably led to its decline, but one factor in particular illustrates the complex relationship between organisms and how management and policy decisions can significantly influence that relationship.

The relationship to be addressed here binds together zhaabomin, zhingwaak (white pine), and a fungus called blister rust. Blister rust lives on both zhaabomin and zhingwaak. Without both of these "hosts," blister rust cannot survive.

Blister rust begins its life cycle on white pines (several different species occur worldwide), spreads through spores (seed-like structures) to gooseberry and currant species (with many different species worldwide, all of which are referred to botanically as "*Ribes*"), then from *Ribes* to *Ribes*, and finally back to white pines. Blister rust does not harm *Ribes*, but kills white pines—with the susceptibility of rust varying among the different white pine species.

Blister rust originated in Eurasia. Little damage occurred to the white pines in this region because, simply stated, they had developed a resistance to the fungus.

During the 1700's, Europeans became interested in growing the Eastern white pine (one of the species native to North America) as an ornamental or as



Zhabominesan. (Photographed by Kitty Kohout, courtesy of Wisconsin State Herbarium: University of Wisconsin-Madison.)

timber for making of ship masts. They imported and planted these trees extensively throughout the continent. Not surprisingly, without any inherent resistance, these trees proved to be susceptible to blister rust.

By the late 1800's, in North America, logging had significantly reduced the Eastern white pine stands in the Northeast and Lake States Region. Because the demand for white pine continued, foresters attempted to restore the old forests. Since few stands of white pine remained, natural regeneration could not occur. Consequently, foresters had to plant nursery seedlings.

Unfortunately, nurseries in North America had no interest in growing white pine seedlings because of their low market value. However, European nurseries could grow Eastern white pine

seedlings more cheaply and, therefore, could still make a profit even with low market values. The United States government removed tariffs allowing the mass importation of Eastern white pine seedlings grown in European nurseries; seedlings likely to be infected by blister rust.

Before the 1900's, blister rust did not occur in North America and plant pathologist repeatedly warned United States government officials of the danger of its importation on European grown white pines. Officials did not heed the warning until after the detection of blister rust in Geneva, New York in 1909.

Congress finally enacted the Federal Quarantine Law of 1912 which prohibited further importation of white pine seedlings into the United States. By then, however, blister rust had become well established on the East Coast. In 1913, plant pathologists first detected blister rust in Wisconsin. By 1916, officials had established the Office of Blister Rust Control (BRC), a branch within the United States Department of Agriculture.

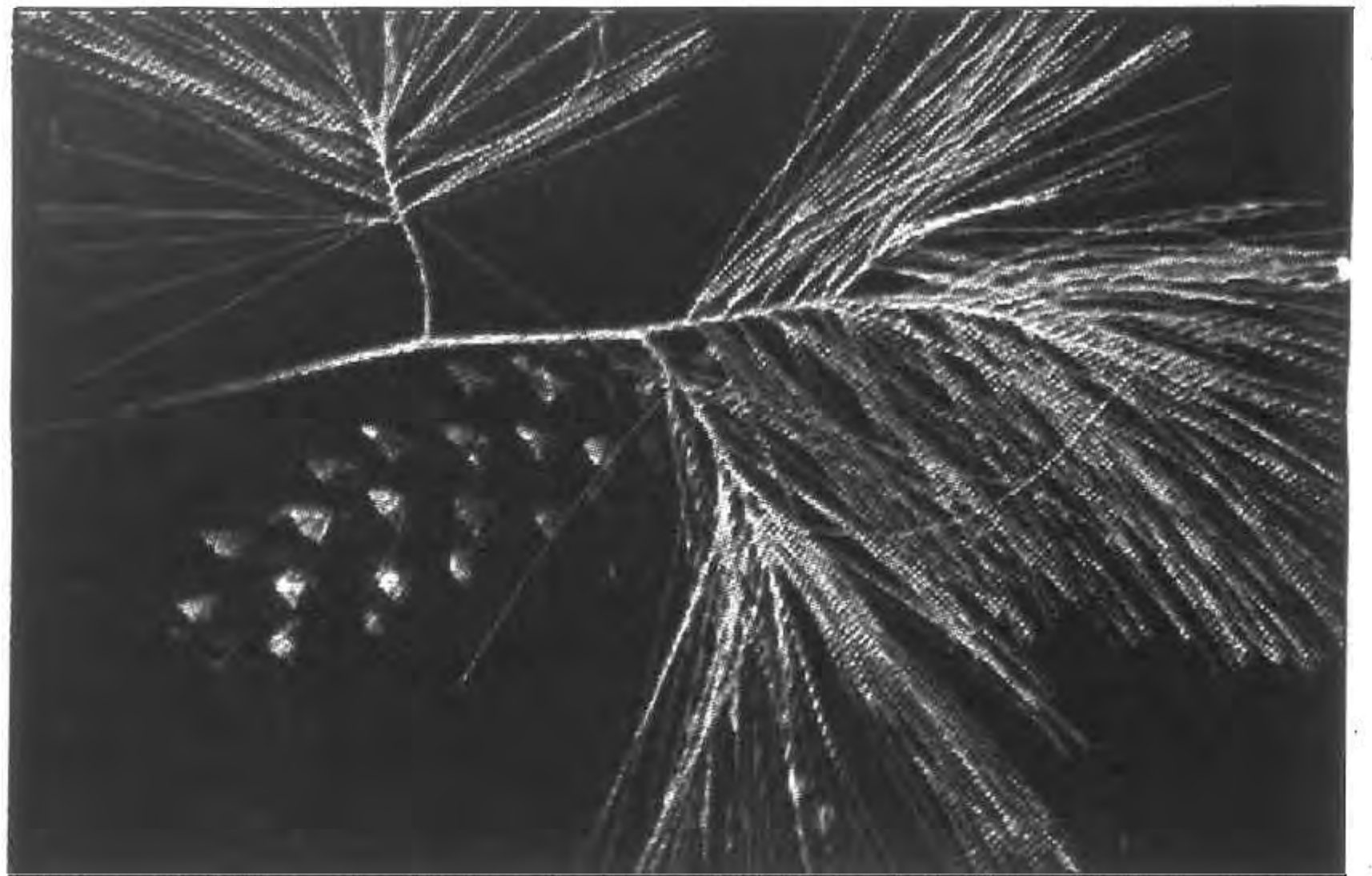
In 1919, the Director of BRC concluded, based on three years of experi-

mentation, that the most effective and cost-efficient method for controlling blister rust entailed the complete removal of *Ribes* in and around white pine stands. Thus, began a decades-long program to rid forests of gooseberry and currant plants.

The Crowe family and Joe Rose all remember many crews of workers (Indians and non-Indians) spending entire summers on the reservation pulling out zhaabomin, which the workers referred to as "skunkweed." At the peak of this activity, federal and state agencies employed 1,300 "skunkweed workers" in Wisconsin alone.

Though some plant pathologists and foresters, since the early 1900's, had questioned the effectiveness of removing *Ribes* for blister rust control, it was not until the 1960's that these questions began to receive more serious consideration. More pathologists began doubting the earliest predictions of massive losses of white pines, noting that in some areas white pines seemed to resist blister rust.

Additional research demonstrated that climatic characteristics greatly control the infection rates, with wetter sites (See *Zhaabomin*, page 22)



Zhingwaak. (Photographed by Michael Clayton, courtesy of Wisconsin State Herbarium: University of Wisconsin-Madison.)

Articles by Karen Danielsen,
GLIFWC Forest Ecologist

Tea from the woods

Fond du Lac, Minn.—Margaret Ojibway, a tribal elder from Fond du Lac, has always made tea from wild plants. Next to her stove sits jars of dried maskigobog (swamp tea, also called Labrador tea), namewaskoons (wild mint), and bizhikiwiginiig (rose hips).

She stores other dried plants in her cupboard to make teas for more specific medicinal purposes. She says that almost any plant can be used for tea.

To prepare maskigobog, she pours boiling water over the dried leaves and lets them steep. She often reuses the leaves, adding a little namewaskoons and bizhikiwiginiig for extra flavoring. She sweetens her tea using maple syrup made by her son. She makes delicious tea!

When she was a child, she often accompanied her mother and auntie on their trips to gather wild plants. Wherever they traveled, they always carried scissors with them in case they happened upon a plant they might need.

Her auntie, now 91 years old, cannot gather her own plants and often asks Margaret to do the gathering. Margaret says, "My auntie knew what she was doing in teaching me all those plants."

Before being taken away to live at the government school in White Earth, Margaret learned a lot about the woods from her mother and auntie. Just about everything they used came from the woods. Even her pets were wild ani-

mals—raccoons, porcupines, and toads. She lost much of her native language at the government school, but not her knowledge and memories of the woods.

Nowadays, she loves walking in the woods to gather plants. She gathers namewaskoons in the summer, bizhikiwiginiig after the first frost, and maskigobog after it flowers (though it can be gathered any time of year). Then, she dries the plants for storage. For bizhikiwiginiig, she dries the hulls after separating them from the seed.

Sometimes, when visiting friends or family members, she gathers a handful of plants on the way and makes tea for her hosts when she arrives. They always enjoy her fresh-brewed tea. Occasionally, they even want to know where she gathers her plants.

Though she has a generous heart, she does not reveal her plant gathering locations readily. Once, she showed some people where to gather plants and returned the next year only to find that the plants had all been gathered. She was disappointed that those people had failed to show respect for the plant.

She likes to teach students at the Fond du Lac Tribal School, not only about what to gather, but also how to gather in a respectful way. They seem to be very interested and ask her many questions. She is optimistic that they listen to her words and stories. She hopes that they genuinely understand the importance of respect.



The green leaves of wintergreen can be turned into a tasty tea when boiled. Some like to sweeten it with maple sugar. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Onjiakiing—From the Earth Harvest Calendar

Introduction

Over the last two years, GLIFWC has been interviewing tribal elders regarding the non-medicinal uses of plants. Elders discussed hundreds of plants and uses. With approval from the elders, we will be sharing this information as a regular feature in *Masinaigan* in the form of a harvest calendar. In this issue, the harvest calendar will be devoted to those plants that may be gathered during the summer months of ode'imini-giizis, time for picking strawberry moon (June); aabitaniibino-giizis, half way through the summer moon (July); and manoominike-giizis, ricing moon (August).

Fruits and Nuts

raw, jams, jellies, pie fillings, breads, pancakes

- miskomin(an)—raspberries
- oshkizhaanimuk—dewberries
- odaatagaagomin(an)—blackberries
- miinan—blueberries
- ode'imini(an)—strawberries
- gozigaakomin(an)—juneberries
- bibigwemin(an)—elderberries
- *thimbleberries
- *black haw berries
- ookwemin(an)—black cherries
- asawemin(an)—choke cherries
- bawe'imini(an)—pin cherries
- sewa'komin(an)—sand cherries
- zhaabomin—currants
- bagwaaji bagesaan—wild plums
- bagaan—hazelnuts

Grains

casseroles, soups, breads, pancakes

- manoomin—wild rice

Roots

roasted, sauteed, steamed, boiled

- bagwaji zhigaagawinzh—wild leek
- zhigaagawinzh—wild onion
- apakweshkwaway ojiibikan—cattail
- anaakanashk ojiibikan—bulrush
- anakanaashkoon—rush
- doodooshaaboojiibik—dandelion
- namepin—wild ginger

Greens

raw, sauteed, steamed, boiled

- *watercress leaves
- *pigweed leaves
- *aster leaves
- *beach peas
- anajjiminan—wild peas
- *wild asparagus stems

Cold Juices & Drinks

- miskomin(an)—raspberries
- odaatagaagomin(an)—blackberries
- miinan—blueberries
- ode'imini(an)—strawberries
- asawemin(an)—choke cherries
- bawe'imini(an)—pin cherries
- mushkigomin—cranberries
- bagwaaji bagesaan—wild plums
- bagwaj zhoomin(an)—wild grapes
- zhaabomin—currants
- apaakwaanaatig miinesan
- sumac fruits
- ozaawaaskined nibi
- honeysuckle flower nectar

Wine

- doodooshaaboojiibik
- dandelion flowers
- mushkigomin—cranberries
- bibigwemin—elderberries
- asawemin(an)—choke cherries
- zhaabomin—currants

Teas

- namewashkoons niibiishibun
- spearmint leaves
- *peppermint leaves
- ozaawaaskined aniibiishibun
- horsemint leaves
- sasap kwanins aniibiishibun
- wild bergamont leaves
- miskomin(an) aniibiishibun
- raspberry leaves
- ode'imini aniibiishibun
- strawberry leaves
- odaatagaagomin aniibiishibun
- blackberry leaves
- miinan aniibiishibun
- blueberry leaves
- wahbishkanakuk aniibiishibun
- wild sage leaves
- apakwanagemag aniibiishibun
- red pine leaves (new growth)
- wiinisibag aniibiishibun
- wintergreen leaves
- mashkigobag aniibiishibun
- swamp (labrador) tea leaves
- kaakaagiwanzh aniibiishan
- hemlock leaves
- zhingob aniibiishibun
- balsam fir leaves
- gizhigaans—white cedar leaves
- nessibag—clover flowers
- sasap kwanins
- wild bergamont flowers
- doodooshaaboojiibik
- dandelion flowers
- miskomin(an)—raspberries
- ode'imini(an)—strawberries
- sewa'komin(an)—sand cherries
- apaakwaanaatig miinesan
- sumac fruits
- asawemin(an)
- choke cherries
- mishkomin mitigosan
- raspberry stems
- okwemin nagek—black cherry bark
- asawemin wategwaan(an)
- choke cherry twigs
- wiinzik—yellow birch bud tips
- wiigwaasmitig
- white (paper) birch bud tips
- manoomin—wild rice (ground up)
- gagigebag—princess pine
- jiisens ojiibik—ginseng root
- doodooshaaboojiibik
- dandelion root (coffee substitute)
- wiigob ojiibikan—basswood root (coffee substitute)

Tobacco

- nessibag aniibiishibun
- clover leaves
- doodooshaaboojiibik
- dandelion leaves
- bagaaninzh bagaan
- hazelnut leaves
- *thimbleberry leaves
- *pigweed leaves
- wiinisibag aniibiishibun
- wintergreen leaves
- apagozigun
- red willow (kinnickinnick) bark
- wiigob ojiibikan—basswood roots



Perfumes

- namewashkoons niibiishibun
- spearmint leaves
- wiingushk—sweet grass leaves

Lipstick

- bibigwemin
- elderberries (mixed with tallow)

Hair Conditioners

- waasakonek—goldenrod flowers
- sasap kwanins
- wild bergamont flowers and leaves
- wahbishkanakuk aniibiishibun
- wild sage leaves
- gizhigaans—white cedar leaves
- gibaime'nunagwus
- sweet fern leaves (keeps hair black)
- zhoominun aiyaaab—wild grape vines

Insect Repellents

- namewashkoons niibiishibun
- spearmint leaves
- *peppermint leaves
- sasap kwanins
- wild bergamont leaves
- giizhik—northern white cedar
- apagosigun nibi—red willow sap

Weaving Materials

- mats, baskets*
- apakweshkwey aninbish
- cattail leaves
- anakanaashkoon—rush leaves
- anaakanashk inaskoon
- bulrush leaves
- wiingushk—sweetgrass leaves

Packing Materials

- for berry gathering*
- waagog—ferns
- wasakamig—mosses

Dyes

- odaatagaagomin(an)
- blackberries (dark blue)
- miinan
- blueberries (dark blue, purple)
- gozigaakomin(an)
- juneberries (dark red)
- bagwaaji bagesaan
- wild plums (purple)
- bawe'imini(an)
- pin cherries (dark red)
- miskomin(an)—raspberries (pink)
- ode'imini(an)—strawberries (red)
- mushkigomin—cranberries (red)
- asawemin(an)
- choke cherries (dark red)
- bibigwemin
- elderberries (purple, red)
- zhaabomin—currants (red)
- waasakonek
- goldenrod flowers (yellow)
- *blue iris flowers (purple)
- miskondibed waabigwan
- Indian paintbrush flowers (red)
- *lily flowers (orange)
- miskwijiibik
- bloodroot (red, orange, yellow)
- waagog—ferns (green, brown)
- wasakamig—mosses (green, brown)
- *lichens (orange, purple)

Miigwech to those speakers in Mille Lacs, Minnesota and Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin for their help in providing us with the Anishinaabe names for these plants.

Disclaimer

While the list identifies those plants that can be harvested during the summer months, we strongly recommend that before you pick them, you meet with elders in your community to talk about proper ways of harvesting, times of harvesting, and proper preparation of the plant before eating it. This is important because some plants need to be harvested in certain ways to ensure that they will continue to grow, while other plants need to be properly washed and prepared prior to eating or using it. In addition, those elders can also help you in different uses of these plants.

*We have been unable to find the Anishinaabe name for plants.

Tribal elders' knowledge critical to plant grant success

In the spring of 2000 the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) received funding from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), US Department of Health and Human Services to gather plant knowledge from elders within its eleven member tribes. Specifically, GLIFWC was looking for plants used for food or utility and also information about threats to harvest areas that elders have seen in their lifetime.

The harvest calendar printed in this issue is just one of many accomplishments GLIFWC has made with the elders' help. GLIFWC would like to acknowledge those elders (listed below) and their families for all they have provided to us. The information they have given will greatly help GLIFWC and its member tribes in the preservation and protection of the natural resources. Miigwech!

Bad River Elders

Arnold Bigboy Sr.
 Pearl Bigboy
 Sylvia Cloud
 Josephine Corbine
 Clarence Crowe
 Delma Crowe
 Harold Crowe
 Jan Gangelhoff
 Darlene Kupcso
 Madeline Miller
 Robert Powless Sr.
 Joe Rose

Bay Mills Elders

Elmer Leblanc
 Sandra E. Leblanc
 William Leblanc
 Audrey Lyons
 Rebecca Munz
 Clifford Parish
 Geraldine Parish
 Irma Parrish
 Wayne Tadgerson

Fond du Lac Elders

Alvina Abromowski
 Carl Abromowski
 Gertrude Babbe
 Bonita Barney
 Fred S. Barney
 Leslie Barney
 Arnold Bassett
 Bob Bassett
 Agnes Bjonklund
 Daryold Blacketter
 Betty Burlingham
 Marilyn Carpenter
 Dorothy J. Cooley
 Joe Couture Sr.
 Sharon Cunningham
 Mary E. Davis
 Temperance E. Debe
 Charles E. Defoe
 Edward Defoe
 Geraldine L. Defoe
 Harvey Defoe
 Leroy Defoe
 Melvin L. Defoe
 Sherrill Defoe
 Carol Dentruiter
 Lucy A. Dewing
 Eleanor Diver
 Robert Diver
 Jean Dufault
 Jerry Dufault
 Roger Lee Dufault
 Vincent R. Dufault Jr.
 James Dupris Sr.
 Barney Freeman
 Kenneth Graves
 Norma R. Graves
 Florence Greensky
 Isaac Greensky
 Linda Y. Houle
 William J. Houle
 Beatrice Huie
 Jack Kari
 Eleanor M. Lafave
 Raymond J. Larson Jr.
 Richard Loons

Fond du Lac Elders cont.

Margaret Lund
 Ferdinand Martineau
 Loretta Martineau
 Delores Misquaduce
 Delia Moreland
 Wanda M. Mularie
 Majorie Nord
 Jim Northrup
 Judy Northrup
 Les Northrup
 Pat Northrup
 Margaret Ojibway
 Katherine Olson
 Holly Pellerin
 Wanda Pellerin
 Julia Reynolds
 Linda Shabaiash
 Vincent Shabaiash
 Audrey Smith
 Raymond W. Smith
 Ronald J. Smith
 Sylvia Smith
 Myrtle Soukkala
 Sharine Spears
 Phyllis M. Stott
 Anna Thompson
 Gail Thompson
 Mary Jane Thompson
 Alvina Tiessen
 Charles Tiessen
 Gayle Tiessen
 Janice Tindal
 Mary Louise
 Donald Wallace
 David White
 Corrine E. Wick
 Mark Wick
 Don Wiesen
 Randy Wise
 John A. Wood
 Dorothy Yadon

Keweenaw Bay Elders

Isabelle Chosa
 Joe Dowd
 Kelly Dowd
 Helen Erickson
 Myrtle Gauthier
 Nancy Haataja
 Evelyn Holappa
 Virgil Loonsfoot
 Beverly Lussier
 Barbara Mantila
 Lovella Wood

Lac Courte Oreilles Elders

Deanna Baker
 Patrick Baker
 Phyllis Debrot
 Sam Jocky
 Lori Merrill
 Renee Sharlow
 Rose Tainter
 Art Tainter
 Kenneth Tainter Sr.
 Teri Tainter
 Amanda Thayer



The Wild Plant/Elder Committee met at the Bad River Casino Conference Center in January. The committee is part of GLIFWC's ANA Wild Plant Grant. Pictured above are: Rose Martin, Lac Vieux Desert; Betty Martin, Lac Vieux Desert; Pete McGeshick, Jr., Mole Lake; Robert McGeshick, Sr., Mole Lake, and Sylvia Cloud, Bad River. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Lac du Flambeau Elders

William Ackley
 Marcella Beson
 George W. Brown Jr.
 Joseph Chosa
 John A. Christensen
 Donald Grey
 Leona Ledbetter
 Wayne M. Valliere
 Elizabeth Vetterneck

Lac Vieux Desert Elders

Ira A. Antone
 Ruth J. Antone
 Rena Curtiss
 Nevada Harth
 Elizabeth Martin
 Rose Martin
 Alice May
 Archie McGeshick Jr.
 Doris A. Smith
 Helen Smith
 Raymond Smith Sr.

Leech Lake/Mille Lacs Elder

James D. White Sr.

Mille Lacs Elders

Brenda Boyd
 Russell Boyd
 Helen Cummings
 Amelia Day
 Clara Jackson
 Loretta Kalk
 Betty Kegg
 Darrell M. Kegg
 Ernest L. Kegg
 Herman Kegg
 Rosalie Noonday
 Rose Noonday
 Thomas W. Olaf Sr.
 Doug Sam
 Leonard Sam
 Larry Smallwood
 Dora Thomas

Mole Lake Elders

Charles Ackley
 Charles P. Ackley
 Richard Ackley Sr.
 Evelyn Benter
 Laverne Benter
 Elaine Burnett
 Loretta Dietzler
 Joyce Einertson

Mole Lacs Elders cont.

Barbara M. Fox
 Chester Fox
 Clifford Fox
 Betty Gerow
 Velma Landru
 Connie Lang
 Albert A. McGeshick
 Albert McGeshick Jr.
 Annabelle McGeshick
 Charles P. McGeshick
 George W. McGeshick
 Jack McGeshick
 Mildred H. McGeshick
 Peter McGeshick III
 Peter McGeshick Jr.
 Ray A. McGeshick
 Roger McGeshick Sr.
 Lucille Olde
 Myra J. Pitts
 Dorothy M. Polar
 Theodore Polar
 Michael Pruell
 Maxine Trudeau
 Kathryn Tuckwub
 Lorraine VanZile
 Robert VanZile Sr.
 Tina VanZile
 Marie Vassar
 Bernice Waisen

Red Cliff Elders

Deloris Bainbridge
 Betty Bressette
 Kenneth Bressette
 Joseph Duffy
 Richard Gurnoe
 Leo LaFernier
 Frank Montano
 Midge Montano
 Madeline Schreyer

Red Lake Elder

May Jamison

St. Croix Elders

Elizabeth Dearbin
 Ruth M. Holmes
 Jean Songetay
 George Taylor
 Hildred Thomas
 Jon L. Thomas
 Betty M. Torgerud
 Joyce Troseth
 Marion Williams

White Earth/Mille Lacs Elder

Judy Toppings

New off-road vehicles debut at GLIFWC enforcement training

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Enforcing treaty hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations became an environmentally cleaner and quieter task for Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) conservation officers this past winter with the arrival of eight new snowmobiles and five all terrain vehicles (ATVs).

GLIFWC wardens broke-in the modernized off-road vehicles during their annual winter training January 30 and 31 on the Bad River Reservation.

GLIFWC Enforcement Supervisor Ken Pardun said he welcomed the arrival of the four-stroke snowmobiles for their practical applications as much as the environmental benefits they offer

through lower emissions. "Now I can spend up to eight hours on the trail during the ice fishing season, moving from lake to lake where tribal members fish, without worrying about where to find gas," said Pardun, who patrols the St. Croix area lakes of northwest Wisconsin.

The quiet-running sleds and ATVs were funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice and replace an aging fleet of noisy gas-guzzlers acquired in the early 1990s.

The Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has provided substantial allocations over the last two years enabling the GLIFWC Enforcement Division to upgrade their equipment, including cold water rescue suits, portable defibrillators, plus inland patrol boats which are expected in time for the spring fishing season.

The redesigned 2001 snowmobiles make it possible for GLIFWC officers to carry much of the new COPS equipment into the winter woods or across a frozen lake.

"My first responder bags and other gear fits in the storage area behind the seat, and I still have enough room to carry an additional passenger," said Vern Stone, Bad River area GLIFWC officer.

On thin ice

While the ceded territory experienced a good old-fashioned winter in 2000-01, the latest edition emulated recent trends toward warm temperatures and little snowfall. GLIFWC Enforcement staff was a bit surprised, nevertheless, to discover Chequamegon Bay ice conditions at Ashland so poor that part of cold-water rescue training

was cancelled. "The Xcel Energy hot pond where we usually train had no safe ice for us to operate," said Gerald White, GLIFWC Chief Warden. "This is the first time in eight years we've haven't been able to train in the water."

GLIFWC's current roster of 16 wardens—all of whom are certified in cold water rescue—were consigned to a classroom refresher conducted by Officers John Mulroy and Mike Soulier, tying knots, inspecting equipment and discussing rescue scenarios. Both GLIFWC wardens, stationed at Mole Lake and Red Cliff respectively, are certified as cold-water rescue instructors.

Although the thin ice foiled training plans on Chequamegon Bay, moderate snow cover accommodated both snowmobiles and four-wheelers, allowing GLIFWC officers to incorporate both vehicles into the terrestrial portion of the program.

Miles inland from Lake Superior in the forests of the Bad River Reservation, the wardens conducted shooting exercises under low-light conditions and trained to deal with hostile encounters that may arise during routine field checks.

Photos by:
Charlie Otto Rasmussen



Above: New snowmobiles and ATVs arrived in time for GLIFWC Enforcement Division's annual winter training at Bad River, January 30-31. The off-road patrol vehicles were funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, replacing eight snowmobiles and five ATVs that were up to ten years old.

To the right: Playing the part of a hostile hunter/recreationist, GLIFWC Enforcement Officer Chris Kessenich gets a face full of snow after a hard takedown by Mark Bresette (left) and Mike Soulier, Red Cliff area GLIFWC wardens. Kessenich set up field check exercises where GLIFWC officers trained to handle aggressive individuals who may be carrying weapons.



Michigan-based GLIFWC Wardens Tim Tilson (foreground) and Duane Parish practice using new global positioning satellite (GPS) units at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College in Ashland, Wis. Using information fed by satellites, the GPS units will help wardens navigate through deep woodlands and unfamiliar terrain, including large bodies of water like Lake Superior. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

GLIFWC adds new Mille Lacs area conservation warden



Zebulon Retka.

Odanah, Wis.—New recruit Zebulon Retka of Little Falls, Minnesota joined the GLIFWC Enforcement Division in March. A GLIFWC creel clerk at Lake Mille Lacs since 1998, Retka joins Officer Jim Mattson patrolling the 1837 Minnesota ceded territory.

Prior to his employment as a conservation warden, Retka studied natural resource management at Central Lakes Community College in Brainerd and worked on curb and gutter concrete construction. Retka said the opportunity to be a conservation warden fulfills a goal he set as a youngster. An avid fisherman on the Mississippi River, Mille Lacs, and other area lakes, Retka aspired to protect the resources he cared for and work in the outdoors.

From May to July, Retka is scheduled to complete basic recruit training at Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Retka is the father of a three-year-old son, Remington.

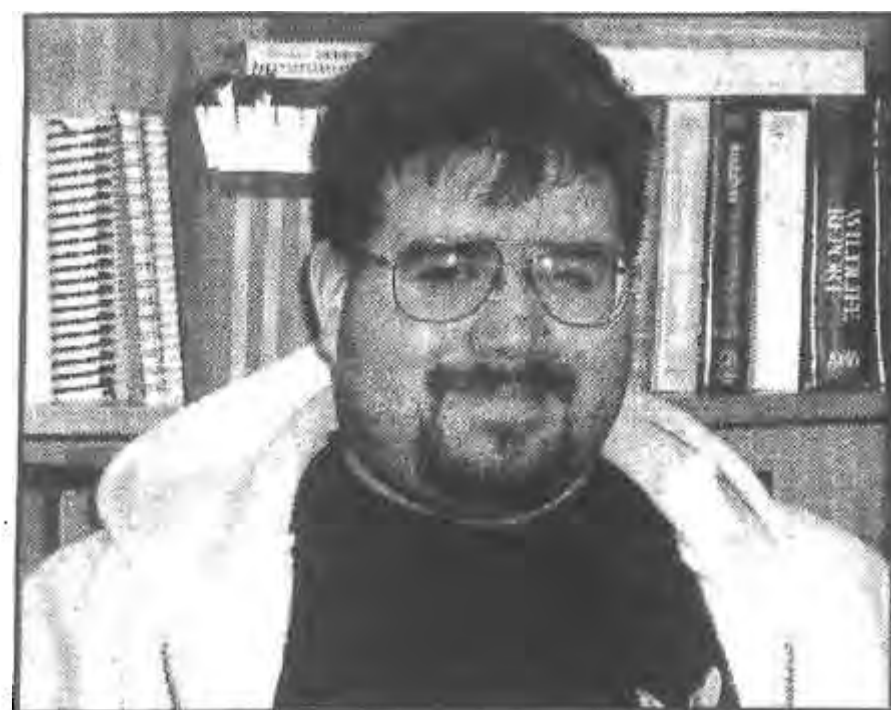
GLIFWC Board and VITF officers reinstated for 2002



GLIFWC's Board of Commissioners and Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF) both held annual elections at their January meetings and reinstated 2001 officers to serve another term. Above are Tom Maulson, Lac du Flambeau, GLIFWC Board of Commissioners and VITF chairman; Mic Isham, Lac Courte Oreilles, GLIFWC Board of Commissioners and VITF vice-chairman; and Wayne LaBine, Mole Lake/Sokaogon, GLIFWC Board of Commissioners secretary. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Kolodziejski extends work as environmental biology aid

After a brief assignment at UW-Madison's Trout Lake Station in Vilas County, Ed Kolodziejski returns to GLIFWC's home office as an environmental biology aid.



Ed Kolodziejski

Since autumn 2001, Kolodziejski has split his time working under a water quality grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) and assisting in GLIFWC's ongoing mercury testing of ceded territory walleye.

The ANA project investigates mercury levels in eight Wisconsin reservoirs operated under license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC.

Kolodziejski will collect water samples from these "FERC lakes" for analysis of mercury content.

In addition, he'll again team up with GLIFWC Environmental Biologist Kory Groetsch to collect and prepare walleye obtained from tribal fishermen for mercury testing.

Kolodziejski holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin, and plans on working toward a biochemistry Master of Science degree at UM-Duluth. He is a Bad River tribal member and outdoor enthusiast.

New faces at GLIFWC



Lynn Warren, Bad River tribal member, began a full-time position with GLIFWC on January 28 as Secretary/Litigation Support Specialist with the Division of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Prior to being hired full-time, Lynn was employed in the same position on a limited term basis. In one aspect of her position, Lynn works closely with the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF), preparing VITF minutes, agendas and coordinating meetings.

Prior to working with GLIFWC, Lynn spent twelve years with the Indian Health Service, Ashland, as a Secretary-Engineer Technician and in on-the-job training.

She has received two Associate of Arts degrees from Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College in Accounting and Business Administration/Finance. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration on-line through Franklin University, Columbus, Ohio.

Lynn and her husband, Tom, live in Mellen, Wisconsin and have two children, Jim, 20, and Jessica, 11. Lynn coaches the junior high volleyball team in Mellen and also little league softball. She also plays both softball and volleyball for recreation.



Lynn Warren

Debra Zoeller recently joined GLIFWC's staff, filling a new position as Employee Benefits Specialist. Debra began work on March 4 and will be handling human resource issues, such as insurance policies, retirement plans, and the cafeteria plan. She will also be cross-trained in handling payroll.

Debra has an Associate of Arts degree in Supervisors Management from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Green Bay and has also taken course work in payroll and accounting.

Debra moved up from the Peshtigo, Wisconsin area where she formerly worked as a production planner with ERDA Medical Services. A lay-off in the firm put her in the market for a new job.

She and her husband, Bob, decided she should look in the Ashland area where the couple has land that they hope to develop in the future. This brought her to GLIFWC's doors.

Debra and her husband have five children: Renetta Fitzer, 25; Shawn, 23; Rita, 22; Chad, 21; and Buddy, 18. They also have two grandchildren. Debra enjoys deer hunting, needlepoint, and shooting a game or two of pool on her off time.



Debra Zoeller

GLIFWC employees honored at staff day

GLIFWC staff gathered on January 29 at the Bad River Casino Conference Center for an All Staff Day, a good opportunity to catch-up on activities at the satellite offices and in the various GLIFWC divisions. Kory Groetsch, environmental biologist; Jonathan Gilbert, Wildlife Section leader; Bill Mattes, Great Lakes Section leader; and Ann McCammon Soltis, policy analyst, all gave powerpoint presentations on their current projects. The day was drawn to a close with words from Tobasonakwut Kinew, Ojibways of Onigaming,

Employees receiving 5 year pins

Miles Falck, Rick Madsen, Jenny Krueger, Kory Groetsch, Joe Dan Rose, and Karen Danielsen, Biological Services Division; Suzie Jondreau, Enforcement Division; Lee Cloud, Administration; and Charlie Rasmussen, Public Information Office

Employees receiving 10 year pins

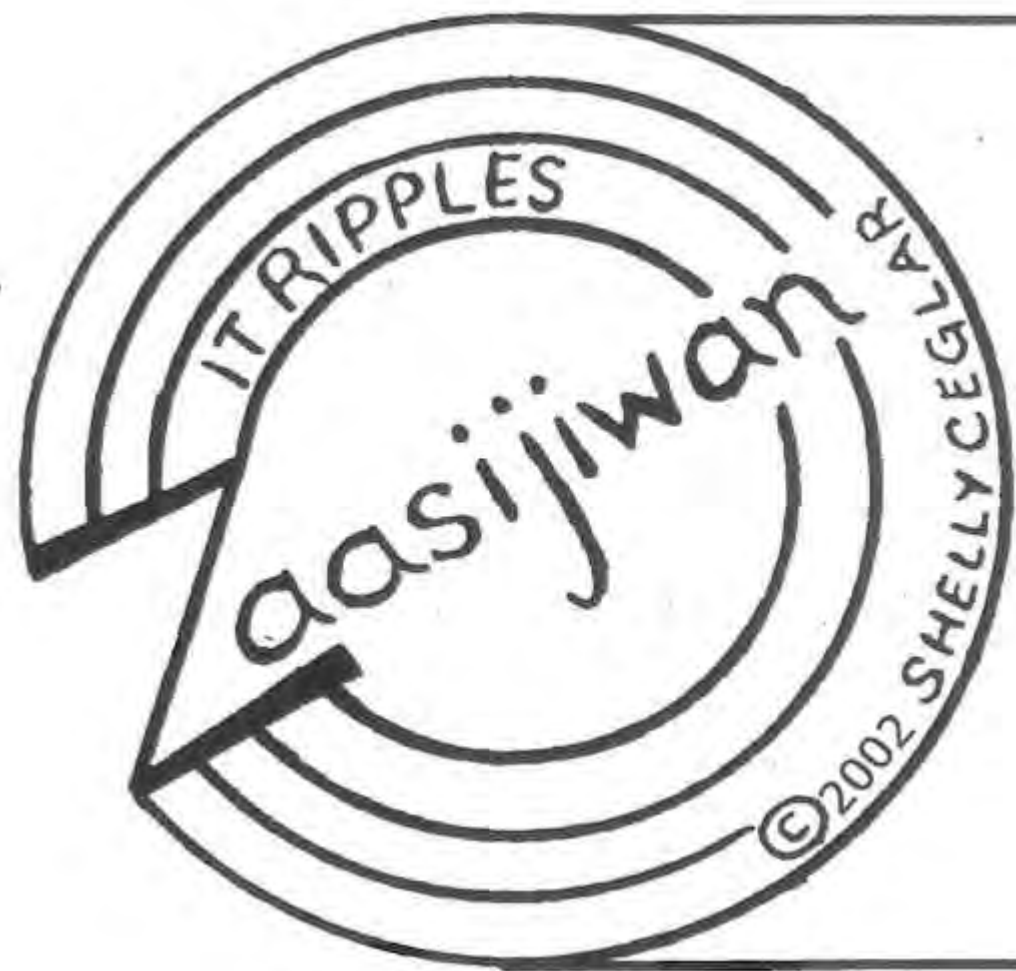
Ken Pardun, Enforcement Division

Employees receiving 15 year pins

Frank White, Enforcement Division; and James Zorn, Intergovernmental Affairs

To the right: GLIFWC Policy Analyst James Zorn accepts his fifteen-year pin and congratulations from GLIFWC Executive Administrator James Schlender during staff day. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)





Ziigwan—It Is Spring

Ziigwan, niminwendaamin omaa. Ningoding gisinaa.
Ningoding gimiwan. Ninoondaamin, animikiikaa.
Animikiig bi-izhaawag ningoding. Nimbiindaakoojigemin.
Ningoding gichi-noodin. Zaagibagaa.

(When it is spring, we are happy here. Sometimes it is cold.
Sometimes it rains. We hear it when there is thundering.
Thunderbirds they come sometimes. We offer tobacco.
Sometimes there is a big wind. There are leaves budding.)

Bezhiig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Nimaamaa—as in father

Ambe—as in jay

ziigwan—as in seen

Oodena—as in moon

—Short vowels: A, I, O

Idash—as in about

Gimiwan—as in tin

Omaa—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.

V.A.I's

Verbs which translate as "She/He does some action." Make them into commands by adding an "n" for one person, add a "g" for a command to more than one person.

Add "-daa" to say "let's all..."

Manise—S/he cuts wood.

Manisen! Daga.—Cut wood! Please.

Maniseg!—You two cut wood!

Manisedaa!—Let's all cut wood!

Zhoomiingweni.—S/he smiles.

Zhoomiingwenin!—Smile!

Zhoomiingwenig!—All of you, smile!

Zhoomiingwenidaa!—Let's all smile!

Gego zhoomiingweniken!—Don't smile!

Niizh—2

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

A. Waabang, daga giziiyaabide'og!

B. Gaye, giziibiigazhen! Izhaan! Imaa bagizowining.

C. Nimaamaa ikido, "Ambe omaa daga, binaakwe'on!"

D. Gaye ikido adoopowining, "Namadibin!" idash "Wiisinin!"

E. Nimaamaa ojaanimizi dash anokii oodenaang?

F. Nimaamaa ikido, "Gego wiikaa zaagaswaaken!"

G. "Gaye, gego biindaakweken!"

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

Niswi—3

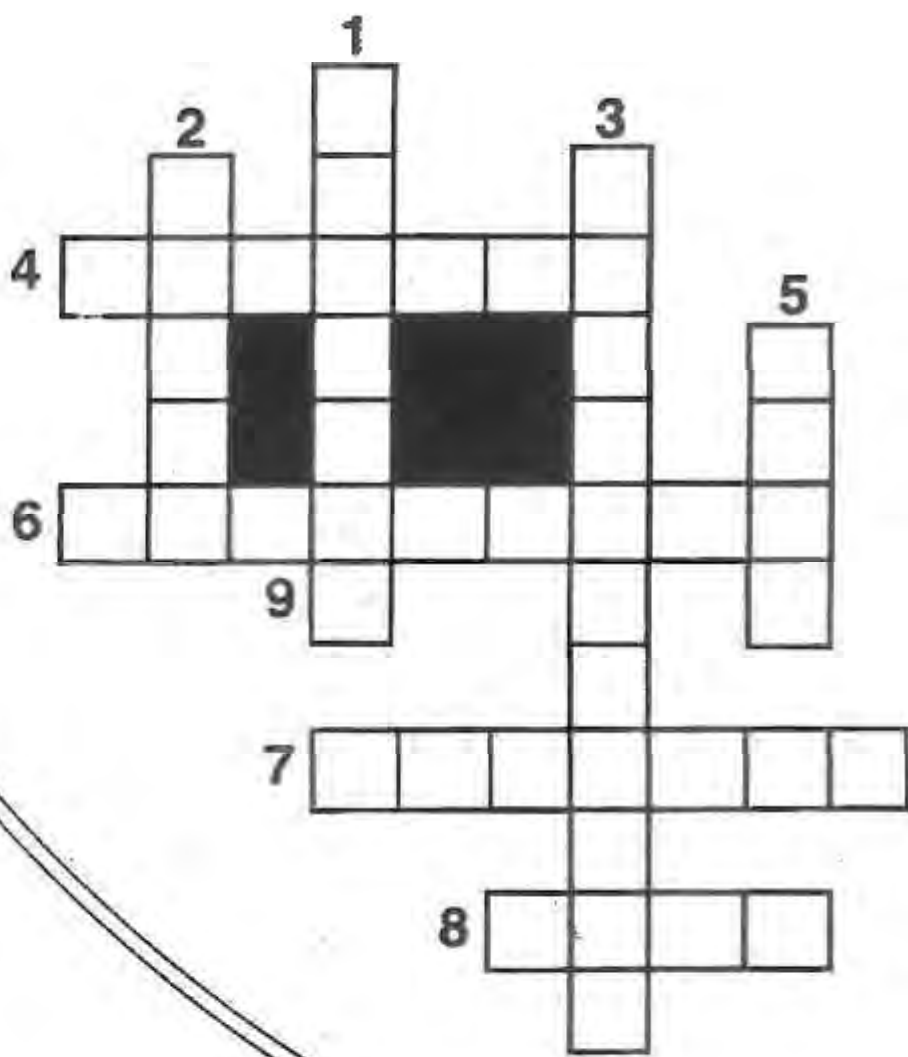
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- S/he is married.
- Big, large, great. (preverb/prenoun)
- There is thundering.
- Please.

Across:

- It is raining.
- Sometimes.
- Cut wood!
- Also.



Niiwin—4

Commands/requests

- Giboziige.—S/he bakes things.
- Gibozigen!—Bake things!
- Gibozigege!—You all bake things!
- Gibozigeadaa!—Let's all bake things!
- Gego giboziigeken!—Don't bake things!
- Wiidige.—S/he gets married.
- Wiidigen!—You get married!
- Wiidigege!—You all get married!
- Wiidigeadaa!—Let's all get married!
- Gego Wiidigecken!—Don't get married!

Goojitoon! Try it!
Translation below.

- Zhoomiingweni_____!
- Gego zaagaswaad_____!
- Daga manise_____ dash boodawe_____!
- Ambe omaa jiibaakwewigamigong. Giboziige_____!

-n
-g
-daa
-ken

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. In the morning, please you all brush your teeth! B. Also you take a bath! Go! There in the bathtub. C. My mom she says, "Come here please! Comb your hair!" D. Also she says at the table, "Sit down!" and "Eat!" E. My mom she is busy and she works in town. F. My mom says, "Don't ever smoke!" G. "Also, don't chew snuff or tobacco!"

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Wiidige. 2. Gichi-. 3. Animikiikaa. 5. Daga. Across: 4. Gimiwan. 6. Ningoding. 7. Manisen! 8. Gaye.

Niiwin—4 1. You all smile! 2. Don't smoke! 3. When she gets married, you get married! 4. Please let's all cut wood and let's all build a fire! 5. Come here in the kitchen (cooking room). You bake!

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.

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Wild faces of spring

There are many animals' faces that we don't see all winter long. We won't see them until spring, because some wild animals sleep through the cold winter months. This is called hibernation.



zhigaag (skunk)

Skunks, raccoons, bears, and bats are some animals that hibernate. Many of them snuggle up in homes called dens. Dens could be in a hollow log or a small cave. They are usually tucked away and hard to find.

Turtles and frogs, known as reptiles and amphibians, also hibernate by burrowing into the mud for the cold winter months. When the weather warms up, the animals come out of their dens, ready to enjoy the spring sun and the summer ahead. They are also usually very hungry, and start looking for food right away.

In the Ojibwe language, springtime is called ziiwan.

Here are some of the animals that hibernate. We give the Ojibwe word and the English word for these animals.

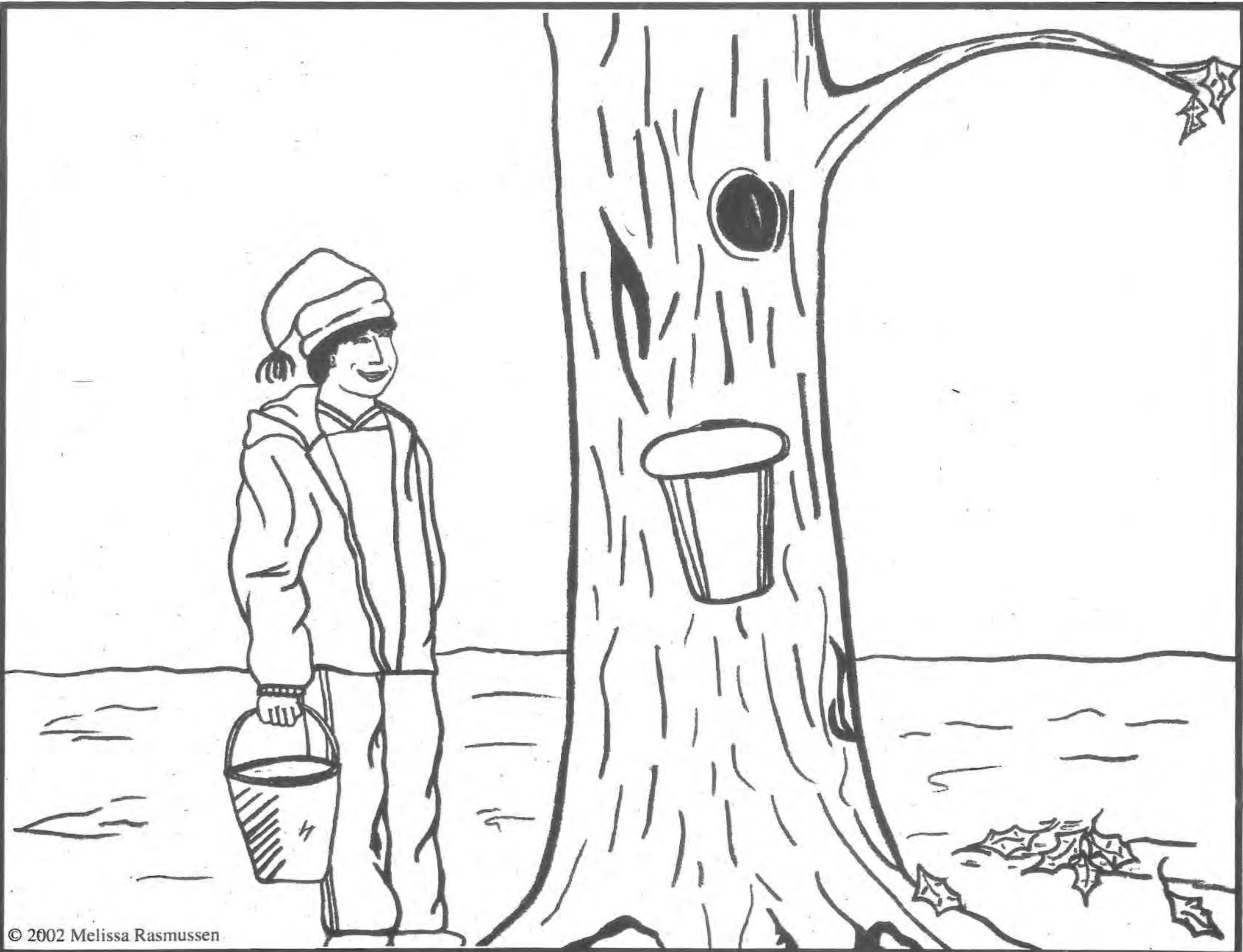


omakakii (frog)



makwa (bear)

color me—wiishkobaaboo (maple sap)



Waasa Inaabidaa... We Look In All Directions

Duluth, Minn.—Waasa Inaabidaa... We Look In All Directions is a powerful in-depth portrayal of the second largest tribe in North America: the Anishinaabe/Ojibwe (Chippewa) nation. The six-part series invites viewers through a portal of rich historical and contemporary scenes, never before seen on television, to experience Ojibwe life in the upper Great Lakes region.

Each episode will span Ojibwe culture from pre-contact to contemporary times focusing on six main themes. The series will premier beginning this March and into April on WDSE-TV Duluth/Superior public television:

- 1: **Gakina-Awiya... We Are All Related**
Relationship to the Environment
Airs March 14, 2002 at 8:30 p.m.
Repeats March 21, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.
- 2: **Gikinoo'amaadiwin... We Gain Knowledge**
Education and Family Systems
March 28, 2002
- 3: **Gaa-Miinigooyang... That Which is Given To Us**
Economic Survival
April 4, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.
- 4: **Gwayakochigewin... Making Decisions the Right Way**
Leadership and Governance
April 11, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.
- 5: **Bimaadiziwin... A Healthy Way of Life**
Health and Medicine
April 18, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.
- 6: **Ojibwemowin... Ojibwe Oral Tradition**
Language
April 25, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

This series includes over one hundred interviews with tribal elders, historians, youth, and leaders from the from the nineteen Ojibwe Bands in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Combined with three thousand archival photographs and on-camera testimonials by academic historians, this series will enthrall and educate the public about Ojibwe culture and life.

Original and historic artwork combined with dramatic re-enactment scenes will poignantly illustrate the four seasons, traditional life cycle of the Ojibwe and

the impact of the fur trade, Euro-American systems and settlement on Ojibwe culture and people through the last two centuries. Fast-paced footage shot on location will bring viewers into the dynamic activities of reservation life today with all the complex issues facing tribal communities from health care reform to affirmation of treaty rights.

As tribes re-affirm their rights in complex, highly publicized federal court cases and more and more Americans visit reservations, the general public asks basic questions: What is an Indian reservation really like? Do Indians actually own houses and land today? Why are these treaties being talked about now and why do Indians have special status with the government? What is a tribe today, etc.?

There is a basic lack of information for the general public about Native Americans and tribal nations across the country. Many believe that archaic stereotypes, racial conflicts, and adversarial roles in communities are the norm. As tribes increasingly flex their political muscle and grow economically, this information and understanding are vitally important to the public so that the much needed growth and evolution of tribal nations can go on with peace and dignity for the benefit of all Americans.

Only by examining one tribal nation in depth, listening to the voices of parents, nurses, teachers, leaders, and kids, can we begin to comprehend and embrace what a tribe is today and why the present remarkable and unique design of tribal reservations reflect the external pressures of the past and hold insights relevant for every American's future.

This is not just an Ojibwe story; it is an American story of adaptation and survival, desperation and ingenuity, bitter betrayals and stunning victories. Only by examining the past of tribal nations can viewers understand tribes today. Though uniquely rooted in the Great Lakes region, Ojibwe history and contemporary lifestyle parallel other tribal nations throughout the United States.

Filmed on location in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, the six hour-long episodes include 135 personal interviews from 19 Ojibwe reservations. Dramatic re-enactment, animation, archival photos/film, historic documents,

and contemporary reservation scenes will tell a powerful story through a chronological arc.

Dynamic outreach components will include teacher's guides for each episode, a website and a companion book (published by Afton Historical Society), and written by Ojibwe author Dr. Thomas Peacock and photo editor Marlene Wisuri.



Mrs. Joseph (Netamop—Sitting Alone) and Elmer Sprinkett, Sugar Island, 1909. (Photo courtesy of WDSE-TV)

Bad River language program yields “Wisconsin Ojibwe” dictionary

Plans for future Ojibwemowin learning opportunities

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—As late as the 1940s, Indian students overheard speaking Ojibwemowin (the Ojibwe language) were dealt with severely by their instructors. Many young Ojibwe taken from their homes and placed in government boarding schools around the turn of the century literally had their language beaten out of them.

Times have changed. With help from elders who retained the language, tribes across Ojibwe Country are promoting Ojibwemowin, and in some cases, developing instructional guides unique to specific regions. The latest contribution, *A Dictionary of Wisconsin Ojibwe for the Beginner*, was produced by the Bad River Education Department with assistance from an Administration for Native Americans grant.

“Each band tends to have the same basic language, but there are differences in things like pronunciation, spelling, and colloquialisms that set them apart,” said Dana Jackson, Bad River Education Director. “You can liken it to a person from New Jersey talking with someone from Texas. They’re speaking the same language, but may have difficulty understanding each other.”

A Dictionary of Wisconsin Ojibwe contains colloquialisms—or local slang terms—from Ojibwe communities across the state, Jackson said. The introduction includes a pronunciation key and spells out how to conjugate verbs. Plus, the large-print and generous spacing make for easy reading.

Publication of the 340-page dictionary is part of a larger project designed to increase the number of

language speakers on reservations and surrounding communities. Jackson is developing a curriculum for teachers interested in incorporating Ojibwemowin into lesson plans.

In addition, he plans on producing videos narrated in Ojibwemowin that highlight traditional seasonal activities.

“The idea is to have an Ojibwe speaker explain something like how wild rice is gathered, the process, the things needed to make rice,” Jackson said. “The best, most natural way to learn is to hear the language uninterrupted by translation while seeing the action and seeing or touching the tools.”

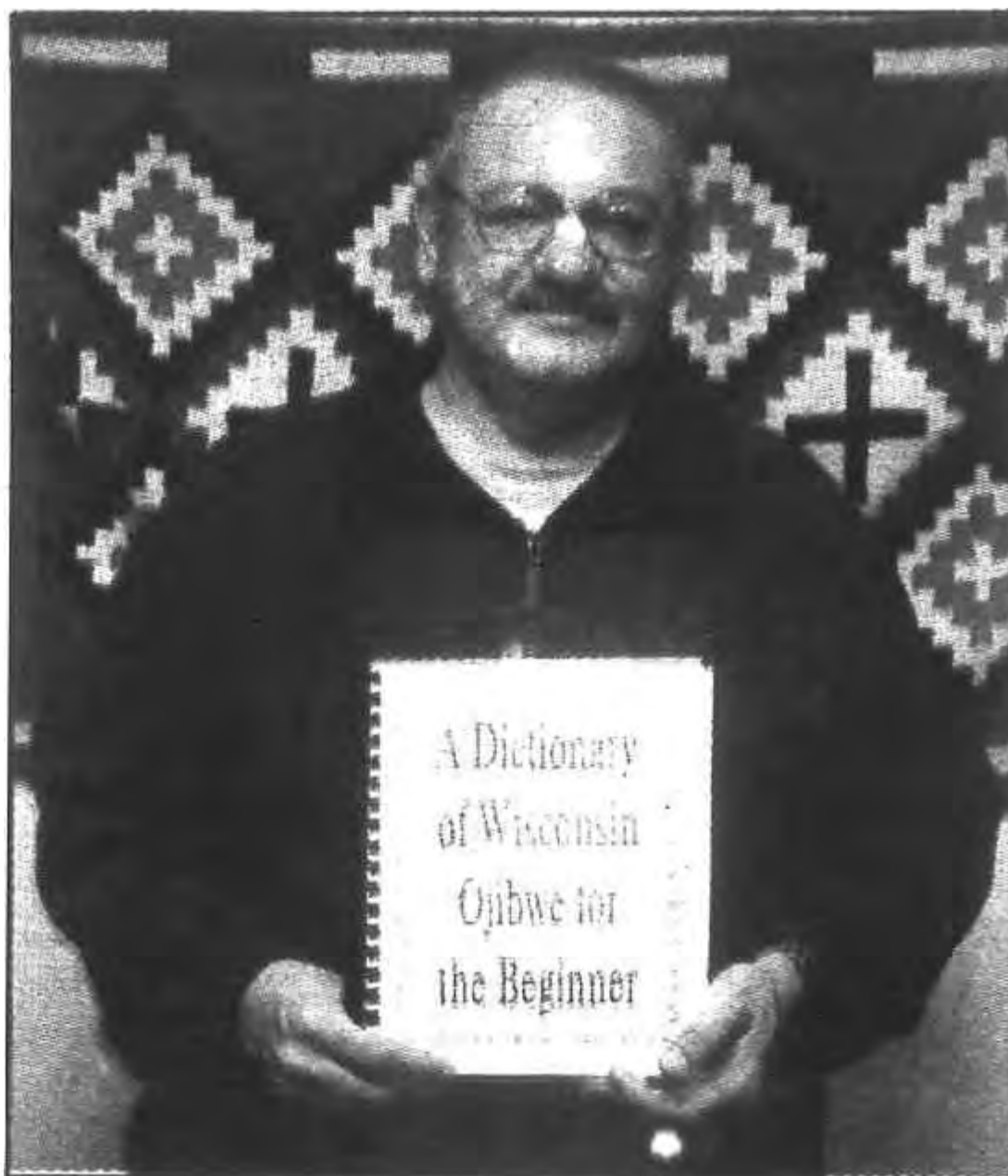
Odanah-area residents and workers will have the opportunity to ease into Ojibwemowin this spring during short daily meetings where people can listen to and practice speaking the language.

The informal sessions will run around 15 minutes long and are designed to attract tribal employees during their break time.

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend, Jackson said, and multiple meetings may be scheduled at the Chief Blackbird Center, Bad River Community Center, and Bad River Casino.

“Ultimately, we hope to end up with a lot of capable speakers. I’ve been told by elders that many years ago people in this area commonly spoke French, English, and even Finnish to go along with Ojibwe. Just about everyone around was multi-lingual. It will be good to get back that way again,” Jackson said.

For more information on the Bad River Education Department’s language program or to order *A Dictionary of Wisconsin Ojibwe for the Beginner*, call (715) 682-7111, ext. 114. □



Dana Jackson, Bad River Education Director.



Bands declare lakes for 2002 spring season

In Wisconsin the Red Cliff, Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake/Sokaogon, and St. Croix bands declared walleye and muskellunge harvest in 299 lakes within the treaty ceded territory. From a total combined safe harvest figure of 76,602 fish, the bands declared 48,776 walleye for the 2002 spring season.

Lakes were also declared for muskellunge. The combined muskellunge declarations is for 1,555 muskellunge from a safe harvest total of 2,955.

In 2001, the bands declared 45,321 walleye and harvested a total of 22,999 from 149 lakes. The 2001 walleye harvest in Wisconsin represented a total of 51% of the declaration.

The 2001 muskellunge harvest totaled 233 muskellunge or 15% of the declaration.

GLIFWC fisheries assessment crews prepare for a busy spring

By Joe Dan Rose, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Biologist

Minnesota

In the spring of 2002, GLIFWC fisheries assessment crews will join crews from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), the Fond du Lac Band (FDL), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to capture, tag, and release up to 40,000 adult walleye in Mille Lacs Lake.

GLIFWC electrofishing crews also plan to conduct an initial recapture survey shortly after tagging is completed and a post-spawning juvenile walleye survey in Mille Lacs Lake later this spring.

Michigan

GLIFWC fisheries assessment crews will conduct a spring adult walleye population estimate on Parent Lake (182 acres) in Baraga County, Michigan.

Wisconsin

GLIFWC fisheries assessment crews will conduct spring adult walleye population estimates on the following lakes in Wisconsin. Lakes marked with an asterisk are GLIFWC long-term study lakes.

- Siskiwit Lake* (Bayfield Co.) 330 acres
- Butternut Lake* (Forest Co.) 1292 acres
- Jungle Lake (Forest Co.) 182 acres
- Lily Lake (Forest Co.) 211 acres
- Bearskin Lake* (Oneida Co.) 400 acres
- Tomahawk Lake (Oneida Co.) 3,392 acres
- Squirrel Lake* (Oneida Co.) 1317 acres
- Annabelle Lake* (Vilas Co.) 213 acres
- Kentuck Lake* (Vilas Co.) 957 acres
- North Twin Lake (Vilas Co.) 2,788 acres
- Sherman Lake* (Vilas Co.) 123 acres
- Squaw Lake* (Vilas Co.) 785 acres
- Bass-Patterson Lake* (Washburn Co.) 188 acres

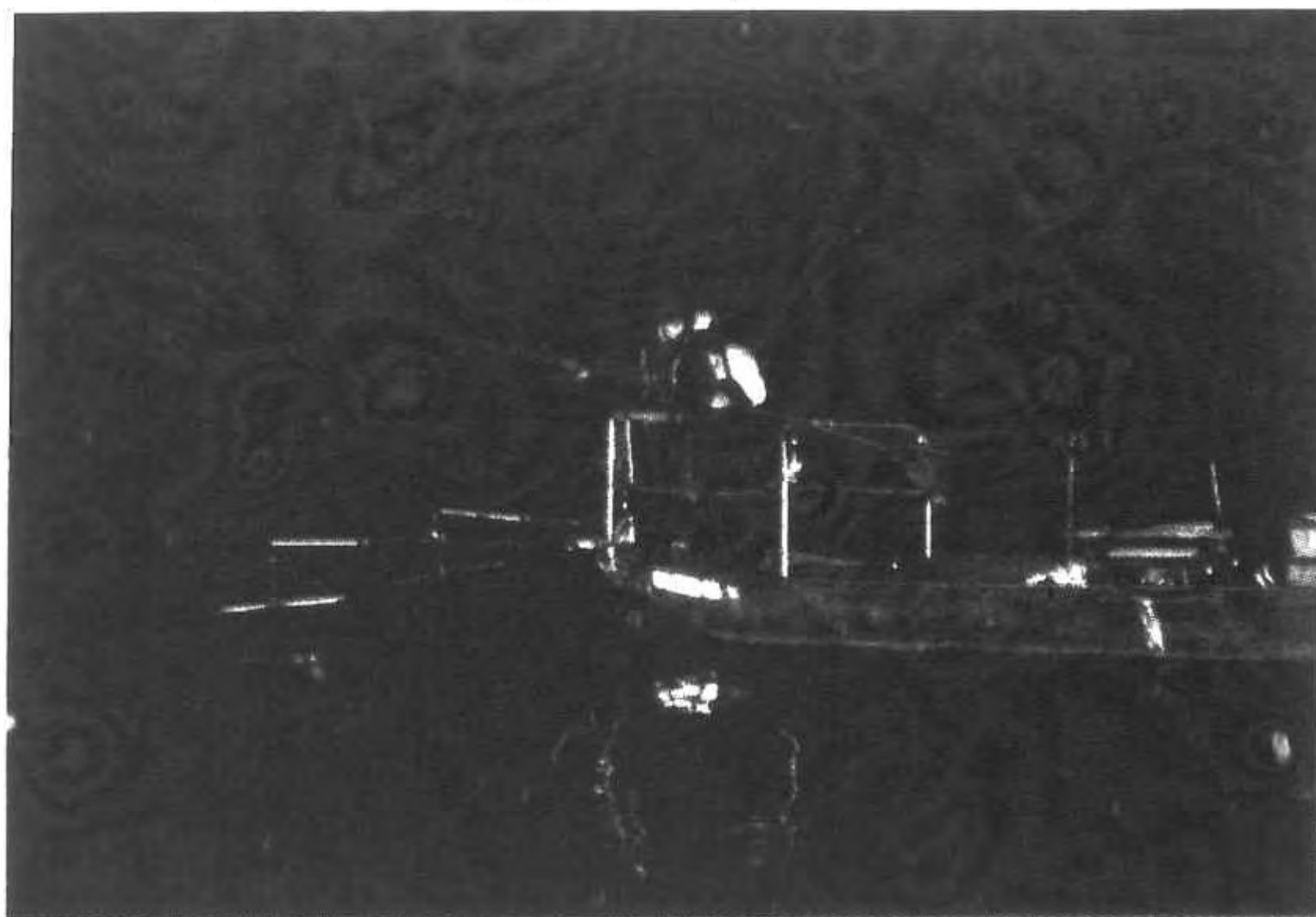
Spring adult walleye population estimates are optional for the following Wisconsin lakes and may be conducted if time and scheduling constraints permit.

- Nelson Lake (Sawyer Co.) 2,503 acres
- Big St. Germaine Lake (Vilas Co.) 1,617 acres

Also, spring adult walleye length-frequency surveys may be conducted in the following Wisconsin lakes if time and scheduling constraints permit.

- Prairie Lake (Barron Co.) 1,534 acres
- Holcombe Flowage (Chippewa Co.) 3,890 acres
- Tainter Lake (Dunn Co.) 1,752 acres
- Pickerel Lake (Langlade Co.) 1,299 acres
- Alice Lake (Lincoln Co.) 1,369 acres
- Rhineland Flowage (Oneida Co.) 1,326 acres
- Thunder Lake (Oneida Co.) 1,768 acres
- Dairyland Reservoir (Rusk Co.) 1,745 acres
- Minong Flowage (Washburn Co.) 1,564 acres

A post-spawning electrofishing survey for juvenile walleye is planned for Kentuck Lake. A summer fyke-netting survey is also planned for Kentuck Lake.



A St. Croix tribal electrofishing crew traces the shoreline of the Chippewa Flowage. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

No stocking slated for Kentuck Lake in 2002

By Joe Dan Rose, GLIFWC Inland Fisheries Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—GLIFWC is not planning to coordinate the stocking of any walleye into Kentuck Lake in 2002 due to the evidence of natural reproduction that occurred in 2001.

Age 0 walleye were found during the fall walleye recruitment survey completed on September 10, 2001, a year in which there was no stocking. This is the first year since 1987 that Age 0 walleye were observed in a year when walleye had not been stocked.

Also, there appears to be two fairly strong year classes of walleye, the re-

sult of stocking in 1999 and 2000, which are just becoming mature. The influx of young adult walleye should improve the success of natural reproduction during the spring of 2002.

The fish community structure in Kentuck Lake will continue to be closely monitored by GLIFWC in 2002 with: 1) a spring adult walleye population estimate, 2) a post-spawn juvenile walleye survey, 3) a summer fyke-net survey, and 4) a fall walleye recruitment survey.

Upon review of these survey results, a decision will be made whether or not to stock walleye in Kentuck Lake during 2003.



Ed White, inland fisheries technician, takes a measurement from a muskellunge during spring assessments.

WDNR issues Shell Lake water diversion EA

Suggests impacts minor—does not intend to require EIS

By Peter David, GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—Folks in the City of Shell Lake are starting to take up sides. To pump or not to pump, that is the question.

The saga of Shell Lake is a classic example of what happens when humans ignore, or are ignorant of, the forces of the natural environment around them.

At roughly 2,600 acres, Shell Lake—the lake—has the unique distinction of being the largest land-locked lake in the state of Wisconsin. Shell Lake—the community—rings its 10 miles of shoreline with its populace of roughly 12,000, for it is a beautiful lake to be near. Just not too near.

As a land-locked lake, with no river or stream to drain it, Shell Lake tends to behave a little unpredictably. Over time, time measured not only in days but decades and centuries, the level of Shell Lake tends to move up or down, influenced primarily by precipitation, local run-off, and ground water levels. When measured over decades this fluctuation can be significant, in the magnitude of 12-18 feet.

That kind of variation has long been a source of consternation to those who have chosen to build their homes—and currently there are 365 such structures—on its shores; at least to those who built on the flatter shorelines of the lake. That kind of variation can give or take away deep backyards; it can leave permanently set docks high and dry, or turn them into submersed fish structures.

And so over time the local folks have attempted to alter the natural functioning of the lake's ecosystem. After relatively (though not maximally) high water levels a century ago, the lake plunged 13 feet between 1917 and 1936, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) Environmental Assessment (EA).

In the relatively low water years in the 30's and 40's, efforts were made to bring water into the lake from the Welsh Lake area and the Clam River basin. (It is not clear from the EA whether these diversions have been rendered fully inoperable today.) From 1937 to 1977, the lake's variation was limited to 5 feet or



Aaron VanZile harvests manoomin (wild rice) in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Wild rice remains an important traditional food for the Ojibwe today, and GLIFWC is committed to protecting and enhancing wild rice on behalf of its member tribes. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

less, and showed no strong overall trend. Houses continued to be built around the lake.

In 1977, an "Administrative" ordinary high water level was set at 1219.7 feet MSL (mean sea level), in apparent disregard for levels around the turn of the century that exceeded 1228 feet. It appears that Ma Nature may have felt that action was little arrogant, for the lake started marching upwards, reaching levels near 1222 feet from 1984-1986.

In 1994 a new Administrative high water level was set at 1221.8, and by 2001 the lake responded by reaching its highest level in 7 decades, peaking at 1223.5 feet. Homes that were built without regard to the historic behavior of this lake now had water lapping at the door—the front door.

And so a proposal was developed to once again tame the irresponsible nature of the lake. If the Creator didn't provide an outlet to Shell Lake, the city would. It proposes to build a 4.4 mile, 30 inch diameter pipe, to spill the "excess" water from Shell Lake into the Yellow River at a rate of 9000 gallons a minute until the lake drops to a comfortable 1220.2 feet MSL.

The WDNR, in its EA, concluded this action is not likely to cause significant adverse effects, and it is not intending to require the more intensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be completed. However, the EA also leaves a number of questions unanswered, and that has both some local residents and others questioning whether it is appropriate for this project to proceed.

Obviously, this diversion will have ecological effects not only on Shell Lake, but on the Yellow River, and all the lakes and wetlands it flows through, including Rice Lake and Yellow Lake. And many of these effects are difficult to predict, as the EA admits. For GLIFWC's member tribes, many concerns remain about the effects of the proposed diversion on the Shell Lake fishery, about the rice beds along the Yellow River watershed, and about the other components of the ecosystems involved.

At this time GLIFWC has not taken a formal stand on the diversion, waiting until the Voigt Intertribal Task Force has had an opportunity to discuss the matter directly with WDNR staff, as is required by the stipulations of the Voigt litigation. In the mean time, GLIFWC is preparing a list of questions for those discussions.

It is a growing list. There are questions about the appropriateness of the legally established ordinary high water level for this lake; questions about whether this proposal is capable of "solving" the problem it is intended to address; questions about why the pipe's capacity is double what the city says it is intending to divert; questions about the timing and extent of the diversion and the effects it will have on wild rice beds on the river; questions about how this diversion might effect mercury levels in the fish of the lake or river; questions about how this diversion could cause future low water years to be even lower; questions about how humans contributed to the creation of this "problem" and questions about possible alternative ways of solving it.

The below-normal precipitation that has come this winter to northern Wisconsin may have been fortuitous to the low-lying residents on the shores of Shell Lake, dampening the usual spring bounce in water levels they might otherwise witness.

For until these and other questions are answered, the lake will continue to behave as it always has, rising and falling with the rain and snow melt, with the level of the ground water and the intensity of the summer sun, blissfully ignorant of the controversy with which its involved.

GLIFWC and Canadian Ojibwe call for Indian Nations to become involved in protecting Lake Superior

Both the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and the Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resource Council (AKRC), representing six Canadian Ojibwe bands, passed a resolution calling on Indian Nations potentially affected by diversion of water from Lake Superior to participate in the effort to protect the lake and its watershed.

GLIFWC and the AKRC signed the Anishinaabe Akii Protocol in 1998, which committed them to work together towards the conservation of natural resources within traditional Ojibwe territories in both the U.S. and Canada. Now, they are concerned about the adverse consequences that will result from the removal or export of water from the Lake Superior basin.

The resolution states that the "Governors of the eight Great Lakes States and the Canadian premiers of Ontario and Quebec recently approved an Annex to the Great Lakes Charter which contains directives related to the development of substantive standards to govern withdrawals of water from the Great Lakes..."

GLIFWC and AKRC believe that it is important that tribes be involved in the development of such standards, resolving that:

"The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and the Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resource Council call on all Indian Nations having an interest in the Great Lakes watershed to become involved in the international efforts to protect the lands, waters and natural resources of the Great Lakes basin from the harms that would be caused by the withdrawal or export of surface water or groundwater from the basin; and that

"the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resource Council urge federal, state and provincial government to fully integrate all affected Indian Nations and their properly authorized agencies into all processes and decisions regarding the development and implementation of agencies into all processes and decisions regarding the development and implementation of the standards that will govern Great Lakes water withdrawals or exports."

Wisconsin plans mute swan control—maybe...

Odanah, Wis.—In an action that was hailed as a victory by many natural resource organizations, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board recently voted 6-1 in favor of a plan to control mute swans in the state.

Why is it that groups as diverse as the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, the Migratory Committee of the Conservation Congress, and the Voigt Intertribal Task Force of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) joined ranks in encouraging control of this species of swan?

The mute swan is beautiful, graceful, and...an exotic species native to Eurasia.

Mutes have been a growing concern throughout the county, as populations in many areas have displayed a propensity for rapid expansion. This has, or could cause, a variety of problems for native species of wildlife. Some states, including Wisconsin, are actively trying to restore populations of the native trumpeter swan.

Mutes can compete with trumpeters for potential breeding sites and other resources. Mutes also compete with other native species, including loons, ducks, geese, colonial waterbirds, and

migrant tundra swans; they have even been known to displace or kill other waterfowl species that have entered their nesting areas. Mutes also appear to have greater impact on the beds of native aquatic plants upon which they feed than the native species. Finally, they have been known to become quite aggressive to people under some circumstances.

Of course, these attributes are not widely known by the general public, who tend to respond more to the beauty of these birds than to the ecological issues that are associated with them. Members of the human community often adopt mutes in areas where they become established.

This led the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Natural Resources Board to leave an area loophole in the control policy that was adopted. Although the general policy directs the WDNR "to remove all wild mute swans from the state," this policy will not be enforced in the townships of Waterford and Rochester, Racine County, because of the "close and long-term relationship some of the local residents of these townships have had with mute swans."

There are a few loopholes to the loophole. Mutes in the area could be controlled if they interfere with any trumpeter swans that might move into the area; they will still be controlled within the boundaries of state-owned lands, and private landowners, local

governments and lake associations could still request a permit to control nuisance mute swans.

The policy will be in effect for three years, at which time it will be evaluated.

Despite the loophole, many conservation organizations were pleased with the Board's action. As GLIFWC noted in its comments, the time to begin an effective mute swan control program is now, while the state population is still controllable. States, which waited too long, now find they have a problem that is largely beyond any cost-effective level of control. In Wisconsin, that could create a serious threat to the successful trumpeter swan restoration effort.

Despite the Board's action, however, the control of mute swans in the state is not unclouded. A recent United States Court of Appeals case (*Joyce M. Hill v. Gale A. Norton, Secretary, United States Department of the Interior, et al.*) ruled that mute swans are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty.

This rather curious decision, that the treaty applies to an exotic species, stems from the fact that the treaty, signed in 1918 when mutes in North America were largely limited to private collections, used the general term "swan" when defining migratory birds, instead of listing particular species. How that decision will play out in the control of various states' efforts to control this exotic species remains to be seen. □



A mute swan graces the waters of Chequamegon Bay. Although beautiful, the mute is an exotic species imported from Eurasia, and some wildlife managers believe the mute adversely impact the native trumpeter swan. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Articles by Peter David,
GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

WDNR preparing wolf control guidelines

For the first time since 1959, when the last of Wisconsin's original wolf population was believed to have been killed, the state is on the verge of having its wolf population federally down-listed from endangered to threatened. This action, which is expected by early summer, is stirring action and re-action among state biologists and the public.

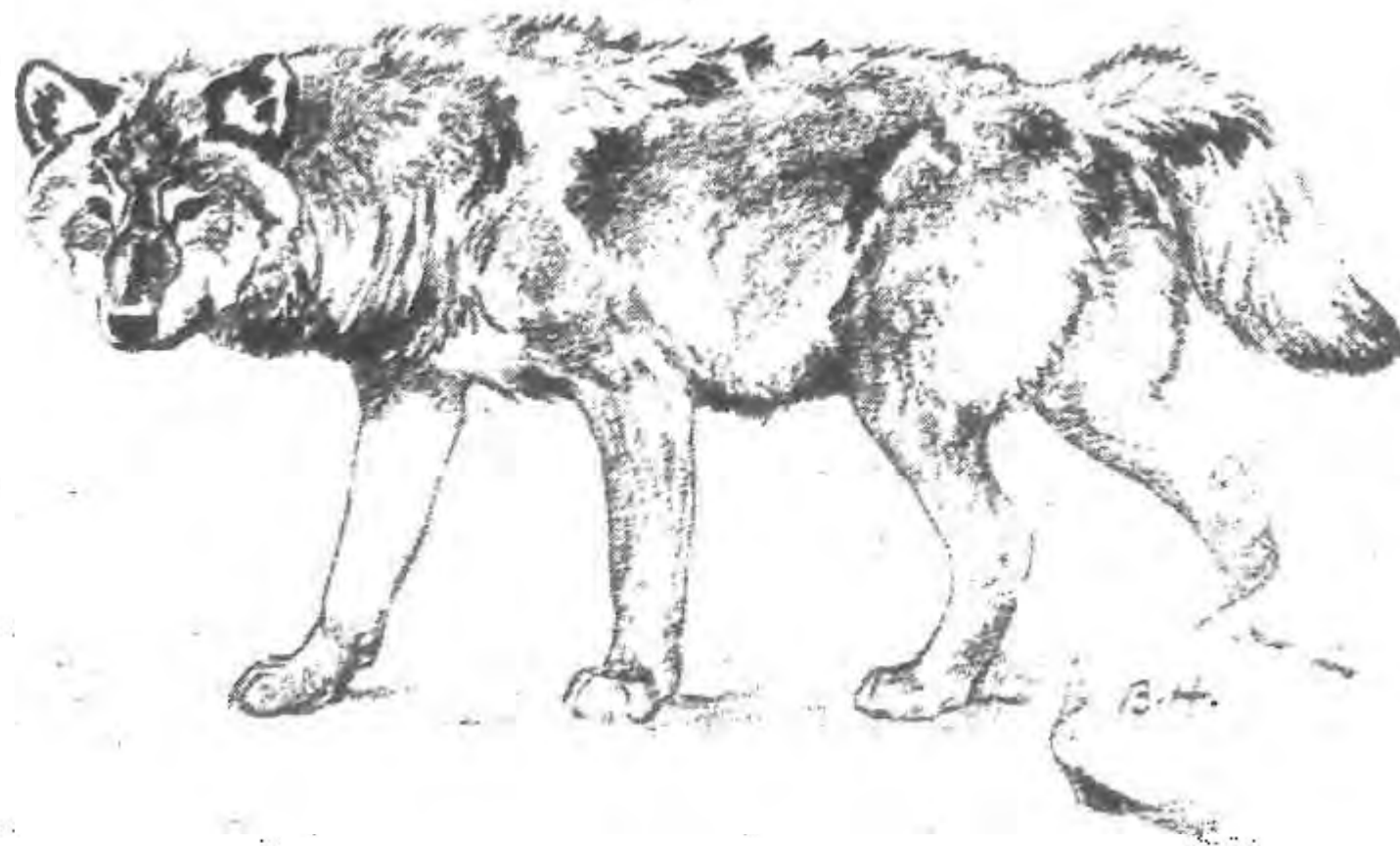
At the late January meeting of Wisconsin's Wolf Technical Advisory Committee, and in many editorials in Wisconsin's papers since, the public is expressing its feelings about the presence of the 250+ wolves currently residing in the state. They have covered the gamut of perspectives, from touting maintenance of a high level of legal protection, to flatly stating that there is simply no room in this state for wolves anymore.

One of the most significant effects of the pending down-listing is that it will allow the states and the tribes the option of utilizing lethal control on wolves that are causing depredation. The Wolf Technical Advisory Committee, in which the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) participates, now faces the task of developing the guidelines for implementing a lethal control program.

"Whoa! Hold on here a minute" you might say. "Before you go deciding HOW you are going to do this, how about discussing IF you should do it?"

Good question. GLIFWC has supported the implementation of a carefully regulated lethal control program in Wisconsin following down-listing. Given the small population of wolves in the state, and the tremendous significance of ma'iingan to the Ojibwa, it was not an easily reached position. However, we feel it is the right decision for the following reasons:

First of all, depredation appears to be a learned behavior that once established, is difficult to break. In other words, a wolf that has learned to prey on livestock is likely to do it again, even if that animal is translocated to another area.



Live trapping and translocating wolves has other problems associated with it as well, as we have witnessed in the state in recent years. Currently, with wolves still listed as endangered, the state and the tribes do not have the authority to kill depredating wolves. As a result, when depredation was confirmed at a location, the only choice was to live trap the animal and move it.

These wolves have not survived well, for a variety of reasons. First, it is difficult to throw an animal into new and unfamiliar territory. Secondly, good release sites, without existing wolf packs, are becoming rarer as the state population has expanded. Finally, the translocated animal is likely to repeat the negative behavior at the new site that led to it being moved in the first place. All in all, although this strategy may sound appealing, it just hasn't worked very well.

There is also growing evidence that some persecution of wolves helps to keep wolves...., well, wild. Where persecution is completely absent, wolves tend to become unwary of people, even brazen.

Two Norwegian biologists, who recently completed a review of wolf attacks on humans (going back as far as 1557) reached several interesting conclusions. Although people's fear of wolves often seems to greatly exceed their actual risk of

attack from the animals—which is very small—human attacks are more likely to occur when wolves lose their fear of humans. Thus, the researchers felt strongly that it is important to keep wolves wild.

Finally, lethal control has been supported, if somewhat grudgingly, because it can be a very useful way of gaining wider public support for the presence of wolves in the state.

When people are experiencing depredations, (and these depredations are confirmed by trained biological staff as actually being caused by wolves), they feel a great need to have some effective way of dealing with the situation. Carefully regulated lethal control can provide that tool. And we know from Minnesota, where lethal control on their larger, down-listed population has been going on for over 15 years, wolf (See Wolf, page 22)

A swan song for Canada yew?

By Dr. James Meeker
Associate Professor, Northland College

There is a 10 acre stand of hardwoods in our south 40 that is dominated by 70-80 year old red maples. The area is poorly drained and "hummocky," to the point that it's hard to walk there in the spring without getting wet.

With some detective work, Northland students and I have determined that it previously had a considerable white cedar component. Charred cedar stumps tell the story of fire in this wet area after the initial logging. It is amazing how widespread the cut-over fires were. When old stumps are still recognizable, it is seldom when we don't see signs of fire.

Although there is not much hemlock in this location today, remaining white cedar stands in other parts of the northern landscape tell us that hemlock and yellow birch were likely to have also been present at the margins. A closer inspection of our red maple "swamp" revealed a few small sprigs of Canada yew near the perimeter of the stand, in slightly better drained locations, none of which protrude out of the snow. There have been better times for this once common shrub.

Canada yew, or ne'bagandag' in Ojibwemowin, is an understory evergreen shrub and a good example of a species that was much more common on the landscape prior to early logging.

It is a spreading, long-lived, but slow growing shrub that is quite shade tolerant. It is apparent that yew has experienced local extinctions in many areas across our northern landscape. Canada yew is related to the Pacific yew, which is known for its medicinal properties. However, it shares with white cedar the characteristic of being very sought after by white-tailed deer (and is often appropriately called deer candy).

Ecologists in the 1930s and 1940s with names like Curtis and Leopold talked about the demise of this once ubiquitous evergreen shrub, and I have reminded readers previously of its literal translation from Ojibwemowin, suggesting it was once found everywhere. The cut-over fires supplied the first hit on this once common shrub. For example, several researchers have showed that yew is very uncommon inside the boundaries of the 1871 Peshtigo fire, which covered a large area in northeastern Wisconsin.

One of the few areas where Canada yew still retains its former dominance is on the Apostle Islands National Park. Here one can see the interaction among deer (or their absence), logging, and fire, and how these factors influence the



Dr. James Meeker

present day distribution of yew. Some of the small, far islands such as Raspberry, Twin and Devils do not have a significant fire, deer browse, or logging history. Yew growth on these sites is an amazing, awe-inspiring experience (until one tries to walk through it, and the impression changes somewhat).

Our studies with the Park Service indicate that yew cover runs 60-70 percent of the ground surface in many cases and grows to heights exceeding 8 feet tall. The abundance of Canada yew at Outer Island, though less dramatic than described above, is telling.

Outer Island is much larger than the three previously mentioned islands and it experienced a major post-logging fire in the 1930s that left the southern half of the island in a "smoldering ruin" (according to a visiting dignitary whose comments may have delayed the conversion of this area to a National Park by 40 years!). Here Canada yew survives in scattered colonies, never greater than waist high.

Much of the northern half of Outer was logged but did not burn (logging continued up to the 1950s), and here, even with extensive select cut logging, yew apparently increased in its original cover. All this, mind you, is in the absence of deer, setting it apart from much of the mainland experience. So the Apostle Islands example shows, indeed, that yew is

fire-sensitive, yet in the absence of deer is able to recover from severe select cut logging. (The logging was essentially high grading, or merely taking the best logs without much of a view to the future).

Although mainland yew never recovered from the cut-over fires, and is nowhere as thick as the Apostle examples, up until about a decade ago, scattered remnant yew patches were fairly easy to find. One could see that yew distribution was governed both by the behavior of the cut-over fires and low winter deer numbers.

As I suggested above, yew survived outside the areas that experienced the severe fires. In our region, up to 10 to 20 years ago, we could find extensive Canada yew in the rugged higher elevation parts of the Penokee and Gogebic hills, areas where the advances of the cut-over fires were broken up by the topography.

There were also some instances where yew survived in river bottoms, again protected from fire. We happened to have had a healthy example of remnant yew on our property, what I used to call the pride of Gurney, Wisconsin. These remnant yew patches, in addition to benefiting from some natural fire protection, either: 1) received high snow levels and hence few deer in the winter; 2) were relatively inaccessible to deer (e.g., steep-sided ravines); or 3) had a relatively aggressive local hunting populace that didn't always adhere to the official calendar.

That was then. Within the last decade, however, back-to-back low snow years, accompanied by warmer temperatures encouraged deer numbers to increase even in areas that had experienced low winter populations (and out-of season hunters faced fines greater than those that drive drunk). As a result, areas that normally had not experienced heavy winter deer browse (on Canada yew, and other conifers like white cedar and hemlock), saw a considerable browse effect.

How important are these "anomalous years" for the growth of Canada yew? Since it seldom, if ever, gets out of the deer susceptibility range, Canada yew had been kept trimmed back even in the old weather regime (inferred by the lack of expansion or recovery of yew even in low deer areas). It simply does not have a chance today.

So, a few of us have created museum pieces, or deer exclosures, as a means of protecting a few square feet of the former healthy yew remnants. The story is the same throughout our region. Where up to decade ago, field people could point you to thick Canada yew in select areas in the Penokees and river bottoms, all that remains are a few stripped branches and small patches of green 6-10 inches above the ground.

While some of us are saddened by this loss, those who want a deer behind every bush, for ease of hunt or economic benefit, appear unmoved. Conservation biologists have suggested many ideas that may offer some help for browse-sensitive conifers, but so far, the agencies have been unable to act. It is a shame that it may take an epidemic of "deer wasting disease" to deal with the problems.

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



Ne'bagandag', Canada yew, is a favorite browse of deer. The needles and seeds contain poisonous alkaloids to humans. It is found in swampy woods, along banks and ravines, and in mixed or coniferous woods, along with hemlock, white pine, fir, cedar, sugar maple, and yellow birch. (Photographed by Elizabeth Pamis, courtesy of Wisconsin State Herbarium: University of Wisconsin-Madison.)

Wolf control guidelines

(continued from page 21)

populations have more than enough reproductive potential to allow their populations to continue to expand even with these programs in place.

All that being said, it does not mean that lethal control is the only tool necessary for wolf management in the state, or that it is appropriate to use in all situations.

For example, most people feel that the loss of a bear hunting dog, in the middle of a block of public land, is of a very different nature than a livestock raiser losing calves on their own land. No lethal control is planned in these cases.

There may also be times and places where some animal husbandry practices will need to be modified to help accommodate the returned presence of wolves to our area. And there is still a large role for public education and information programs. For in the long run, the only hope that ma'iingan has of remaining a part of the Wisconsin landscape is for enough people to firmly believe that this state does still have room for them.

Zhaabomin continued

(continued from page 11)

apparently increasing the incidence of rust. Consequently, it became clear that the removal of Ribes in drier sites may not have been necessary.

Currently, recommendations to control blister rust include encouraging white pine establishment in areas of low rust incidence and under existing tree canopies to reduce precipitation and moisture which lead to high rust infection rates. In addition, pruning the lower branches of young white pines where moisture tends to persist will limit the potential for blister rust.

The relationship between zhaabomin and zhingwaak continues, but the fear of their link, blister rust, has lessened through time. Unfortunately, past management and policy decisions, though based on good intentions, failed to consider the whole story. Though the sacrifice of zhaabomin may have helped save zhingwaak, a question remains. . . what will save zhaabomin?

The author thanks Paul Castillo from the USDA Forest Service North Central Research Station and Mark Thiesen from Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest for providing information and research articles.

Masinaigan readers speak out

Letters on racism, logos, and environment

Spring fever?

By Sharon Metz
Editor, HONOR Digest

The anti-Indians, excuse me, we now must refer to them as “anti-sovereignty” (because these folks insist its not Indians they dislike, it’s Indian land-holdings, legal rights, images, sovereignty, burial sites, sacred places, and voting rights they object to) have been cooped up too long this winter. Can’t get out and left to their own devices, the “anti-sovereign” people peruse Supreme Court cases, do polls of unsuspecting reservation and urban Indians, redistrict voting precincts, fire up the bulldozers on Indian burial sites, lurk around the nice warm offices of Congress, and deny civil rights to Indian restaurant patrons.

Come spring, in (1969-86) we used to see these people standing on boat landings and hurling rocks and insults at Indian fishermen. It’s different now. The rocks are more lethal. The rocks are labeled “go for the jugular, remove sovereignty,” “count on BIA Secretary Gale Norton to erode Indian land base,” “whine to Congress about ‘old’ treaties,” “file lawsuits to disestablish reservations,” “destroy Indian burial sites and sacred places,” “do media stories supporting use of Indian mascots,” and, flat out “refuse to grant Indians the basic civil right of being served in a restaurant.”

Why the Ojibwe people should oppose the construction of the Bayfield tower

There is currently a plan to construct a 330-foot communications tower atop the natural beauty of the Bayfield hills by the American Tower Corporation, complete with blinking lights.

If allowed to go through, the tower will not only be an eyesore and a dangerous impediment to bird migrations, but it will represent a desecration of sacred land important to the history and traditional religion of the Ojibwe people.

Ojibwe legends describe clearly the journey of the *Anishinabe* from the east coast of America to the western Great Lakes, following the sacred *migis* and spirit of Otter as they led the people in their westward migration to their final destination in present-day Minnesota and Wisconsin. At each stop along the way they established the medicine lodge (see William Warren’s history of the Ojibwe).

Each of these stopping places was represented on sacred birchbark scrolls by a pictograph, usually based on some geographic feature of the site. For example, *negawachiw* (Sand Mountain), was represented by a drawing depicting the 300-foot sand dunes (Grand Sable) on the south shore of Lake Superior to the west of Whitefish Bay on the Upper Peninsula.

As the migration proceeded westward, the “stopping places” increased. Recorded on these migration scrolls are pictographs representing Long Island, Sunset Bay and Old Fort Bay on Madeline Island, Basswood Island (*wiigobi miniss*), and the aboriginal location of the Ojibwe on the mainland (current Red Cliff) nestled in the Bayfield hills and given its historic name *basaabiga* (where there is a cleft in the hills).

Thus to erect a 330-foot tower in the Bayfield hills would in fact be a desecration of this particular holy site and should be vigorously opposed by all Ojibwe people.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Thomas Vennum, Tucson, Arizona

A number of us have banded together as “Citizens for a Thoughtful Tower Plan,” hired an attorney and gone to court, offering a sensible alternative. For more information call (715) 779-3966.

At the risk of buying into a conspiracy state of mind, I wonder if this is coincidental? You have to admire the timing. If Indian leadership is tied up—fighting on many fronts at once, it is to the advantage of the antagonists.

Does it raise questions in your mind? Like, where is the money coming from? Why are these people so intent and nasty? Where has our education system been all these years re: American history? What are faith communities doing about these basic human rights?

I am reminded of a comical card I once saw where two people were surrounded by thousands of attackers. One says to the other, “To win a great deal will depend on our element of surprise.” Indians in the U.S. (4.1 million, less than 2%) are badly outnumbered and under a constant microscope so the “element of surprise” probably won’t work.

What will work? Decency, allies, and many voices joined for justice for starters. Good teachers, good Congress people, activist religious people, and challenges to the media are included in this mix.

Spring is a time of renewal. HONOR calls on its members and readers to renew your commitment to stand together against the many-pronged attacks confronting American Indians today.



Above is the visually dramatic introduction to an inside spread featured in the March 4, 2002 edition of Sports Illustrated. The edition features an article by S.L. Price based on opinion poll. The poll was done by the Peter Harris Research Group for Sports Illustrated. Tom Metz, in the letter below, takes issues with Sports Illustrated and the poll.

Racism a sport?

By Tom Metz,
Retired teacher, coach
and athlete

I read the *Sports Illustrated*. I guess I’ve always read the magazine. When I was younger and had less resources, it may have been on a per assorted volume basis, but I have been a faithful subscriber for more years than I care to count. I have always enjoyed reading it, often quoted it, and always respected it. Even the swimsuit issue each year, while not a sport, could be looked at with some degree of male enjoyment.

I recently received my March 4, 2002 issue and a lifetime of respect has become shattered; it’s as if Superman has encountered Kryptonite or the Bat-mobile has engine trouble. I turned to page 66 and was met by the most offensive image to grace its pages in my lifetime plus the bone-chilling title, “The Indian Wars.” (see photo) It shocked me that my respectable *Sports Illustrated* has suddenly turned into the “National Inquirer.”

Is it true that suddenly Indian bashing, cultural disrespect and the insulting of an entire people’s culture have become a sport? I could accept snowboarding and the skeleton sleds, but I couldn’t accept racism as a sport.

Let me begin by taking the lead statement, “the campaign against Indian nicknames and mascots presume that they offend Native Americans—but do they? We took a poll, and you won’t believe the results.” Well, let me assure you that the first part of the statement is TRUE. “Indian nicknames and mascots DO offend Native Americans.” They not only offend, but also demean and often hurt those who are affected by them.

Your poll used a very biased basis for the polling and thereby has a very biased result. As every politician knows, one can reach any preset conclusion they wish by simply manipulating the numbers and the groups they deal with.

While you quote some well known Native Americans as being offended, such as Billy Mills, Susan Harjo, Betty Ann Gross, etc., but you lump them as

“Indian activists,” somewhat in the vein of Rosa Parks or Martin Luther King, Jr.

Did you interview the Indian youth having to go to school each day and see a caricature of his/her culture on every wall, on jackets, shirts and official school papers? To spend four years being called, Chief, Princess, or Squaw, having every aspect of what you, your parents and ancestors for generations believe put up for ridicule, I believe that few, if any were polled.

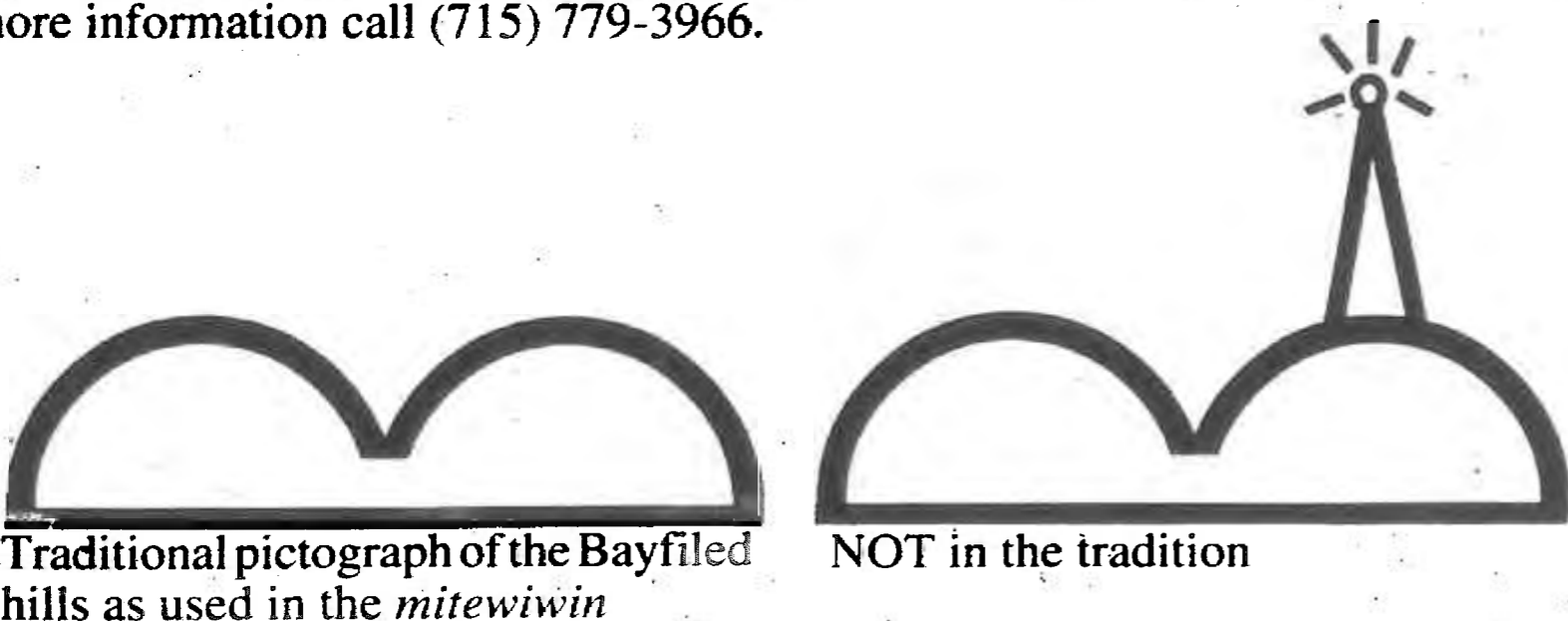
Did your reporter attend any National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) meetings? For your information the NCAI is the largest and oldest organization of American Indian tribes in the nation and represents more than 300 native nations. I have. They are unanimous in their opposition to the use of Indian logos and mascots.

I see on page 72 a picture of Chief Illiniwek. Perhaps you would want to read the book, “Dancing at Half Time,” before putting his image in your publication. Perhaps the book “Team Spirit” would help you understand how the portrait of Native people is disrespectful to its cultures.

Perhaps you should have done some real in-depth research in material that has been written from a large variety of people and resources both individual and scientific. In fact, I challenge you to read any book by Vine Deloria, Jr. If you have, or would, I know this article could never have been printed.

Yes—you can use tainted polling to get the results you want. Yes—you can find some Indian people who are insensitive to the issue. Yes—numbers do lie, but is it so important to your organization to sell magazines that it must stoop to these dishonoring practices?

Mascots are wrong. Morally wrong. The American Indian is the only living-culture still used in this way. You can not “honor” someone who does not feel honor by what you are doing. Alumni be damned—change the logos and give respect to a people who have known little respect from our nation for the last 300 odd years.



Traditional pictograph of the Bayfield hills as used in the *mitewiwin*

NOT in the tradition

Letters submitted to the *Masinaigan* state the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission.



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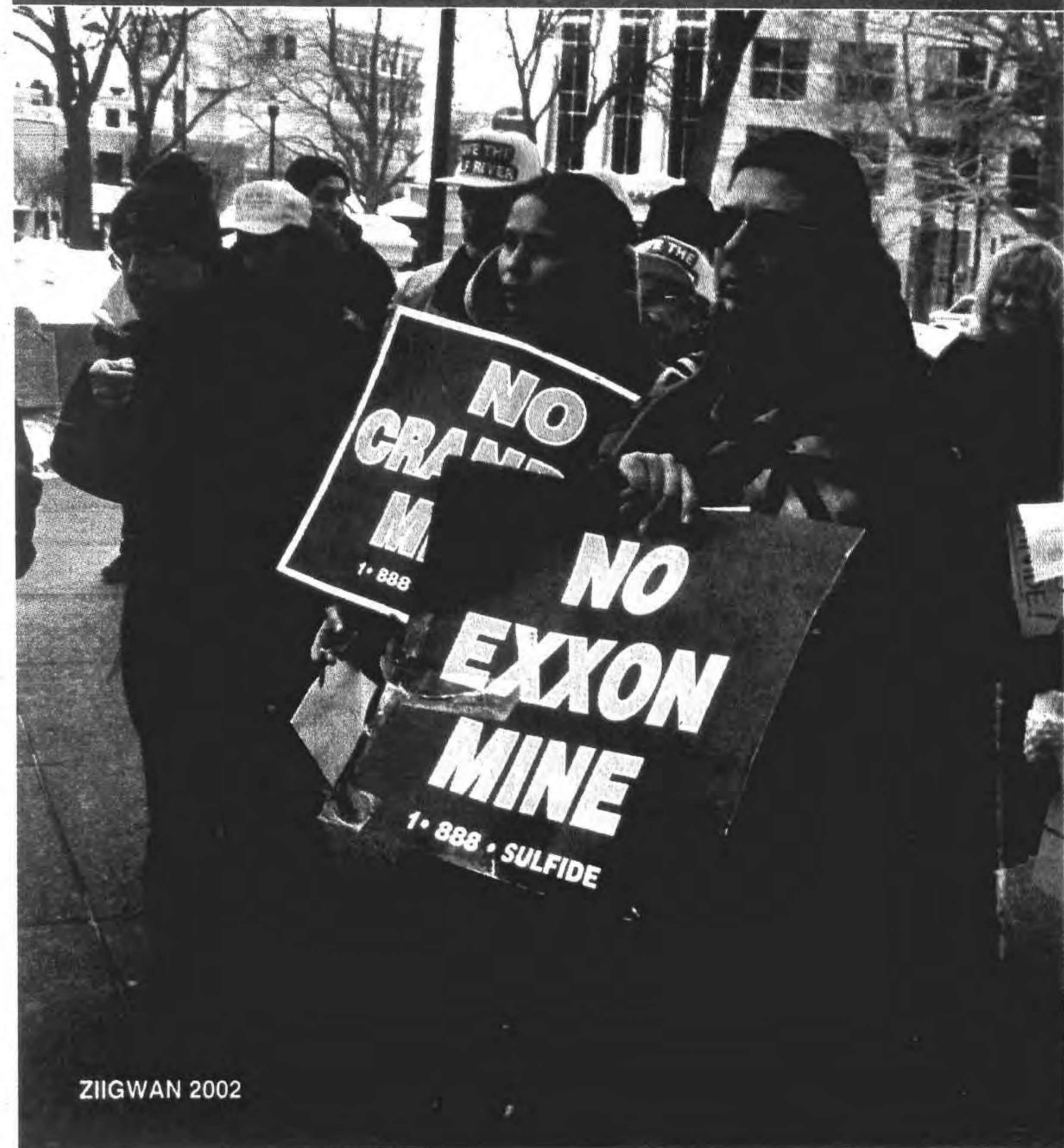
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A Chronicle of the Lake Superior Ojibwe



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Ojibwe Ceded Territories and Member Tribes of GLIFWC

