

Ashi-niswi giizisoog (Thirteen Moons)

Iskigamizige-giizis

The new Iskigamizige-giizis, the Maple Sap Boiling Moon, begins April 21st. Other names for this moon are Omakakiwi-giizis, Frog Moon; Bobookwedaagime-giizis, Snowshoe Breaking Moon; and Maango-giizis, the Loon Moon.

FDL Ojibwe School Gooniginebigooog Results

By Nikki Crowe

The 13 Moons program hosted a Gooniginebigooog workshop in Dec. 2011 in partnership with the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School. Bob Shimek of Red Lake, lead the school and community workshop. Bob took 25 students out to Whitetail Road to teach forest thinning practices. They also harvested several types of wood to use for their Gooniginebigooog, snow snakes. Students heard the story of Gooniginebigooog from Bob, who has been working with Pine Point Elementary at White Earth as well as other area schools teaching

about snow snakes.

One of the activities the students can attend is a snow snake competition in Bemidji, Minn. held at the American Indian Resource Center located on the Bemidji State University campus. This year the following students from the FDL Ojibwe school attended: Josh Cochran, Devon Dupuis, Danny Greensky, Lee Saice, Steven Tiessen, Jeroam Defoe, Morningdove Bressette, and Dominic Johnson-Fuller. Congratulations to all students for completing their gooniginebigooog. Devon Dupuis took 1st place and Jeroam Defoe took 2nd place in the 7th grade and up category.

Over 100 students from Naytah-waush, Circle of Life, Pine Point, and FDL Ojibwe schools attended the 3rd year of this competition. I would like to extend big thanks to Jen Johnson, Tara Dupuis, and Joseph Bruce for their time and dedication to their students. Miigwech.

Devon Dupuis 1st Place and Jeroam Defoe 2nd Place. Congratulations Anishinaabe!



Worms, a Good Thing?

Shannon Kesner,
FDL Wetlands Specialist

Spring is upon us and for some of you that means planning for this year's garden or this year's fishing opener. What do those two things have in common you ask? Worms. Worms have many great benefits and uses including in your backyard garden, home compost bin, or as bait to reel in the next big catch.

What you may not know is that earthworms are not native to the Great Lakes region. They

were all wiped out after the last glaciations. The current population, brought here by early Europeans, is slowly changing the face of our native forests.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota, and elsewhere, have documented dramatic changes in native hardwood forest ecosystems when exotic earthworms invade. While earthworms have often been shown to have positive effects on soil structure and fertility in agricultural and garden ecosystems, these very same creatures can have very different effects

in previously earthworm-free hardwood forests. Some of this may be impacting our sugar maple stands. There are some studies being conducted on the Leach Lake Reservation to assess this, and we are looking forward to the results.

Prevention is critical, and I refer to the two main topics in this article that impact the largest possible sources of invasive earthworms and are the easiest to prevent. One is responsibly disposing of unused worms while fishing. Bagging them up and throwing them away is the

preferred method, as opposed to throwing them on the ground or worse, in the water. You may or may not know this, but worms breathe through their skin, and do not drown. When you see them coming up out of the ground during rain, it is merely because that is the best time for them to travel long distances and for mating purposes due to the moisture. The ones you see dead on the side walk are there because they are a certain type of worm without skin pigmentation, and burn or dry up in the sun following the rain.

Another way to prevent the spread is to make sure we practice responsible worm composting. This means in a closed system, preferably a bin. Releasing worms for any reason, even in your home garden, will exacerbate the problem. For more information on this topic visit the Great Lakes Worm Watch website at <http://www.greatlakeswormwatch.org/>

Upcoming Events:

Sign up to the 13 Moons listserv for the latest information on workshops and events by emailing thirteenmoons@fdlrez.com Don't forget to check us out on Facebook! 13 Moons Ashi niswi giizisoog

This page addresses culture, ecology, and natural resource management. Thirteen Moons is the Fond du Lac Tribal College Extension Program and is a collaboration of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Fond du Lac Resource Management, and University of Minnesota Extension.