

# Ashi-niswi giizisoog (Thirteen Moons)

## Odeimini-giizis

*The new Odeimini-giizis, the Mid-Summer moon begins June 8th. Other names for this moon are Gitige-giizis, the Gardening moon, and Waawano-giizis, the Egg moon.*

### Doctor's Orders: Burn this blueberry patch and call me in the morning.

By Christian Nelson  
FDL RM Forester

Many wild fires in Minnesota can be dangerous and destructive. Nearly all of the fires that occur in Minnesota (over 98%) are the unintended result of fires escaping from people who are burning brush that has accumulated in their yards over the winter, from malfunctioning motorized equipment, from trees falling on power lines, or for other accidental or not-so-accidental reasons. Every year thousands of acres (sometimes hundreds of thousands of acres) of forests are damaged, properties are lost, and sometimes people are injured, too. But not all fires are necessarily accidental or bad. In fact, some plants, forests, and animals need periodic fires to thrive and many ecosystems in the region have co-evolved with fire.

When people purposely use fire in a specific way to achieve

a specific goal or set of goals it's called a prescribed fire. And sometimes it's just what the doctor ordered.

Paper birch, jack pine, and blueberries are just a few of the species that thrive after a fire.

Paper birch seedlings need full sunlight and grow well after the large trees and shrubs that would otherwise shade them have been killed.

The light seeds can blow in on the wind from unburned birch trees a quarter of a mile away or more and establish themselves on bare ground where the leaf litter has been burned away. Jack pine cones, normally sealed shut, will actually

open up when the glue-like substance that holds them closed melts in the heat. And blueberries, after the top has been burned away, will send up vigorous new shoots from still-living underground parts and take advantage of the elbow room they get when the other plants have been burned.

Without the occasional fire, marshy areas that are dominated by cattails and other grasses slowly close in with shrubs like willow and alder. Some bird species, like the northern catbird or the yellow warbler, like this new shrubby wetland area; but other species, like red winged blackbirds or American

bitterns, need the open, less shrubby marshland to build their nests or find their food. Fire is nature's way of 'hitting the reset button' and taking areas that have become brushy over time and return them to a more open, grassy stage.

People can benefit from prescribed fires, too, and there is evidence people have been using fires as a tool for thousands of years. Fires can help keep areas from becoming too thick to travel through or to hunt in. Fires can increase the amount of small plants available as food for game animals or for livestock. Fires have been used to herd animals into a smaller area to make hunting easier. And fires can clear land for agriculture.

Fire, when done in a controlled way with the right weather conditions and equipment, can help burn up grasses, shrubs, and wood, and keep small fires from growing larger, which may keep people

and houses safer. This type of fire is called a fuel reduction fire.

Fond du Lac Forestry uses all of these different kinds of fire. Fond du Lac forestry personnel are educated and trained in forest and plant ecology, wildlife, and in using a variety of tools and equipment. Forestry has burned blueberry patches trying to renew them or to expand their size. Forestry has burned areas to keep brushy areas more open. And forestry has burned areas around homes to reduce the chance that a small accidental fire leads to something larger and more destructive.

Like so much in life, seldom is something all good or all bad. More often, life is a little bit of black, a little bit of white, and there's a lot of gray in the middle. Fire can be good, bad, and often it can be both at the same time; it just depends on who or what you are and what you need or want.



# Ashi-niswi giizisoog Ojibwemowin Page

## Anishinaabemowin Lessons *By Charles Smith*

### Basic Ojibwe words and phrases:

#### Double Vowel Chart

This is how to pronounce Ojibwe words. All consonants sound the same as in English.

“Zh”- sounds like the “su” in measure  
 “a”- sounds like the “u” in sun  
 “aa”- sounds like the “a” in father

“i”- sounds like the “i” in sit  
 “ii”- sounds like the “ee” in feet  
 “o”- sounds like the “o” in go  
 “oo”- sounds like the “oo” in food  
 “e”- sounds like the “ay” in stay

#### Four Parts of a Plant

Flower(s)- Waabigwan(iin)

Leaf(s)- Aniibish(an)  
 Root(s)- Ojibik(an)  
 Stem(s)- Shiizhins(an)

Source: [www.ojibwe.org/home/pdf/ojibwe\\_beginner\\_dictionary.pdf](http://www.ojibwe.org/home/pdf/ojibwe_beginner_dictionary.pdf)

## Ashi-niswi giizisoog BIGADA'WAA WORD SEARCH

Find the Ojibwe words in the puzzle below

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

### Ojibwe Wordlist

Bean..... Miskodiisimin  
 Blackberry ..... Odatagaagomin  
 Blueberries .....Miinan  
 Bread .....Bakwezhigan  
 Cherry ..... Ookwemin  
 Cookie ..... Bakwezhigans  
 Corn ..... Mandaamin  
 Cranberry..... Mashkiigimin  
 Meat..... Wiiyaas  
 Milk.....Doodooshaaboo  
 Pea..... Anijiimin  
 Pepper .....Wiisagad  
 Raspberry ..... Miskomin  
 Salt..... Zhiiwitaagan  
 Strawberry .....Odeimin  
 Sugar .....Ziinzibaakwad  
 Tea ..... Aniibiish  
 Tomato ..... Gichiogin  
 Wild Rice .....Manoomin

Source:  
[www.ojibwe.org/home/pdf/ojibwe\\_beginner\\_dictionary.pdf](http://www.ojibwe.org/home/pdf/ojibwe_beginner_dictionary.pdf)



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## COMMUNITY SHRED YOUR STUFF DAY!!

*Friday June 7, 2013  
8 am - 6pm FDL Waste Site*

Help protect yourself against identity theft when cleaning out those old files and boxes of paper! The Fond du Lac Waste Management Site on University Road will now be hosting "Shred Your Stuff" Days the first Friday of the month beginning June 7, 2013.

### What is "Shred Your Stuff Day"?

The FdL Waste Site will have a commercial shredder available the first Friday of each month for community members to utilize for shredding any documents with sensitive information. One tactic used by identity thieves is to rifle through trash to find personal information. Sensitive documents should not be thrown in the garbage or recycling! Future shred your stuff days will be held on:

- Friday, July 5, 2013
- Friday, August 2, 2013
- Friday, September 6, 2013
- Friday, October 4, 2013
- Friday, November 1, 2013
- Friday, December 6, 2013



### What Should You Shred?

Any junk mail or paperwork that includes:

- Birth dates
- Signatures
- Social Security Numbers
- Account Numbers
- Passwords or PINs

To further protect your privacy, you may also want to shred items that contain:

- Names
- Addresses
- Phone Numbers
- Email Addresses

**You are required to keep some documents and records for a certain number of years, so please verify before shredding!**



If you have any questions, please contact the Fond du Lac Waste Site at 878-8069 or Shannon Judd at 878-7123.



## Birch Syrup

By Nikki Crowe

**13** Moons Fond du Lac Tribal College Extension Program recently held a workshop on tapping birch trees. Jim Lease, from Onamia, Minn. talked about his first year experience tapping birch trees. The best birch trees used for tapping are healthy and at least 8" in diameter at breast height or "old growth" according to Jim. The sap is known to run after the maple sap run or sometime in April. After an unsuccessful year of maple syrup in 2012, Jim decided he couldn't lose trying to tap the birch trees. Unlike maple sap, which takes about 80 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup; it takes 100 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon into syrup. Not necessarily an economical venture most are willing to go after, however the benefits outweigh the costs in the value of medicinal properties.

When I asked a plant knowledgeable person over here at Fond du Lac about using birch syrup he said the Ojibwe used the sap for medicine, not necessarily as a food source.

After a quick Google search I found that birch syrup is used as a beverage for beer, in wine, or as a root beer. With more searching on the internet for articles on "birch medicinal properties" I found that birch syrup can be good to be used as a diuretic, for joint pain, and has the same properties as aspirin for pain relief. I learned that birch bark is high in betulin and betulinic acid which could be good medicine for cancer. Anecdotaly, the knowledge we have in our communities of plant and tree medicines may have been saving our lives from cancers and diabetes long before documented history.

*To learn more about the 13 Moons program you can go look up 13 Moons Ashiniswi giizisoog on Facebook, or go to [www.fdlrez.com](http://www.fdlrez.com) and look us up on the Natural Resources link. To sign up for the 13 Moons list serve to receive announcements of upcoming workshops and events send an email to [thirteenmoons@fdlrez.com](mailto:thirteenmoons@fdlrez.com)*

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