

# Ashi-niswi giizisooog (Thirteen Moons)

## Manoominike Giizis

*Manoominike Giizis is the rice moon. The rice moon is also known as Basikwa'o Giizis (flying moon) and Odatagaagomini Giizis (blackberry moon). Manoominike Giizis begins its cycle as a new moon on August 10.*

## Women and Ricing

By Misty Peterson  
FDL Intern

Harvesting wild rice (ricing) has been a part of the Ojibwe culture around Lake Superior for centuries. Harvesting the wild rice was a community event that everyone from kids to grandparents could take part in. Historically the role of women in harvesting the wild rice was knocking while the husband would pole. Knocking the wild rice was a task that was a bit tougher for the women, but that did not cause any separation in the division of labor or work with harvesting. Since ricing was usually a days worth of work, they would often bring lunches out on the lakes with them. They would fry potatoes over the fire and make tea and sandwiches, truly making this a fine family tradition. People would start the ricing process as early as 9 a.m. and would not be off the lake until 4 or 5 p.m. One would normally rice where they could see the darkheads, or in other words, where the rice was most abundant and ripe. The ricers would often leave a lot of the rice for the birds to eat as an offering. Alvie Tiessen recalls: "My grandmother would put tobacco down for a good season, but she would thank great manitoo anyways for letting them rice." So was ricing more honored back in those days then it is today? "Yes" she agreed. Even though times have changed and the money is a factor that is appealing to some ricers today, it remains a good tradition in our culture and great past time to those who remember it that way.

## Gaa-Miininangoog Ganawenjigewin (Taking care of what was given to us by them)

By Tom Howes  
Gaa-Miininangoog  
Ganawenjigewin Naaganizid

This is the time of year when many begin to think about manoominike (ricing). The Natural Resources Program really never stops thinking about manoomin (wild rice). Early in the spring, we are removing beaver dams, adjusting water control structures, and planning where we will be using our giishkizhige-jiimaan (cutting boats).

This year like many in the past, we are removing ginoozhegoons (pickerel weed) from Perch Lake. As summer progresses we are able to see how successful last season's restoration efforts really were. About 75 percent of the 116 acres that ginoozhegoons was removed from last year is full of manoomin. Some areas

in the southern part of the lake will require a little more reseeding this fall. We are on track to remove approximately 100 acres of ginoozhegoons from the northern end of the lake this year, so next year head behind the minis (island) and up toward the narrows if you are looking for manoomin at Perch Lake. The wild rice this year is about two weeks early in its development. As I write this, the rice has been standing for more than three weeks, and some plants are beginning to flower. Following is a brief update on wild rice conditions at Nagaajiwanaang, with this scale of conditions: poor, fair, and good: Perch Lake: fair rice density, some areas will be unriceable due to restoration underway; Jaskari Lake: fair; Rice Portage Lake: good; Deadfish Lake: good; Mud Lake: poor.



*Photo: Aerial view of restoration efforts at Perch Lake (taken 07/13/10). The dark green vegetation in the lake is pickerel weed; the light green vegetation is manoomin. If you look closely, you can see the equipment near shore towards the bottom of the photo.*

There are many places outside the Reservation to harvest wild rice as well, and the 1854 Treaty Authority website is a good place for updates on manoomin conditions outside

Nagaajiwanaang. As always we encourage Band Members to bring someone new with them as they head out to harvest, thus strengthening our traditional ways.

## What is Ginoozhegoons (aka pickerel weed, moose ear, pontederia cordata), and why is it such a problem in wild rice lakes?

By Thomas Howes

Pickerelweed is a perennial species of native origin that likes the same conditions as wild rice. Shallow, rich organic sediments are ideal conditions for both species, but pickerelweed has the advantage of being perennial. Pickerelweed colonies get bigger and

bigger each year, while wild rice is an annual plant, growing from an individual seed to plant each year. Because we want rice every year, water levels are held in a steady state that is good for wild rice growth. Unfortunately, this water level is ideal for pickerelweed as well. One option being considered is to flood

out the pickerelweed every four or five years, mimicking nature's cycles. This would mean sacrificing the rice for the year as well, but may be one of the tools to use in managing for the long term.

