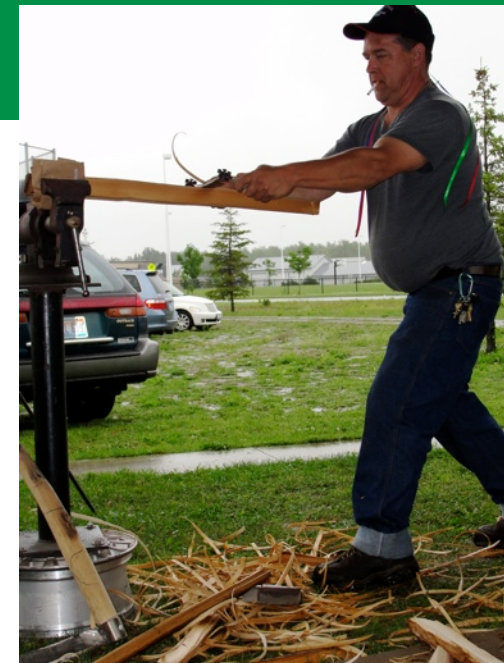


Ashi-Nisiwag Giizisoog



Thirteen Moons, so far...

By Reginald DeFoe and Dave Wilsey

Miigwetch! Seven monthly newspaper features and five workshops: it went fast and there is more to come. We've learned a lot from our workshop leaders and the members of the community who have participated in the Thirteen Moons workshops. There is so much more to learn and the people and experiences of the Fond du Lac community are a treasure trove upon which to draw. We invite anyone with knowledge or skills related to culture, natural resources, and ecology to share your gifts through Thirteen Moons, whether through a private conversation for an article, as an author for this page, or as a guest presenter at one of the upcoming workshops. Please contact FDL Resource Management Division if you are interested. This program is only as good as the people who participate.

In August, we wrote a short article about the process of interpreting the Ojibwe names for the moons and choosing which names to feature in this section. Dan Jones stressed that there is no "right name," and that the key lies in the

interpretation. Sometimes the names are straightforward and we don't have to spend too much time thinking about what they mean or how the name came about. For example: *Manoominike giizis* - wild rice moon. Sometimes the interpretation is not so simple, and perhaps is even misleading. December and January's moon names were some of the more difficult to interpret.

Gichi manidoo giizis (great spirit moon). Manidoo giizis (spirit moon). Gichi giizis (big/great moon). Big, great, spirits...what are these names getting at. We have our own ideas, assumptions, but the truth is that we don't know for sure. Because we don't know and because one of the goals of this page is to reflect the wealth of knowledge and experience that exists within the community, we'd like to try something new. We encourage those of you who have ideas or knowledge about Anishinaabe history, tradition, culture, or spirituality to share that knowledge. Tell us what you think the underlying message or messages about the monthly moon might be. Tell us what it means to you. Call FDL RMD or try sending us an email at giizis13@gmail.com

Top left to bottom right: Whitefish netting occurs before ice sets on the lakes, Warren Mountain puts the finishing touches on a rice knocker, Charlie Nahgahnub displays perfect form for shaping cedar rice knockers, Jess Durfree with some venison to go from October's workshop,

Ashi-Nisiwag Giizisoog

Namebini Giizis

Namebini giizis is the sucker fish moon, named for the fish that lives throughout northeastern Minnesota's streams and lakes. Other names for the moon that begins its cycle on February 14 are Migizi giizis (Eagle Moon) and Makoonsag-gaa-nitaawaadi-giizis (When the bear cubs are born).

The Moccasin Game

By Jerry Ojibway

Boozhoo, my name is Ninszhmaganish (Jerrold Ojibway) and I am going to share a teaching. The moccasin game is not a game but an instrument of teaching and learning by the participants. Before any one is to be taught they are given the history of Moccasin. Then they are schooled in the intricate parts of Moccasin; protocol, history, rules to be followed, hands on application of counting and finally what is to be concluded once

participant(s) are able to remember all of this without writing any of it down. Yes, you heard me right, no writing down of teaching(s) of moccasin. Upon my conclusion with Elders from Mille Lacs (Onamia), this was their last instruction to not write of any of what has been learned and transpired here. This was after two years of consistently playing Moccasin with them. I am asking all men with interest to participate in the Thursday games and in this way we may begin to explore the teachings of Moccasin.



Check out the 13 Moons blog.
<http://giizis13.wordpress.com>



Bill Martineau proudly displays the EPA recognition plaque

Dibaajimowinan (Storytelling)

Thirteen Moons' first special event will be held on Saturday, February 20th from 4:00 p.m to 10:00 p.m at the Sawyer Community Center. This event will begin with a traditional blessing and feast and will feature local storytellers and performers. The event will also include a silent auction - featuring the original creations of local artists - as a fundraiser for the Ojibwemowin Immersion Camp.

Resource Management Division, University of Minnesota Extension, the Ojibwemowin Immersion Camp, Dan Jones, and Ivy Vainio of UW Superior's Office of Multicultural Affairs. Our sincere hope is that this cooperative approach can serve as a model for future programs and events.

Ziigwenbinigani-Ganawenjigewin (Taking care of Trash)

By Shannon Judd

The Fond du Lac Waste Management Site was awarded a recognition plaque from the US Environmental Protection Agency for its enrollment in the National Environmental Priorities Partnership (NPEP). The goal of NPEP is not only to reduce the amount of hazardous or toxic chemicals produced in manufacturing/industrial process, but to increase the recycling of such materials. NPEP partners with businesses, industry, federal facilities, municipalities and Tribes who voluntarily pledge to work towards a reduction/recycling goal. The Fond du Lac Waste Site is one of only two tribal facilities/entities in the nation enrolled in this program.

The annual goal set by the FDL Waste Site is to recycle 1 pound of mercury, diverting it from the waste stream. The main source of mercury recycled

is fluorescent bulbs, although some electronics, thermometers and thermostats also contain mercury. Mercury is a neurotoxin, meaning it can impair brain development, thinking ability, coordination, and speech. Without proper disposal and recycling, it can enter our environment, contaminating fish, wildlife and other natural resources upon which we depend.

Chi-miigwetch to the FDL Waste Site Staff: Bill Martineau, Russell DuFault, Waynette Mahr, Jody LaFave, Pam Omundson, and Matt Martineau, and personnel from the Day Labor program. All work very hard everyday to ensure proper clean-up and disposal of items in order to protect the health of the Fond du Lac Community and its natural resources.

Please continue to do your part! If you have any questions on how to properly dispose of an item, please contact the FDL Waste Site at 878-8069 or Shannon Judd at 878-8023.

02 - 20 - 10

The world was created when muskrat brought mud from the bottom of the flood to be placed on turtle's back. The turtle's shell has thirteen central plates, called scutes. The traditional Ojibwe calendar year follows a 13 moon lunar cycle. The names of each moon are influenced by natural phenomena, animal activity, and cultural practices and beliefs. Because the area in which Ojibwe is spoken is so vast, not all Ojibwe people use the same names for the moons.

Events:

20 February: 13 Moons Special Event: Dibaajimowinan, Storytelling, Info - 218-878-8001 or <http://giizis13.wordpress.com>

March (early): 13 Moons Workshop: Maple syrup

March (late): 13 Moons Workshop: Sparring and netting