

Ashi-niswi giizisoog (Thirteen Moons)

Odemiminigiziis

The Odemiminigiziis (Strawberry Moon) begins June 1, 2011. Other Ojibwe moons for this month are known as Gitigeziis (Gardening Moon) and Waawanogiziis (Egg Moon).

Straw bale garden journal

By Shannon Judd

I attended a presentation on straw bale gardening given by Joel Karsten, a long time gardener from southwestern Minnesota (www.strawbalegardens.com). I was sold on the idea given that we have very sandy soil and not a lot of time. In a nutshell, the straw bale is the container and you treat it with a high-nitrogen source for 10 days to initiate the composting process in the bale. The compost produced in the bale is your soil and you can just plant your seedlings right inside the bales. Some of the benefits are: very little weeding or heavy work; bales can be put almost anywhere; disease-free soil and minimal insects; higher off the ground; warm soil; and many more! I am diving in and attempting a 30-bale garden this year. The nitrogen

treatment process has been completed on ten of the bales and the others will be soon to follow. One row was treated with blood meal and the other with regular high nitrogen grass fertilizer. I am trying to see if the organic method works as well as the "regular" method to initiate the composting process. I am having fun thinking of all different ways to experiment and will keep you posted on how it goes. I purchased a compost thermometer and things seem to be working! All of the treated bales are now between 120 and 130 de-

grees. Now I just have to wait until the temperature decreases to 105 and I will begin planting. I was a little disorganized getting some of my seeds started indoors, so planting will be quite staggered this year. By the time you read this, all thirty should be planted.



Shannon Judd's straw bale garden, May 2011

Announcing the winning logo

By Nikki Crowe

The logo design contest closed April 30. We received a total of ten entries from five Fond du Lac band members: Warren Barney, Melody Diver, Herb Fineday, Karen Savage Blue, and Victoria Smith.

The artist whose design is chosen will receive a prize of \$200 for their effort. Each runner up will receive a gift basket for their efforts and be featured on the 13 Moons page in the following months. The winning logo will be used to represent the 13 Moons: Fond du Lac Tribal College Extension Program and their mission in printed materials, website and other purposes.

Miigwetch for all the hard work put into the logo designs. We will announce the winner in the July issue.

Two year anniversary for 13 Moons Program

By Dave Wilsey and Nikki Crowe

This month's Thirteen Moons page marks the two-year anniversary of this publication, which began in 2009 under Ode'iminiigiizis, the strawberry moon. Twenty-three newspaper features have followed with over forty articles. In August 2009, Charlie Nahgahnub led the first of many Thirteen Moons workshops, demonstrating techniques for carving cedar rice knockers. We are proud to share that Thirteen Moons sponsored and supported events have drawn over 900

community members! Over forty FDL community members have contributed at least one day to the development and delivery of this program; many have contributed far more time. This is truly a community-driven program.

Thirteen Moons began with funding from the University of Minnesota Extension through the Renewable Resources Extension Act. Two years of small-scale funding led to a USDA Tribal College Extension Program Grant, which established Thirteen Moons as the FDL Tribal and Community College Extension Program. It

is this federal funding that supports Nikki Crowe, the program coordinator, and ensures that programming will continue through 2014. It is also through this grant that Thirteen Moons is able to provide partial financial support to other great FDL programs such as the Storytelling, Gitigaan, Language Immersion Camp, and Wiigwaasi Jiimaan (Canoe) Immersion Camp.

What can you expect in the future? In the coming years we will continue to develop and deliver workshops and seasonal events designed to connect individuals to natural resource

knowledge, social networks, and Ojibwe culture. In addition, we will work to support linkages between the Tribal/Community College faculty and students and the broader community. We hope to also offer college credit for teaching and learning about traditional and seasonal activities. It is possible that Thirteen Moons may also become involved in the development of a Community Garden, with the intent to complement Gitigaan workshops with hands-on workshops on gardening topics such as seed starting, seed saving, and sustainable gardening.

As always, we are looking for community member input and program contributions. If you have knowledge or skills that you would like to share with your community, please let us know so we can help to create an opportunity for you to reach others and, as importantly, for others to reach you.

Apiijigo miigwetch to all of our readers, workshop participants, and program contributors for a great two years.

Upcoming Events: 13 Moons and Gitigaan will be co-sponsoring the 3rd Annual Nagaajiwanaang (Fond du Lac's) Ojibwe Language Camp held at the Kiwenz Campground in Sawyer, Minn. June 23-26. CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK: 13 MOONS ASHINISWI GIIZISOOG

This page addresses culture, ecology, and natural resource management and is a monthly production of the Thirteen Moons, the FDL Tribal College Extension Program. Thirteen Moons is funded by a USDA grant and supported by the FDL Resource Management Division and University of Minnesota Extension. Comments and Suggestions can be emailed to: thirteenmoons@fdlrez.com