

# Ashi-Nisiwi giizisoog (Thirteen Moons)

## Onaabani Giizis

*The new moon that occurs on March 15 is **Onaabani** giizis, or the "Hard crust on snow moon." The sap of the aninaatig begins to flow under this moon, also known as Ziinsibaakwadooke giizis, the sugar coming out moon. Another name for this moon is Aandego-giizis (Crow moon).*

## Aninaatig (Maple)

By Christian Nelson

Fond du Lac is home to four different species of maple - sugar, red, silver, and box-elder. All four species produce sap that can be used to produce maple syrup. The sugar maple, however, is most favored because its sap is the sweetest (highest in sugar content) and therefore requires the least amount of sap and the shortest boiling times. Paper birch can even be tapped, although about a month later than the maples.

The number of sugar maple trees on the Reservation today is probably similar to the number that existed more than a hundred years ago. Early land surveying notes reveal that about thirteen percent of the forested land had at least some component of sugar maple trees; that percentage has changed little.

## Maple Biscuits

Recipe by Brad Richards,

Source: [www.mnmaple.org](http://www.mnmaple.org)

2 cups flour  
1 tbsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp salt  
3 tbsp shortening  
1 1/2 cup maple syrup

*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. Moon names 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.*

In fact, it's getting even better. Fond du Lac Forestry is actively converting mixed forests of aspen and sugar maple into maple dominated forests by removing the aspen and leaving the maple. This is accomplished through timber sales planned specifically for this task. After the sales, the tree crowns of older maples have more room to expand, which results in better tree growth and more sap production. Young maple trees also benefit. When the aspen are removed more sunlight reaches into the forest allowing smaller, understory trees to grow. To add diversity after a timber sale, Forestry often plants yellow birch, red oak, and white pine seedlings.

As spring approaches, let's all hope for warm days and cool nights, when the sap runs best.

Combine dry ingredients. Cut in shortening until it resembles course crumbs. Add milk. Stir just to moisten, turn onto floured surface. Roll to 1/2 inch thickness. Cut with a 2 inch biscuit cutter. Pour maple syrup into 7x11 pan. Place biscuits on top of syrup. Bake 450° F for 12 to 15 minutes.

## Preparing for the Ogaawag

Gidaa-oozhiitaamin ji-waaswaayang gaye ji-bagida'awang.

*"Lets all get prepared so that we can go spearing and netting"*

By Tom Howes

Although it may not seem like it now, spring is on its way. With the arrival of spring comes the opportunity for Fond du Lac Band Members to participate in the walleye spearing and netting harvest in the 1837 Ceded Territory. For 2010, Fond du Lac Reservation has a walleye allocation of 24,000 pounds from Mille Lacs Lake. In an attempt to increase participation, the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division will be hosting the Thirteen Moons educational workshop at 5:00 PM on Thursday, March 18 at the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division Building. The workshop will provide participants a breakdown of the necessary gear, techniques, and knowledge of regulations needed to effectively and safely bring home the ogaawag (walleyes). All attendees at the workshop will have their name placed in a drawing for an asab gaye agoonjoonaaganan (Mille Lacs fishing net and floats).

If you have any questions on the workshop please contact Thomas Howes, Fond du Lac Natural Resources Program Manager at (218) 878-8088 or

[tomhowes@fdlrez.com](mailto:tomhowes@fdlrez.com)



*John McMillen (Munch) transfers walleye after counting and measuring; below, two band members clean their net*



**Events:**  
**March 18, 5:00p.m.:** Thirteen Moons Workshop: Spearing and netting ,FDL Natural Resources

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

Thirteen Moons is a monthly production of FDL Resource Management Division and University of Minnesota Extension. Content addresses culture, ecology, and natural resource management. Comments and contributions are welcome and should be directed to FDL RMD at 218-878-8001 or [giizis13@gmail.com](mailto:giizis13@gmail.com)