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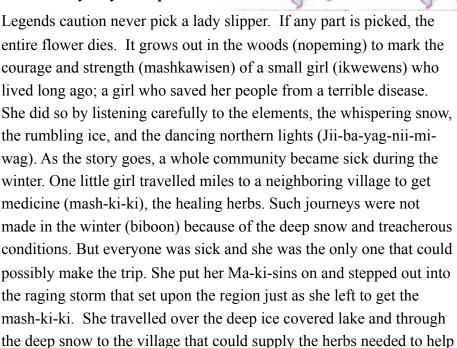
Ashi-Nisiwi giizisoog (Thirteen Moons)

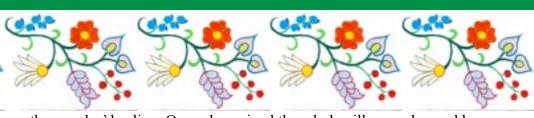
Wabigoon Giizis

The new moon that occurs on May 14 is **Wabigoon** giizis, or the "flowering moon." Plant buds swell and flowers emerge in response to the sun's stronger rays, warmer temperatures, and shorter nights. This moon is also known as Zaagibagaagime giizis, the budding moon.

The Flowering 🥞 Moon

Submitted by Wayne Dupuis





the peoples' healing. Once she arrived the whole village welcomed her and offered to take her home when the snow subsided. She knew they would not let her leave during the storm so she left in the evening. During her travel home she got stuck in the snow and lost her ma-kisins. She continued to travel homeward and her exposed feet started to bleed, leaving blood stained marks in the snow. Because of the Mash-ki-ki the people were healed. However, the girl remained weak for a long, long time, but soon after the snow melted, she too recovered. In the spring (zeegwan), when the woods turned green, she and her brother went to search for her lost ma-ka-sins. On the spot where she had lost her them, and wherever her bleeding feet had stepped, beautiful flowers grew. They were pink and white and shaped just like the little ma-ka-sins she had worn on her journey. The people named the new flower ma-ka-sin waa-big-waan, which means moccasin flower. Today it is called the lady slipper.



Ma ka sin waa big waan, or Lady Slipper. Photo by Teresa Boardman, <u>www.stpaulphotos.com</u>

Floral Designs and the Woodland Tribes

Language: a means of communication but also an evolving cultural resource that reflects its speakers, their community, and the place they live. Art, like language, is a communication form that includes storytelling, craft, and design. Art reflects its makers, their history, and place. Art is especially important in cultures with oral traditions, such as the Anishinaabe.

The Woodland Tribes are recognized for floral motifs that portray important plants, flowers, and berries. As one Anishinaabe man explains, "The plants are our elder brothers, created before us, not reliant upon us, but give us nourishment/life.

We create designs to honor our elder brothers and their natural beauty, but we will never truly recreate something so amazing, which is why we put a mistake in our artwork." Floral motifs are are most often created using bead-work.

The floral design adorning this page was created by Karen Savage Blue for FDL Resource Management. It will be used on signs throughout the new RMD building. It is a typical motif in its use of the scroll pattern and the incorporation of plants important in this area, including blueberry, pin cherry, water lilly, and makasin waa big waan.

May Events:

- Building raised-bed gardens
- Wild foods
- Details on 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 manageent. Comments and contributions are welcome and should be directed to FDL RMD at 218-878-8001 or gizis13@gmail.com