

Ashi-Nisiwag Giizisoog (13 Moons)

Waatebagaa Giizis

Waatebagaa Giizis is the leaves changing color moon. Waatebagaa actually means brightly colored leaves...perhaps the association with the color *change* came later? This moon is also known as Mandaamini Giizis (corn moon) and Moozo Giizis (moose moon). Waatebagaa Giizis begins its cycle as a new moon on September 18.



The Treaties

Reginald DeFoe and Dave Wilsey

FDL Resource Management and UMN Extension

One hundred fifty five years ago, when the leaves began to change color under waatebagaa giizis, a treaty between the Lake Superior Chippewa and the United States was signed in La Pointe, WI on September 30. Like all treaties it was a historic, life changing event.

The 1854 Treaty created Fond du Lac Reservation, abandoning the Chippewa Removal Policy by establishing permanent homelands for the Chippewa in MN, WI, and MI. Thirteen treaties have been signed with the Chippewa since the year of 1795, ceding millions of acres of land to the United States. One of the few positive outcomes for Fond du Lac Reservation in the 1837 and 1854 Treaties was created by a small clause that ensured Band members' the right to hunt and fish on lands ceded to the United States.

These two treaties laid the foundation for present day tribal management of natural resources. At Fond du Lac, this process began with the hiring of one conservation officer. A conservation committee was formed in 1976, and by that fall the first conservation code was completed. Lack of recognition of treaty-defined rights led to court cases that, among other things, hastened the development of Fond du Lac's Resource Management Division.

In 1985, the Grand Portage Band sued the state of Minnesota in federal court for the right to hunt and fish in the ceded territories without the restrictions of Minnesota state law; Fond du Lac and Bois Forte subsequently joined the lawsuit. Phase II of the Fond du Lac case began in 2000; it addresses the scope of harvest rights in the 1854 ceded territory. To date, negotiations are ongoing. Today the FDL Resource Management Division has around 60 permanent and 20 seasonal employees and high school / college interns.

From one cousin to another:

Q..Hey, how can we improve the treaty process?

A..Write them in our language then tell the President what it says after he signs it! From Shinnob Jep (Thanks to Jim Northrup)



Top to bottom: Chief Nah Gah Nub, signing of the documents, Charlie Nahgahnuub wearing one of the bronze treaty medallions presented to the original signatories (see article inset)

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.

Changing Leaves

Shannon Judd

FDL Resource Management

Why do the leaves change color in the fall? A few of the kids in the community offered suggestions: "It's too cold and they die" and "Because it's fall." Were they right?

Leaf color comes from pigments produced naturally from leaf cells. Green is caused by chlorophyll, the dominant pigment that helps the plant produce food. As days shorten chlorophyll disappears, revealing yellow and orange pigments. Red pigments can also be produced by environmental factors late in the season (think maples!).

Rice Worms!

The notorious rice worm is the larval stage of the noctuid moth. Its life cycle is coordinated with the rice growth and development. Adult moths emerge about the same time as flowering begins in wild rice, late June or early July. Eggs are deposited in wild rice flowers. Rice worms bore into stems of wild rice or migrate to plants that border the production area as their growth and development nears completion. They overwinter inside the stems. After a final molt and some additional feeding in the spring, the larvae usually pupate in early June, and develop into the adult moth, beginning the cycle anew.

Adapted from www.hort.purdue.edu

Events:

28-30 August: Jerry Fairbanks Scholarship Pow Wow. Mashkawisen Grounds.

Info – Brenda, 878.8194

17 September: 13 Moons Workshop: Rice finishing. Info - 218.878.8001

Thirteen Moons is produced monthly by the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division and University of Minnesota Extension. Content is based on the appropriate moon, and addresses culture, ecology, and the management of natural resources. Comments and contributions should be directed to the FDL Resource Management @ 218.878.8001