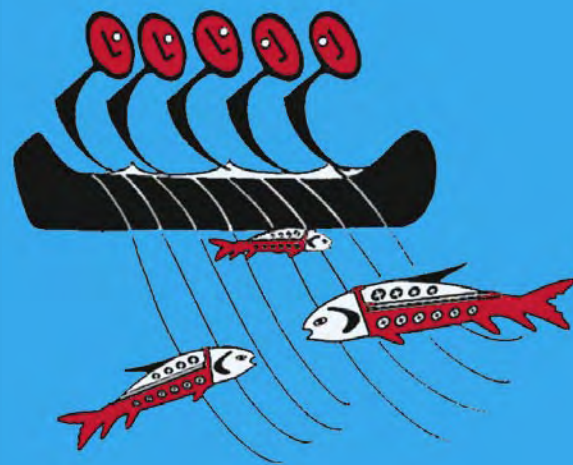


For the Seventh Generation

PRESERVING THE RESOURCE



Manoomineke-giizis," Ricing Moon • Bimonthly Journal of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority • Vol. 9 No. 5

SEPTEMBER 2006

Tribal intern gains lifelong experience, perspective

HARBOR SPRINGS — Max Field, a natural resources intern with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, was born and raised in Petoskey and graduated from high school in 2001.

Now in 2006, he feels his life is "almost like a perfect path." After his fourth year at his tribe's natural resource department, he will head for graduate school at Central Michigan University to obtain his Master's degree in conservation biology.

He'd like to work for his tribe after he graduates. He wants kids and he wants to be a good example for kids. "It's all about making it better for the next generation and keeping the future in mind at all times," he said.

Five years ago, Field went off to college with no preference. He attended Michigan State University and had to choose something, so he chose forensic sciences. Although he enjoyed his class with the famous forensic scientist, Jay Siegel, he found himself interested in natural resources. Field remembered growing up on his family farm and having animals and horses, and an African pied crow.

He switched over and received his undergraduate in Fisheries and Wildlife while working for Little Traverse Bay Bands in the summer and taking care of his family's nearby land.

Field said he has really enjoyed his sum-

mers with the tribe. "It's the best job I've ever had. There is always new, important work—it's a dream job," he said "If possible, I'd love to come back and work here."

He would be one of the few Natives with a Master's degree. He has his fingers crossed that a position will be available for him when the time comes.

As an intern, Field has gained perspective on the department's overall work. "I see a bit of everything every day," he said, talking while taking a break from aging fish scales. "There's always stuff to do."

Beyond the tribe's work, there is the culture — the reason behind the work. Getting to know the tribal side of his heritage has been a big part of Field's summers for the past four years.

Field plays the steel drum and once belonged to a group that traveled and recorded two CDs. Now, the 23-year-old says he has no time for hobbies. He spends his free time on Sturgeon Bay and studies even during the summer.

Field is especially interested in endangered and threatened species. Last year, he was thrilled to work with baby eaglets. "I was so close, it blew my mind," he said.

He has also been able to work with piping plover on Beaver Island. His graduate project will test nesting platforms that help nesting loons cope with fluctuating water levels.



Max Field, LTBB member and natural resources intern, heads to CMU for grad work this fall to work on loon nesting platforms.

Photo Courtesy LTBB

ITFAP environmental work important to Great Lakes

By Jennifer Dale-Burton

SAULT STE. MARIE — For the past decade, Mike Ripley has served as the environmental coordinator for the Inter Tribal Fishery and Assessment Program (ITFAP). He was working as an environmental consultant in Marquette when he saw the posting. It was an opportunity to return to the place of his birth and to make a difference for the environment at the same time, so he applied.

Because he was not raised in awareness of his Anishinabe ancestors' traditions, Ripley also saw the job as a chance to explore his Native roots and learn more about the culture. "I think those things are ongoing — we keep learning until the day we die," said the 41-year-old.

Ripley represents CORA on a lot of different environmental committees that the CORA board and staff feel are important. These entities make important decisions for fishery management in the 1836 treaty waters of the Great Lakes.

While Ripley represents tribes in

The underlying problem is not science, it's politics — when politicians are more influenced by money than the overall good.

— Mike Ripley, ITFAP Environmental Coordinator

environmental matters of Great Lakes 1836 treaty waters, each tribe has its own environmental staff whose work pertains to on-reservation land or water.

One of the most important Great Lakes issues is aquatic nuisance species. In the past 20 years, aquatic nuisance species have totally altered the ecosystem of the Great Lakes, and more species continue to be introduced every year, said Ripley.

"We combat aquatic nuisance species by participating on the Great

Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, and the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Taskforce," said Ripley. "We get political support in whatever ways we can. Especially to push ships, coming into the Great Lakes from overseas, to clean their ballast water so no more species can be introduced via ships' ballast water."

Ripley has written numerous letters to politicians and government agencies to push for stronger ballast water legislation. "We supported Michigan's ballast waters legislation, but Congress has not had the courage or the will to enact federal legislation."

Most Great lakes legislators are behind national legislation to prevent the introduction of aquatic nuisance species through ballast water, said Ripley. The challenge is to get support from the rest of the United States, most of which is still ignorant of the aquatic nuisance species problem, he added.

Ripley has helped CORA's battles in other areas, such as coal-fired power plants and mining. "We helped to stop a coal-fired power plant in Manistee,

along with Little River Band of Ottawa Indians," said Ripley. "We were not as successful in Oak Creek."

Ripley is hoping to change policies by taking every opportunity to oppose wasteful energy practices and unwise coal-fired generation. Coal-fired power is a top issue because it is the primary cause of mercury pollution in the Great Lakes.

Long Term Fish Contaminant Project

"Mercury contamination in fish really damages our ability to sell commercial fish," said Ripley.

Ripley's program has amassed 15 years of data on fish contaminants in the tribal commercial fishery. In the long-term contaminant study, ITFAP tests fish from the 1836 waters of Great Lakes Huron, Superior and Michigan on a rotating basis. ITFAP has collected more data on the tribal commercial harvest than any other agency. Last year Ripley tested fish from Lake Huron and this summer he collected

See "Environmental Battles," page 2

New fish brochure makes smart fish choices easy

SAULT STE. MARIE
— A new publication outlining wise fish consumption in the northern Great Lakes is now available to the public. A family guide to eating fish called "Eat Fish But Choose Wisely" is a brochure that tells its readers how to choose and prepare northern Great Lakes fish as part of a healthy diet.

Omega-3 fatty acids are plentiful in many Great Lakes fish species, most notably lake whitefish and lake herring with levels higher than salmon and tuna. But other kinds of fish must be chosen and processed with care by populations who need fish but are vulnerable to contaminants like mercury and PCBs. This group includes children of all ages, expectant mothers and their developing fetuses, seniors, and people whose diet includes a high percentage of fish, such as Native Americans. While the brochure was developed especially for these vulnerable populations, it is a valuable guide for everyone.

Eat Fish But Choose Wisely teaches the reader how to select fish with the least mercury

and the most omega-3 fatty acids; how to clean and trim fish properly to reduce other contaminants such as PCBs, and how to cook fish to enjoy the highest health benefits.

Illustrations, photographs and easy reading make the brochure clear and straight forward.

Choosing fish is made easy by sticking to three key guidelines easily recalled as "source, species and size":

SOURCE — Some lakes and rivers have less contaminants than others do. For example, Lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron have lower levels of mercury than inland lakes and reservoirs.

SPECIES — Fish that eat other fish tend to build up more contaminants in their flesh. Also, some species grow more slowly, allowing time for contaminants to build up. For example, the low-mercury lake whitefish eats few fish.

SIZE — Choose smaller fish of the species. Larger fish eat other large fish, building up even more contaminants.

The Eat Fish But Choose Wisely Project is a col-

laboration between Inter Tribal Council of Michigan Inc. (ITC), Inter Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program (ITFAP) and Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA). Project educational materials and the scientific research upon which they are based were made possible by a U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) grant.

Individuals, health professionals and educators are all encouraged to use the guide.

For more information, contact ITC Health Services Director Rick Haverkate, 906-632-6896, or ITFAP Environmental Coordinator Mike Ripley, 906-632-0072.

To obtain copies of the brochure, contact Jennifer M. Dale-Burton at 179 W. Three Mile Rd., Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783, 906-632-0043, jmdale@chippewaottawa.org. To view the brochure on the Internet, see The ITC website at <<http://www.itcni.org/EatFishWisely>> or CORA's website at <<http://www.1836cora.org/>>.



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

Julie Hopper and her children, twins Jake and Sam and baby Sydney Rose, volunteered to help brochure designer Jennifer Dale-Burton with a family shopping photo shoot, which took place at Four Seasons Market in Brimley, Mich., to shop for fresh whitefish. Photo subjects Lori Brown, Laura Rae Parish and her son Gabriel, and artist Matt Dellinger, are also appreciated.

Ripley works for healthy water

From "Environmental Battles," front page

fish for testing from Lake Michigan.

"We're pretty lucky that whitefish is our tribal fishers' main commercial catch. Whitefish happens to be one of the fish lowest in contaminants. We've been able to show this through our contaminant-monitoring program," said Ripley.

"We have also chronicled the Great Lakes-wide decrease in contaminants over the past 15 years," he added.

The Work is Great

In general, environmental work spans a whole host of areas, including politics, science, and education. "It's a very interesting field, because it's never the same. Each day is different," said Ripley. "I find it very interesting and I really believe in what I'm doing."

In fact, Ripley recommends the field to youth looking for a career. "It's important to get our young people excited about the issues. Really, what we've been doing is for the coming generations."

Top Great Lakes Issues

Top environmental issues facing us right now are aquatic nuisance species, mercury pollution from energy sources, habitat destruction and poor land use practices endangering the fisheries.

According to Ripley, the most alarming problem of the moment is aquatic nuisance species, which are totally altering the ecosystem. "The underlying problem is not science, it's politics — when politicians are more influenced by

money than the overall good."

Energy production causes a host of problems besides mercury pollution: huge water intakes that destroy fish and plankton, global warming that could have a huge negative effect on native fishes of the Great Lakes, and water use such as diversions, according to Ripley.

"We have continually voiced our concern of diversions of water out of the Great Lakes," he said. "And, we support the most stringent restrictions on diversions."

Sewage contamination in the St. Marys River is a prime example of the human folly that CORA battles — in this case, pushing a foreign country to clean up a situation that's been going on for many years.

"Although sewage may not directly affect the fishery, certainly historical accumulation of contaminants on the bottom of the St. Marys River has an overall adverse effect on the fisheries," said Ripley. "Through participation on the St. Marys River Binational Public Advisory Committee (BPAC), we're hoping to hold the governments to their promises of fixing a whole list of things that have historically damaged the river."

Ripley's journey to ITFAP

Ripley has developed a network of tribes, agencies and organizations in both the U.S. and Canada to help him in his passionate fight for the tribes' environmental well being, and has made a name for himself doing it. Ironically, Ripley started out overseas in gold and platinum mines. He was able



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

Mike Ripley, Environmental Coordinator for Inter Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program, prepares fish for contaminant sampling. Ripley has worked on fish contaminant sampling since 1996 and has developed the oldest database of its kind.

to see firsthand the damage that can be done by unregulated mining practices. "That's when I decided to switch to a career that would help the environment rather than hurt the environment."

Ripley took his undergraduate in geology from LSSU and headed to Europe, backpacking for a year until he ended up in South Africa to witness the damaging mining work. If he hadn't, the tribes may never have had the opportunity to hire such a tireless environmental coordinator with the skill and resolve to fulfill his goals.

"I grew up on the beaches of Lake Superior. I can remember seeing an eagle's nest and within a couple of years those eagles were gone and it was many more years before we ever saw any eagles. That was because of DDT. So when I was growing up the Great Lakes were in big trouble," remembered Ripley.

"I've been happy to see a great recovery in the past 20 years. I want to see that recovery continue and especially work to protect any more damage from being done."



USFWS M/V Spencer F. Baird receives crew and orders



Fisheries Habitat & Conservation Assistant Director Mamie Parker.



LTBB Tribal Chairman Frank Ettawageshik.



USFWS Director Dale Hall.



Photos by Jennifer Dale-Burton. Image of M/V Spencer F. Baird edited from photo by Karla Bartelt, used courtesy USFWS

TRAVERSE CITY — Champagne was in the air on a beautiful fall day on September 7 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service M/V Spencer F. Baird was christened and commissioned at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy pier. USFWS Region 3 Regional Director Robyn Thorson presided over the event, bringing a number of officials to the speakers podium, including Dale Hall (USFWS director), Gerry Jackson (Region 3 assistant regional direc-

tor), Mamie Parker (Fisheries Habitat and Conservation assistant director), and Frank Ettawageshik (Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians chairman), among others.

Dwight Teeple smudged the ship, while Mamie Parker and Robyn Thorson smashed champagne bottles on its stern. Crew members received their orders and the flags were raised. On behalf of Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Frank Ettawageshik pre-

sented Dale Hall with a letter of support and spoke about the M/V Baird's role in Great Lakes stewardship in both the present and the seventh generation. The Baird primary mission is to transport fingerling and yearling lake trout to restore populations in lakes Huron and Michigan. The vessel's secondary mission is to carry out assessments to measure the performance of the stocked trout. The research vessel will berth in Cheboygan.

US Coast Guard re-opens comment period on live firing zones

The USCG announced September 12 in the Federal Register that it is re-opening the public comment period on its proposal to "establish permanent safety zones throughout the Great Lakes to conduct live fire gun exercises."

In its summary, the USCG states: *In response to public requests, the Coast Guard is re-opening the comment period on its notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to establish permanent safety zones throughout the Great Lakes to conduct live fire gun exercises. These safety zones are necessary to protect the public from the hazards associated with the firing of weapons and to ensure the operational readiness of Coast Guard personnel, cutters and small boats. Reopening the comment period will provide the public more time to submit comments and recommendations.*

Comments and related materials must reach the Coast Guard on or before November 13, 2006. The Coast Guard asks that comments be submitted only once by one of the following means:

- By mail to the Docket Management Facility (USCG-2006-2567), U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- By delivery to room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

- By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202-493-2251.

- Electronically through the Web

site for the Docket Management System at <<http://dms.dot.gov>>.

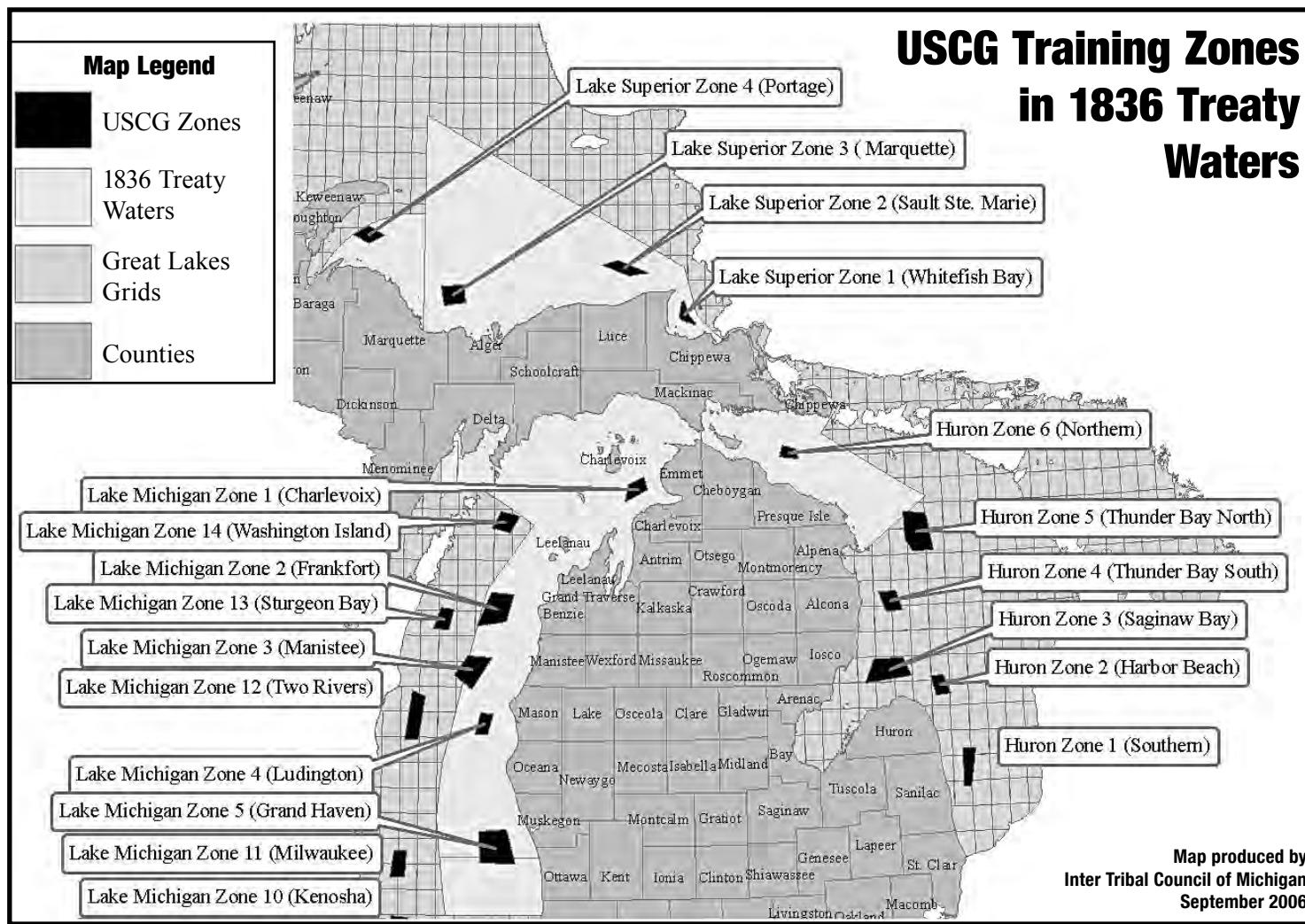
Commenters should include their name and address, identify the NPRM [USCG-2006-2567] and indicate the specific section of the document to which each comment applies, and include reasons for each comment.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for the rulemaking. Comments will become part of the public docket for the rulemaking. The docket may be accessed by the public at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

For more information on the NPRM provisions contact Commander Gustav Wulfkuhle, Enforcement Branch, Response Division, Ninth Coast Guard District, Cleveland, Ohio, at 216-902-6091. For questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Renee V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202-493-0402.

The first comment period was August 1-31, 2006. Ninth Coast Guard District units placed small-caliber weapons on cutters and small boats be-

ginning in January 2006, according to a USCG press release. Birders, environmentalists, commercial fishermen, recreational boaters and anglers, charter captains and ferry operations have all expressed varying concerns, and Canadian media has published editorials fearing "friendly fire" from the exercises. The zones are mostly near Coast Guard Stations, and near favored recreation and fishing sites, such as Grand Haven, Frankfort, Grand Marais, Marquette, Sault Ste. Marie and the Keweenaw Peninsula.



USCG Training Zones in 1836 Treaty Waters

Map produced by Inter Tribal Council of Michigan September 2006



Project goes forward with packaging, website

Whitefish committee chooses brand name

MACKINAC CITY — The MSU Whitefish Marketing Campaign is going forward with two marketing initiatives — a promotional website accessible to all Michigan whitefish fishers and processors, and a packaging initiative available by joining a branding group.

The two-fold move aims to promote sales and higher prices for Michigan's lake whitefish. It produces a high-end product that will spread awareness, raise prices and be available to those eligible.

The website will promote the Michigan lake whitefish product in general, and offer web pages to those Michigan commercial whitefish fishers and processors who want one.

The campaign is made possible by a grant to MSU Extension. It is being implemented by Extension staffers Ron Kinnunen and Chuck Pistis, overseen by a whitefish marketing steering committee. The committee is comprised of individual Michigan whitefish fishermen and processors, tribal fishing representatives as well as Michigan Fish Producers representatives.

On August 31, the committee met in Mackinac City to review draft websites and branding concepts, and choose the best concepts.

Newhall Klein, a Kalamazoo-based firm hired by the campaign to create marketing materials, presented websites with four basic areas:

— Educate the viewer about lake whitefish: taste, purity, freshness, nutritional benefits including low mercury and high omega-3 fatty acids and why this is significant.

— Educate the viewer about availability: where can you get lake whitefish?

— Educate the viewer about how to prepare lake whitefish: whitefish recipes.

— Educate the viewer about the fishery and its fishers: culture, heritage and history of the lake whitefish in the upper Great Lakes.

The website aims to make a personal connection between the fishery and the viewer. The site architecture is such that everything available on the site is within two "clicks" of the viewer. A site search function is included.

Any Michigan lake whitefish fisher or processor may secure their own page on the website, or link to it from their own website.

Second, a "Legend of the Lakes" brand for a high quality Michigan lake whitefish fillet is being offered by MSU Product Center staff Matt Birbeck, supply chain specialist and counselor liaison. He has secured funding to create a 2-fillet sleeve package branded as "Legend of the Lakes."

The Legend of the Lakes brand is for any Michigan-based lake whitefish fisher or processor who wants to join the branding group and who will follow the quality standards the group sets. The group will obtain guidance to avoid what would essentially be a buy-out of a big out state company.

Birbeck would like one or more tribal commercial fishers or processors on the group's board to ensure accessibility for tribal fishers and for "uniqueness," he said.

The members of the Legend of the Lakes brand package will have a blank space for the members to place their own label. The package itself will have a UPC code and conform to a weight standard. For more information, contact Matt Birbeck at the MSU Product Center, 517-432-8753.

To discuss the campaign, contact Ron Kinnunen, 906-226-3687, or Chuck Pistis, 616-846-8250.

Fishing Boats FOR SALE

HW HOCKS FOR SALE



FISHING VESSEL FOR SALE — H. W. Hocks, 48-foot + 13-foot + 6 draft. CAT D-13000 6 Inline, Power Take Off, Pony Motor Starter. Twin Disk Trany, 4-inch Propeller Shaft, Large Rudder. New 24-mile Radar, 600-foot Depth Finder, GPS, Large 8-inch Compass, and 30" Crosely gillnet lifter. Warm Vessel: Coal and Wood Stove. Contact Skip Parish Sr. at 248-2848.

36-foot Trap Net Boat



SHAMROCK FOR SALE — The beautiful 36-foot, diesel-powered trap net boat "Shamrock" is for sale for \$40,000. Included is a new Perkins 115T motor and a 4-axle trailer. Call 248-2150.

42-foot Gill Net Tug



FOR SALE — 42' Gill Net Tug "Niibing Nimnido" (Formerly the "Francis Clark"). This steel tug was constructed in the 1950s, but has been well maintained and is very clean. The vessel is powered by a 630 Caterpillar diesel engine and has a 30" lifter. Currently docked at the Arthur Duhamel Marina at Peshawbestown, Mich. Contact Don Chippewa or Rose Weese at 1645 S. Center Highway, Suttons Bay, MI 49682, for more information. Or, contact the Grand Traverse Band Natural Resources Department at 231-534-7500 to relay a message.



Manoomineke
Geezis

Ricing Moon

Things change quickly this time of year. Late summer to early fall is a time harvest and change to another form, and when all this happens depends greatly on the weather. In Anishinabe culture, August to September were times for harvesting wild rice and corn. In September to October, the leaves are changing color and falling to the ground, presaging when winter will begin, which is important in a fishing, hunting and gathering society.

Autumn is beautiful and changeable and reveals Mother Earth in all her glory — her bountiful harvest, her beautiful colors and her amazing power. Traditionally, this is a time of year associated with the western direction and the adult time of our lives. Looking around and reflecting on nature — the moon, the stars and the beautiful leaves, the sunset or sunrise over the water — brings another kind of growth.

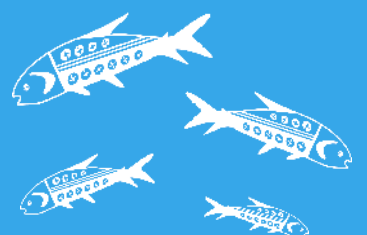
Manoomin, called "wild rice" by English speakers, is a longtime staple of the Anishinabe that grows mostly in the Great Lakes region and is part of our migration lore prophesying our homeland where the food grows on water.

Wild rice is a big grass seed that is full of nutrition. While it is mostly whole grain carbohydrate, it offers significant portions of protein, fiber, amino acids, minerals and vitamins that we need.

Surely it a sacred gift from the Creator. As such, it should be ours to protect from those who want to cultivate wild rice to make it "better," and those who would poison or destroy its habitat.

Deadline

The next deadline for the CORA newsletter "Preserving the Resource" (formerly "Tribal Fishing") is Monday, November 6. Call or write Jennifer Dale-Burton at the CORA Public Information & Education Program 906-632-0043, or jmdale@chippewaottawa.org.



CORA office & Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) office closures

CORA 2006 HOLIDAYS — CORA offices will be closed September 22, November 10, November 23-24, December 25-26. The office will also be closed January 1 and 2, 2007.

BIA 2006 HOLIDAYS —The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) offices will be closed: October 9, November 10, November 23 and December 25.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS ACCORDINGLY. To place important dates in this FAQ box, please contact Jennifer Dale-Burton at 906-632-0043 or jmdale@chippewaottawa.org.