

# Ashi-niswi giizisoog (Thirteen Moons)

## Manidoo-giizisoons

*The new Manidoo-giizisoons begins December 13. This is the Little Spirit Moon. Another name for this moon is Gichi-bibooni-giizis, the Big Winter Moon.*

# Phenology, it's what is happening in nature

By Shannon Judd

Phenology is the study of the timing of natural events like recording the dates of significant moments in nature, such as when migrating birds return, lakes freeze and thaw, flowers bloom, sap begins flowing, wild rice ripens, etc. These observations provide a great compliment to the weather data we are all familiar with, such as temperature, precipitation, wind and humidity. We hear meteorologists talk regularly about what is normal or average for any given time of year based on over 100 years of data collection. Recording the actual events happening in nature over periods of time can help provide that same type of correlation.

Phenology is important because not only does it help us understand

the interaction between wildlife, vegetation and the surrounding environment, it can help identify any significant changes that occur over time and help assess the impacts of climate change. For example, some bird species are nesting further north than ever before, wood ticks have expanded their territory and abundance, and other plants and animals are now being found further north or at different times of year. This year unusual weather has played a key role on the impacts of natural events. The mild temperatures last winter severely hampered sugar bush and the June floods damaged wild rice crops.

What can we expect in nature in December? Winter, when there is snow cover, provides a great opportunity to observe animal activity. Tracks, body imprints, scat (the scientific term for animal poop) all

tell a story about what is going on in nature. Animals that hibernate or go dormant should be fast asleep. If temperatures are unusually warm, dormant animals, such as zhigaagwag (skunks), may wake up and be active until it gets too cold. Look at tree and shrub branches for waawaashkeshi (deer) and wabooz (rabbit) browsing. The best way to tell the difference is that wabooz will bite off the stem with a clean snip whereas waawaashkeshi tear them, leaving scraggly ends. Did you know a waawaashkeshi does not have top front teeth? Look for binewag (grouse) burrows in the snow – the snow provides insulation to help keep them warm at night and protect them from predators.

Over the past few years, different classes at the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School have participated in a phe-



*Dagwaagin: Dagwaagin-Fall Phenology by Andrew Wold*

nology project where they go out to the nature trail periodically to make observations using all of the senses. We would like to invite the community to send us your observations to expand this to a community-wide project. Please email observations and any photos to Shannon Judd at shannonjudd@fdlrez.com or call

(218) 878-7123.

For more information on national efforts to monitor phenology, go to these websites: USA National Phenology Network: <http://www.usanpn.org/> Project Budburst: <http://neoninc.org/budburst/>

## Gooniginebigooog-Snow Snakes

By Nikki Crowe,  
13 Moons Extension Coordinator

Robert 'Bob' Shimek, Red Lake Elder from White Earth will teach us how to carve a traditional snow snake at a 13 Moons workshop being held later in December. Refreshments will be provided.

Bob will share stories of the snow snake and how the gooniginebigooog activities can be used to teach Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculums. Participants will go home with a snow snake and directions to finish their own. Look for details on the Fond du Lac website [www.fdlrez.com](http://www.fdlrez.com) or email [thirteenmoons@fdlrez.com](mailto:thirteenmoons@fdlrez.com) to sign up for the 13 Moons listserv to receive the latest info on workshops and events.

## 13 Moons Gichi Manidoo Giizis Traditional Pow wow

By Nikki Crowe

13 Moons will be hosting the Gichi Manidoo Giizis Traditional Pow wow on Jan. 12, at Black Bear Casino Resort in the Otter Creek Convention Center. Doors open at 11 a.m., Grand Entry at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. There will be a traditional feast at 5 p.m. Vendor tables will be available, contact Nikki Crowe at (218) 878-7148 or Linda Whitebird at (218) 878-7101. More information coming soon on the 13 Moons Ashi niswi giizisoog Facebook page or look for a flyer to be posted at [www.fdlrez.com](http://www.fdlrez.com). Miigwech.

## Holiday Lights Recycling

By Shannon Judd,  
Environmental Educator

The Fond du Lac Transfer Station on University Road accepts holiday lights for recycling. Please do not throw them away. Additional collection locations will be added soon.

Thank you to all of you who recycled your holiday lights over the past three years. As some of you may have seen on the news, holiday lights are disassembled at employee training centers.

For example, lights collected at Fond du Lac are taken to Pine Habilitation and Supported Employment, Inc. Every part of these lights

are recyclable; glass is crushed and used to make tiles, fiberglass, and asphalt; wire strands are reused to make new wire.

By recycling your lights not only are you helping to reduce the amount of waste going into a landfill, you are also helping to provide jobs for people in need.

You may also bring in telephone, appliances, and any other electrical cords for recycling. Miigwech.

Most of this article first appeared in the December 2011 13 Moons page.

### Upcoming Events:

Sign up to the 13 Moons listserv for the latest information on workshops and events by emailing [thirteenmoons@fdlrez.com](mailto:thirteenmoons@fdlrez.com). Don't forget to check us out on Facebook! 13 Moons Ashi niswi giizisoog

*This page addresses culture, ecology, and natural resource management. Thirteen Moons is the Fond du Lac Tribal College Extension Program and is a collaboration of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and Fond du Lac Resource Management.*

# Ashi-niswi giizisoog Ojibwemowin Page

## Anishinaabemowin Lessons

By Charles Smith

Consonants used in Ojibwe make nearly the same sounds that they do in English. The Vowels are a little different though. Here they are:

i = ih (like the 'i' sound in 'it')  
 ii = ee (like the 'e' sound in 'see')  
 o = o (like the 'o' sound in 'oh')  
 oo = oo (like the 'o' sound in 'boo')  
 a = ah (like the 'u' sound in 'but')  
 aa = aa (like 'a' sound in father')  
 e = ay (like the 'a' sound in 'say')

### Basic Rule for Ojibwe:

Wii Future tense maker meaning "want" or "need"  
 Giiwose 'S/he is hunting.'  
 Wii-giiwose 'S/he wants to hunt.'

The future tense marker wii- turned 'S/he runs.' to 'S/he wants to run.' It also changed b to p. Try practicing with other action words like: ricing 'manoominike', netting 'bagidawaa'waa', walking 'bi-mose', etc.

### Some basic persons

Niin = 'I'  
 Giin = 'You'  
 Wiin = 'S/he'  
 Wiinawaa = 'They'

Ingiiwose. 'I am hunting.'  
 Niwii-giiwose. 'I want / need to hunt.'  
 Giiwose. 'You are hunting.'  
 Giwii-giiwose. 'You want / need to hunt.'  
 Giiwosewag. 'They are hunting.'  
 Wii-giiwosewag. 'They want / need to hunt.'

G A X G W N U C I G X V I G S  
 Y Y G D I Z O N F A V H X I P  
 R A D I O I G W Y W S W B I W  
 U F A O W I N Q Q E M I I W G  
 U A B W I I B T K S J I C O A  
 V A V W A J I H M O J N A S W  
 W N O C V N S G I W X I F E E  
 W S C F H A I N I I N X Q W N  
 E C I T A J F I L I L L W A I  
 A E I W O J E C W G W R T G B  
 D F A Y O E A X S I V O C S J  
 U A E S O W I I G I G M S A B  
 W N I W I I G I I W O S E E A  
 H L P F L X T L W M W A T J V  
 O E F F O V R X V G X P N C A

Directions: Find the Ojibwe words from the list.  
 (no hyphens)

## Ojibwe Wordlist

Niin  
 Giin  
 Wiin  
 Wiinawaa  
 Ingiiwose.  
 Niwii-giiwose.  
 Giiwose.  
 Giwii-giiwose.  
 Giiwosewag.  
 Wii-giiwosewag.  
 binewag  
 waawaashkeshi  
 wabooz