

Ashi-niswi giizisooog (Thirteen Moons)

Gichi Giizis

Gichi Giizis is the Big moon and begins its cycle as a new moon on January 4. Other names used for January's moon include Manidoo giizis (Spirit moon) and Oshki-bibooni giizis (New Winter moon).

Thirteen Moons: The Fond du Lac Tribal College Extension Program

By Dave Wilsey

A new year is a time for reflection and sharing highlights and challenges from the year we leave behind. 2010 was exciting and pivotal for Thirteen Moons, which in the last few months of 2010 has seen some important program developments.

In March 2010, the Thirteen Moons team submitted a proposal to the US Department of Agriculture's Tribal College Grants Program.

The intent of the proposal was to establish the Fond du Lac Tribal College Extension Program using Thirteen Moons as its foundation and framework. In July, we learned that we received the grant, which provides four years of program funding. In October 2010, Thirteen Moons

officially became the FDL Tribal College Extension Program! We offer profound thanks to FDL's RBC, Resource Management Division, Tribal and Community College, and each of the many individuals in the community who have supported the program and its offerings.

The intent of the USDA grant

is development of the program, but also development of the Tribal College. An important part of the grant proposal was funding to support a Thirteen Moons program coordinator. In November, Nikki Crowe joined the Thirteen Moons team in this role (see article). Nikki will be working full-time to help Thirteen Moons meet its program objectives.

If you haven't heard about Thirteen Moons or do not know about the connection between this page and the workshops and events you have hopefully heard about over the past 20 months, here is a brief overview.

Mark your calendar now for the 2011 Storytelling, to be held February 19 at the Sawyer Community Center

Thirteen Moons addresses an identified need to reconnect FDL community members with: 1) natural resource knowledge, 2) social networks, and 3) Ojibwe culture. The program emerged from a 2008 listening session undertaken by employees of FDL's Resource Management Division and University of Minnesota Extension. In the first year, Thirteen Moons created this page for the monthly paper and offered

monthly workshops on seasonally important topics. In early 2010, we added the Sawyer Storytelling event and supported the growth of the recently launched Language Immersion Camp. In the coming four years we hope to add more educational and community events to the annual calendar and to expand the reach and support network of the program.

2011 promises exciting new things for Thirteen Moons. In addition to this monthly page we will continue to host monthly workshops on seasonal topics related to culture, ecology, and natural resource management. Additionally, we will continue to support and develop seasonal events. Sometimes

Thirteen Moons takes the lead in developing these events and sometimes we are there to support ideas and initiatives already in action. Either way, Thirteen Moons depends on the knowledge and experience that resides within the people of this community. Thirteen Moons cannot exist and will not grow without the support and contributions of Fond du Lac Band and community members!

Look for Thirteen Moons on Facebook ["13 Moons"] as a new way to keep up on events and to join the ongoing discussion about natural resources and Ojibwe culture.

Introducing, Nikki Crowe...

A nniin! My name is Nikki Crowe, the new 13 Moons program coordinator. I am happy to join the Fond du Lac community. A little about myself: I enjoy learning about people and plants. I have spent some time growing heritage varieties of corn, beans and squash. One variety of corn I learned about came from Leech Lake; is called Bear Island flint. This corn was used for flour and polenta. I love gardening and believe one way to honor the earth is to sow the earth with good seeds.

I received my Associates degree in Environmental Science at Haskell Indian Nations University. I have worked on several research projects having to do with prairie restoration,

plant surveying, and climate change affecting crop plants. What I hope to see the 13 Moons program accomplish is bringing the community together to learn from one another, gain knowledge of the intrinsic value of our land, air and water resources, the impact of our local economy, and create a knowledge base of traditional ecological skills readily and easily accessible to our younger generation.

I believe the continued success of the 13 Moons program will come from the community of Fond du Lac. Our elders and elders-in-training will provide the knowledge and wisdom of our Ojibwe traditions and language to guide our youth into a sustainable future for themselves and the land.



A good moment from 2010: Pat Northrup serves community members at the 2010 Storytelling at the Sawyer Community Center in February. Over 200 people participated in this event!

Upcoming Events:

13 Moons Workshop: Ojibwemowin & GLIFWC's Language DVD, Jan 20, 2011, 5-7 p.m.

13 Moons Event: Winter Storytelling, February 19, 2011 (more info at <http://giizis13.wordpress.com>)

This page addresses culture, ecology, and natural resource management and is a monthly production of the Thirteen Moons, the FDL Tribal College Extension Program. Thirteen Moons is funded by a USDA grant and supported by FDL's Resource Management Division and University of Minnesota Extension.