

Ashi-niswi giizisoog (Thirteen Moons)

Onaabani-giizis

The new Onaabani-giizis begins March 22. This is the Hard Crust on the Snow moon. Other names for this moon are Bebookwedaagime-giizis, the Snowshoe Breaking Moon; Aandego-giizis, Crow moon; Niki-giizis, the Goose Moon and Ziinsibaakwadooke-giizis, the Sugar Making Moon.



Curly-leaf pondweed



Eurasian watermilfoil



Spiny waterflea



Zebra mussel

(Photo Courtesy MN DNR)

Aquatic Invasive Species in Mille Lacs Lake

By Courtney Kowalczak

As we all wait for the ice to break up on our frozen lakes it is time to remind ourselves that many lakes in Minnesota have unwanted guests, aquatic invasive species (AIS), living in their depths. What are AIS? Aquatic Invasive Species can be a plant, an animal, or a pathogen. These species are non-native meaning that they are introduced into our waters by humans, either purposefully or by accident. These species are considered

invasive because they thrive in their new environment and can cause major problems. This means where we once had a lake with a variety of lake plants we now have a lake that has only Eurasian watermilfoil or Curly-leaf pondweed. Or we have a lake where once kids could walk barefoot in the shallows but now have to wear shoes to protect their feet from sharp-shelled Zebra mussels.

Because Mille Lacs Lake is such a popular fishing destination it has been infested with quite a few invasive species.

Eurasian watermilfoil, Curly-leaf pondweed, Spiny water flea, and Zebra mussels have all found a home in Mille Lacs.

The best thing that you can do to help prevent the spread of AIS is to be aware. Don't be part of the problem by transporting them. There are some simple yet vital steps that you can take to make sure that fishing and recreational activities don't include giving AIS hitchhikers a ride to their next home.

Remove any visible plants, fish or animals from your boat and trailer. It is illegal to trans-

port any vegetation on public roads.

Remove mud and dirt since it too may contain mussels or small larvae that can establish themselves in the next lake where you launch.

Remove even plant fragments as some AIS can root from even these small fragments.

Remove water from motors, live wells, boat hulls, boots, waders, and bait buckets

You must pull the drain plug on your boat before leaving the boat launch area or risk getting a ticket.

If you want to take your bait with you then you must use freshwater from a tap or store to replace the water in your bait bucket

Allow your boat, fishing equipment, nets, and other recreational equipment to dry for at least 5 days before using them at the next fun spot.

You can learn more about AIS from Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission's Mazina'igan Supplement at www.glifwc.org/publications/pdf/AIS_Supplement.pdf

An excerpt from the Mishomis book on Ma-en'-gun

In his travels, Original Man began to notice that all the animals came in pairs and they reproduced. And yet, he was alone.

He spoke to his Grandfather the Creator and asked, "Why am I alone?" "Why are there no other ones like me?" Gitche Manito answered, "I will send someone to walk, talk and play with you." He sent Ma-en'-gun (the wolf).

With Ma-en'-gun by his side, Original Man again spoke to Gitche Manito, "I have finished what you asked me to do. I

have visited and named all the plants, animals, and places of this Earth. What would you now have me to do?" Gitche Manito answered Original Man and Ma-en'-gun, "Each of you are to be a brother to the other. Now, both of you are to walk the Earth and visit all its places."

So, Original Man and Ma-en'-gun walked the Earth and came to know all of her. In this journey they became very close to each other. They became like brothers. In their closeness they realized that they were brothers

to all of the Creation.

When they had completed the task that Gitche Manito asked them to do, they talked with the Creator once again. The Creator said, "From this day on, you are to separate your paths. You must go your different ways."

"What shall happen to one of you will also happen to the other. Each of you will be feared, respected and misunderstood by the people that will later join you on this Earth."

And so Ma-en'-gun and Original Man set off on their different journeys.

This last teaching about the wolf is important for us today. What the Grandfather said to them has come true. Both the Indian and the wolf have come to be alike and have experienced the same thing. Both of them mate for life. Both have a Clan System and a tribe. Both have had their land taken from them. Both have been hunted for their wee-nes'-si-see' (hair). And both have been pushed very close to destruction.

We can tell about our future as Indian people by looking at the wolf. It seems as though the

wolf is beginning to come back to this land. Will this prove that Indian people will cease to be the "Vanishing Americans?" Will Indian people emerge to lead the way back to natural living and respect for our Earth Mother?

The Mishomis book can be ordered from Indian Country Communications Inc. 8558 N. County Road K Hayward, WI 54843 or by phone (715) 634-5226.

Upcoming Events:

Sign up to the 13 Moons listserv for the latest information on workshops and events by emailing 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, Fond du Lac Resource Management, and University of Minnesota Extension.