

# Ashi-niswi giizisoog (Thirteen Moons)

## Waabigoni-giizis

*The new Waabigoni-giizis, flowering moon, begins May 20th. Other names for this moon are Zaagibagaagime-giizis, Budding Moons; Waswugone-giizis, Flowering Moon.*

## Netting and Spearing 2012

By Nikki Crowe

It was a sunny day on Liberty landing on the southeast corner of Mille Lac Lake and the place was abuzz with Band members getting their boats ready to set gillnets. Randy Erikson, Fond du Lac band member, was our volunteer boat captain to take out the Fond du Lac fish camp participants. Jimmy Northrup III, FDL Ojibwe Cultural Technician, was on hand to assist those of us new to the netting experience.

My first step was to register for a permit to set my net with Fond du Lac Natural Resources. I presented my tribal identification card and was given a small tag to attach to the net. The second step was to haul the net to the boat and get in. The game wardens had inspected

the boat for safety issues, life vests, proper registration, and net compliance. As we cast out, I listened to Randy discuss the best place to set our nets; near the rocks, sandy areas bring in other species that we don't necessarily want in our nets. When we found the best place, we attached a weight and buoy to the end of our 100 foot net and dropped it into the water. Randy then put the boat in reverse as Paul Klassen and I fed the net into the water. When we came to the end of the net we attached another buoy and weight.

The weight is dropped first and then a moment later we dropped the buoy. I offered my asemaa for a good harvest and we went back to shore. Then we waited until morning. I had to experience the whole event,

so I slept in my car. I am not as young as I feel, so I suggest making arrangements at a local hotel while you wait.

The next morning I was awake by 4 a.m., mostly due to the fact that my nose and toes were frozen. I started my car to warm up and when I unthawed I went to look for a cup of coffee from the FDL staff. It was still dark and the moon was full and bright over the lake, what a beautiful way to wake up.

We then went out and pulled our nets, which was back-breaking work, since the nets were now full of walleye and a few other assorted fish. The hard part was done and then it was time to pull the fish from the net. The best thing to do, Tom Howes, Natural Resources Manager said, "is to use your thumb to hold the fish by its

gill and work the net down the back". I tried this method and it worked. I did not have to use a pick on any of the fish. We then took the fish to the Fond du Lac creel station where FDL staff work 12 hour shifts during the spearing and netting run, weigh and measure every fish. They take otoliths, or inner ear bones to tell the age of the fish. These practices help manage the fish population in the lake. After registering your fish, it's time to go home to fillet and package the fish.

Last year, Tom Howes advised me how to cut the Y-bone from the northern pike and how to cut the cheeks from the walleye. He showed me when the staff stayed behind to volunteer their time to fillet the fish for the Elderly Nutrition Program. Jimmy had volunteers set up at his

camp back on the rez waiting to fillet our fish. We all agreed to do our part and when it was finished; participants received their share of the fish brought in. Jimmy taught me about not letting our nets touch the ground and being careful to be respectful toward the fish and not throw them into the bucket.

All in all the fish camp was a success and there was plenty of fish for our families and the Elders in the community. I can't wait for next year to do this again. More information and stories on netting and spearing can be found at [www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org). Hope to see you at the landing. Gigawaabimin!

## Bimaaji'idiwin

By Danielle Diver

With the unusual weather we've had in the last few months, many people are wondering when it will be safe to start planting a garden. The average last frost date for the FDL area is the first week of June; it is probably best to err on the side of caution and wait until then to plant tender crops outside. Tender crops are plants like

tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, tomatillos, squash, beans, corn, basil, melons, and most bedding flowers.

Now is a good time to start the seeds of those plants indoors, though, if you have not done so already. This will help them get a head start on our short growing season and they will be more likely to survive than if you just seeded them directly in your garden. If you don't have grow lights, try putting your

seedlings in a sunny south or west-facing window. It is safe to start transplanting or direct seeding crops like broccoli, cauliflower, kale, collards, kohlrabi, lettuce, Swiss chard, peas, radishes, beets, potatoes, spinach, and carrots, since those plants can tolerate cold temperatures (but peas, radishes, potatoes, and carrots should be direct seeded because they don't like their roots to be disturbed).

Now is a good time to start

planting perennials. Perennials are the plants that come back every year, including trees and shrubs. Native plants are well-adapted to our climate so they are not as difficult to keep alive as the less hardy imports. I also recommend planting an edible landscape in your yard since edible plants will perform the double duties of beautification and supplementing your diet with fresh, local produce. Many of Minnesota's native fruit trees

and shrubs are highly valuable for their health-promoting properties. Blueberries, raspberries, chokeberries, strawberries, and Juneberries all are high in antioxidants, iron and fiber. Antioxidants and fiber have been shown in numerous studies to prevent and fight heart disease and cancer. Juneberries also have diabetes-fighting properties.

### 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, Fond du Lac Resource Management, and University of Minnesota Extension.*



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*NOOJIGIIGOONYIWE; Go Fishing*



*BIINDA'AM; Be Caught in a Net*



*BAKAZHAAWE; Clean Fish*



*ASAB; Net*



*BII'O; S/he Waits*



*AGOJOONAAGAN; Net Float*



*ASINAAB; Net Sinker*



*GINJIGAADE; They count it*