

Ashi-nisiwag giizisoog (13 Moons)

Aabita niibino giizis

Aabita niibino giizis is the half-way or midsummer moon, likely a reference to its timing. All moons have different names due to the geographic range over which the language is spoken. The half-way moon is also known as Miini giizis (raspberry moon) and Baashkawe'o giizis (flying moon). The deer and horse flies are certainly flying in July!

Miini Giizis (Blueberry Moon)

Steve Olson

FDL Resource Management

FDL Forestry Program has been using fire to promote and improve blueberry growth. This year four areas one-half acre to one acre in size were intentionally burned to renew the plants.

Indigenous people held the wild blueberry in very high esteem due to the fact that the blossom end of each blueberry forms a five points star. It was believed the "Great Spirit" sent these star berries to relieve the hunger of children during a famine.

Why does burning work so well for blueberries? First the top growth of the plant becomes unproductive after several years. Burning kills the top and the plant sends up new growth. This new growth produces more flowers. Burning also exposes more bare ground allowing the sun to warm it. The warmer ground stimulates the roots and the plants spread out increasing the cover in the patch making more blueberries. The ash from fire also provides nutrients to fuel the growth. Burning keeps the trees and brush from shading the blueberries.

Recently, blueberries have been labeled as a "Superfruit" due to its health benefits. You've probably heard of antioxidants. The antioxidants in blueberries fights aging, cancer, heart disease, stroke, and Alzheimer's disease. If you know of areas that may be suitable for blueberry management give Resource Management a call, 218-878-8001.



Matt Ammesmaki uses a drip torch to ignite a prescribed fire in a cultural blueberry burn near Arrowhead truck trail

The world was created when muskrat brought mud from the bottom of the flood to be placed on turtle's back. The turtle's shell has thirteen central plates, called scutes. The traditional Ojibwe calendar year follows a 13 moon lunar cycle. The names of each moon are influenced by natural phenomena, animal activity, and cultural practices and beliefs. Because the area in which Ojibwe is spoken is so vast, not all Ojibwe people use the same names for the moons.



Raspberry Leaf Tea, Miskomin Niibish

Shannon Judd, *FDL Resource Management*

Use fresh or dried leaves -- young, small leaves are best. Steep in boiled water for ten minutes. Raspberry leaf tea full of vitamins and minerals and known to have medicinal properties. More information on Raspberry Leaf and other traditional medicinal plants can be found in *Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa*, published by Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

Preparing

Tom Howes

FDL Resource Management
Anishinaabe people learned over the course of centuries to be prepared in advance for the unforeseen and upcoming events. Here is a list of things that you could or may need to collect or prepare over the next couple months to enhance the remainder of the year.

For translations of these words and much more go online to

www.freelang.net/

Wiigwaas

Bimiwanaan

Wiigob

Aagimaak

Miinan

Ode'iminan

Odatagaagominag

Gozigwaakominag

Mashkiigiminag

Asasaweminan

Miskwaabiimizh

Misan

Zhaaboominag

Bagaanag

Bawa'iganaakoog

Bawa'iminaan

Bagesaanag

Gaandakii'iganaak

Miskominag

Gitigaanensan

Nooshkaachinaagan

Events:

7 June - 17 July: Journey Garden summer program (2 sessions), Ojibwe School, Info - 218.726.7235

2 October: last day to buy tickets for Resource Mgmt. canoe raffle

Thirteen Moons is produced monthly by the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division and University of Minnesota Extension. Content is based on the appropriate moon, and addresses culture, ecology, and the management of natural resources. Comments and contributions should be directed to the FDL Resource Management @ 218.878.8001