

Ashi-niswi giizisoog (Thirteen Moons)

Waabigoni-giizis

The new Waabigoni-giizis, the Flowering moon begins May 10th. Other names for this moon are Zaagibagaagime-giizis, the Budding moon, and Waswugone-giizis, the Flowering moon.

Wild spring greens

Dave Wilsey,
UMN Extension Program

There is something about working your way through a muddy forest in the spring, finding a cluster of just-emerging wild greens, getting down on



Fiddlehead Ferns, photo by Dave Wilsey

your knees in the mud, inhaling the aromas of the soil, decay, and emerging life, thanking someone or something for the gift, and then cutting a few shoots with a grit laden knife.

There's no science behind this, but I think those first growths of wild edible greens transfer the energy of spring life from the forest to the forager. Fiddlehead ferns and wild leeks (ramps) are two rather accessible wild spring greens found in the area. Edible fern fiddleheads come from the Ostrich fern—other varieties are considered inedible—in its earliest stages of growth, while the frond is still coiled but just beginning to unroll. Wild leeks taste like a combination of onions and garlic and are one of the first ground plants



Wild Leeks, photo by Dave Wilsey

to show leaves in the forest, and then the first to lose them as other plants begin to show. Ask around or contact Thirteen Moons to find someone willing to help you identify these spring gifts. Never harvest and eat anything that you cannot identify with certainty.

May Phenology

Shannon Judd,
FDL Environmental Program

This year has proven difficult to know what to expect. The unending winter has held off the return or emergence of some wildlife, kept the lakes iced over longer, and left some wondering where they took a wrong turn on their migration north. Birds that have returned, especially those that rely on worms and bugs, are experiencing hardships finding food under the deep snow. So what can we expect in May? Well, assuming winter gives up its grip, we will see a lot happening all at once.

Omakakiig and Babiigomakakiig (Frogs and Toads): One sure sign of spring is the sound of omakakiig and babiigomakakiig. Typically, you can hear the first calls around mid-April. As of the writing of this article, no frogs have been heard, not even the wood frog. Wood frogs are typically the last to go into hibernation and the first to come out. They are very cold tolerant and have a special antifreeze in their blood that keeps their cells from freezing completely. If you are interested in learning which frogs and toads are calling in your neighborhood, there are various websites that have soundbytes of Minnesota's common species.

Keep your eyes out also for Marsh Marigolds. They are the beautiful yellow flowers you see flourishing in wet areas, including many of the wet ditches around Nahgahchiwanong (Fond du Lac). Marsh marigolds are one of the first wildflowers to bloom in the spring.



Marsh Marigolds, photo by Niki Crowe

Minnesota Master Naturalist Program

By Staff

Late last summer Nikki Crowe, 13 Moons Program Coordinator, Shannon Kesner, FDL RM Wetland Specialist, and Shannon Judd, FDL RM Environmental Educator along with Courtney Kowalczak from FDLTCC Environmental Institute trained to become Minnesota Master Naturalist instructors. As the newest 13 Moons Master Naturalist instructors we will be holding class June 17-21 to teach others about conservation stewardship. The class will be held at the

Cloquet Forestry Center to include a mix of classroom learning, field trips, and activities to steer new volunteers with ideas and lessons in conservation stewardship. This class includes teachings on traditional ecological knowledge and ethnobotany of the Ojibwe tribes of the North Woods, Great Lakes biome of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Master Naturalist program is a volunteer program that promotes exploring, learning, and conserving Minnesota's natural history. The mission of the Minnesota Master Naturalist

Program is "to promote awareness, understanding, and stewardship of Minnesota's natural environment by developing a corps of well-informed citizens dedicated to conservation education and service within their communities."

For more information on the schedule or scholarship information contact Nikki Crowe at (218) 878-7148 or nikkicrowe@fdlrez.com or visit the Minnesota Master Naturalist website: <http://www.minnesotamasternaturalist.org/>

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 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:

Odasabii. S/he has nets
Odasabii ina? Does s/he have nets?

Yes or no questions have word 'ina' in it. This 'ina' word is always said as the second word in the sentence. Here are some more examples.

Oninasabii ina?

Is she getting the nets ready?

Gidooninasabii ina?

Are you getting the nets ready?

Naadasabii ina?

Is s/he checking the net?

Ginaadasabii ina?

Are you checking the net?

Ziibaaskobijige ina?

Is s/he setting a net under the ice?

Giziibaaskobijige ina? Are you setting a net under the ice?



BIGADA'WAA WORD SEARCH

Find the Ojibwe words in the puzzle below

NOTE: Miigwech to Tammy Nykanen and Doug Diver for noticing last month's puzzle was missing a couple of words! Here is a new word search to try with the same words!

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

Ojibwe Wordlist

DAKAASIN
MINOGIZHIGAD
MIZHAKWAD
NINGWAANAKWAD
GISINAA
AWAN
GIZHAATE
GASHKADIN
NIISKAADAD
GIMIWAN
OZHAASHAA
ZOOGIPON
ANIMIKIIKAA
AABAWAA
NOODIN