MNRD Warden HOTLINE
Call 715-682-7123 Ext. 1560

The Warden Hotline provides the tribal membership with the opportunity to confidentially report suspected wildlife, recreational and environmental violations. These violations may include fishing, or hunting out of season, deposit of harmful substances in lakes or rivers or illegal storage or disposal of hazardous waste. All these violations seriously affect the natural resources of our reservation.

Information received on this line will be relayed to a Mashkiiziibii Conservation Warden for investigation. You don’t have to leave your name when reporting a violation. However, it is often helpful to an investigation if a Conservation Warden can follow-up on your report to verify essential facts. If you provide your identity and any information that may identify you, that information will be protected and kept confidential.

If response is needed immediately please feel free to call or email one of the following Wardens:

Gerald White 715-292-7822 chiefwarden@badriver-nsn.gov
Brad Bigboy 715-979-1181 brnrrwarden@badriver-nsn.gov
Megan Mihalko 715-292-1902 brwarden@badriver-nsn.gov

Helpful info when reporting a violation
Who is the violator? Describe the people, including their physical description and clothing
What is the violation?
Where did this violation take place? (be as specific as possible)
When did this occur?
If possible, please take pictures, and license plate numbers, anything to help identify the suspects.

Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department
72682 Maple Street
PO Box 39
Odanah, WI, 54806
Phone: 715-682-7123
Fax: 715-682-7118
Email: NRDOutreach@badriver-nsn.gov
Indoor Air more Polluted than Outdoor Air?

Dan Wiggins, Air Quality Technician

S

cientific studies have proven some indoor environments are more polluted than any outdoor environment, which health concerns can vary from home to home, can be related to allergies or asthma, and can cause cancer and even death.

Indoor air pollution is sometimes not contributed solely by one source, but rather a combination of sources or factors. There are a variety of things that can contribute to indoor air pollution and is usually associated with sources that release gases or particles into the air. It can be related to specific use of certain chemicals and cleaning agents or traced back to a malfunctioning gas appliance, such as a furnace. Other issues can be directly related to how the home was built or the deterioration of the structure overtime. “Leaky” homes have a tendency of being less energy efficient and may allow excessive moisture to enter, eventually contributing to moisture damage and the development of mold.

Controlling or eliminating sources to minimize can improve indoor environments; however, locating and identifying these sources are not always simple. Reading labels and understanding proper usage of cleaning agents or other household chemicals should be done before use and may help limit some pollutants. Allowing an adequate amount of outdoor air to be introduced into the home can often avoid a build-up of many indoor pollutants.

Other pollutants may be more difficult to control and may even require a sort of testing to identify. Radon is naturally occurring, odorless, cannot be seen, and may cause the development of lung cancer. Maintaining a radon reduction system to be installed to lower the levels. Other pollutants, such as carbon monoxide are also requiring radon reduction system to be installed to lower the levels. Other pollutants, such as carbon monoxide are also occurring, odorless, cannot be seen, and may cause death. Regular wheezing, colds, and irritation of asthma can often be signs of elevated pollutants. It is important to notice time and place of symptoms and if they lessen or go away once leaving the home.

Not all indoor pollutants will be noticed immediately, which exposure to some pollutants overtime can contribute to cancers, respiratory illness, or heart disease. This is why it is important to identify pollutants, such as radon. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has this information and additional information that can be found related to Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), at http://www.epa.gov/iaq/index.html. Information can also be found on the Bad River Tribes website at http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/tribal-operations/natural-resources/indoor-air.

Health effects associated with certain pollutants are more difficult to pinpoint. With multiple household chemicals being present in today’s homes, along with each person reacting differently to certain pollutants, establishing precise concentrations related to the development of certain symptoms are drastically harder to determine. Regular wheezing, colds, and irritation of asthma can often be signs of elevated pollutants. It is important to notice time and place of symptoms and if they lessen or go away once leaving the home.

To keep out the irritating, itchy chaff. He danced the rice in stockering feet to prevent any unnecessary breakage.

My mother would then take a large birch tray and shake or “window” the rice. I can still picture her in the back yard as she shook the rice in the cool shade of the house while the gentle winds removed the excess chaff. For the rest of the season and throughout the long, cold winter evenings, we would pick the husks off the kernels to ready it for cooking. I will always remember the small of the rice. Its unpleasant, putrid odor permeated our home for months. I used to hate that smell; now I long for it.

It is now considered traditional for the Bad River Tribe to have a Manoomin pow wow to celebrate and give thanks for the rice. This event usually takes place the third week in August.

Besides as a food staple, the Ojibwe also used wild rice in their sacred ceremonies and storytelling. It is a crucial element in the realm of the supernatural and in their interactions with animals and spirits. The Ojibwe also used wild rice in their sacred ceremonies and storytelling. It is a crucial element in the realm of the supernatural and in their interactions with animals and spirits. The Ojibwe also used wild rice in their sacred ceremonies and storytelling. It is a crucial element in the realm of the supernatural and in their interactions with animals and spirits.

Radon does cause lung cancer and can be prevented if addressed properly. The Tribal Air Office offers free radon testing and IAQ monitoring services every year. It is easy and takes only a very short period of time to test your home for radon. If you would like to schedule testing please use the contact information below and set a date to test your home.

Daniel Wiggins, Air Quality Technician
76286 Maple Street
Odanah, WI 54861
Phone: 715-682-7123 ext. 1553
Email: Air1@badriver-nsn.gov

FREE RADON TESTING

From December 2019 to April 2020

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TEST YOUR HOME FOR RADON!
FREE RADON TESTING

From December 2019 to April 2020

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Email: Air1@badriver-nsn.gov
Aurora Conley joined Mashkiziibiing Natural Resources team this fall, organizing and facilitating for the Ma’iingan Symposium being hosted by Mashkiziibiing January 31st, 2020. Aurora is organizing the Symposium, bringing together Tribes, Wildlife specialists, and State Representatives to discuss and guide the status and future of Ma’iingan. Aurora is especially excited to be a part of a new network and experience for Bad River hosting and facilitating a Tribal Wolf Symposium. Aurora says “It (the symposium) hasn’t been done before, and we’re excited to be able to host and create a space for Anishinaabe to come together for our Brother, Ma’iingan.”

Throughout the weekend, and before dark on Saturday night we were able to hear the thrilling call of our brother, Ma’iingan. Aurora is especially excited to be a part of a new network and experience for Bad River hosting and facilitating a Tribal Wolf Symposium. Aurora says “It (the symposium) hasn’t been done before, and we’re excited to be able to host and create a space for Anishinaabe to come together for our Brother, Ma’iingan, and discuss how we are to protect each other and co-exist, survive.”

Aurora lives in Bad River with her two sons, serving the community in many capacities, serving the Education Board, the Environmental Protection Alliance and Health Board.
Mashkiiziibi NRD Polar Express continued...

tion you had the opportunity to enjoy a nice ride on the Polar Express around the community, decorate ornaments, frost cookies, picture with Santa, plus Hot Dogs and Hot Cocoa for after the Polar Express! The MNRD is grateful to be apart of such a fun, family filled day, surrounded by laughter and joy. We want to say a Huge “Miigwetch” to the other Departments that helped make this event a success! “Miigwetch!”

Migwech to the family of Marge Lemieux for allowing us to reprint Marge’s writing about manoomin and the Sloughs.

Wild Rice of the Bad River Sloughs
by Marge Lemieux

In dreams we have learned how everything given us is to be used; how the rice is harvested and the animals hunted. So that we would learn all the crafts, once a pair of humans was taken from the earth and brought to a place where they learned everything that the Indians know, even how you follow the [dictates] of dreams and honor the spirit. The two thought they had been gone for eight days, but it was actually 8 years.

-Bill Johnson, Nett Lake, 1947

Manomin is an Ojibwe word for wild rice. It means “good berry” or “good seed”. It has been a traditional staple accompanying their other food for almost three centuries. It is one of the most nutritious single foods which the Indians of North America consumed. Rice combined with maple sugar, wild berries, venison and other meats is probably healthier than that of the average American family of today. Rich in carbohy-
drates and low in fat, it quickly converts to energy in the body and also contains protein essential to growth. Rice is easily digested and also rich in thiamin, riboflavin, and vitamin B.

August is the traditional month for harvesting. To ensure a good harvest there must be plenty of rainfall and long searing days to ripen the rice on its long, slender stalks. Germination of the rice seed actually begins with snow melt and spring run off from mid to late April. During the first part of July the stalk finally emerges. The rice field looks almost like an emerald grassy meadow at this point. Their blossoms are pale yellow-green and delicately shaded with reddish-purple. (Wild Rice and the Ojibway People, Tom Vennum, Jr.)

The Bad River Kakagon slough area where tribal members gather rice is located at the northern tip of the reservation. The distance from the docking area is at least three miles. This long ride is usually undertaken in a boat with two to three rice boats towed behind it. I can remember as a child, the long, leisurely ride to the sloughs which began at daybreak. At this time of the season the area is bursting with wildlife, ducks and birds of many kinds inhabiting the tall, grassy marshes. River bugs flitter merrily atop the surface of the river. The water is very dark in color; it reflects the rich, dark riverbed sediment. I remember the thick, lush vegetation lining the shores and growing beneath the water. Above the water it danced and weaved in the warm summer winds. But the tangled, thickly matted, underwater vegetation always made me uncomfortable as I was unable to swim -- the thought of falling in was a terrifying one. The smell of the river is still with me. Its full, full essence is unforgettable.

Ricing was once regarded as a family gathering and outing. Buyers lined the shore to purchase this covered, traditional staple. To the outer world it was considered a delicacy -- to the Indian it was a necessity. There are some families who still rice together today, but not to the extent as when I was a child.

Once the rice is brought home, it has to be dried. This task is done immediately. My parents would lay out a canvas tarp and allow it to dry naturally. Fresh harvested rice continues to ripen it must have air, sun, and sometimes the heat of a fire to rid it of moisture before roasting. While drying the rice is picked over and cleaned of trash, leaves, rice worms, etc. The drying and cleaning may take a day or more.

The next step is scorching the rice. A fire was made in our back yard and a large wash tub placed over the fire at an angle. A long, wooden paddle is then used to turn the rice over and around the tub. If scorching is not done for two days, the rice turns black. If it is not done for three days, it has to be parched quickly so it will not be coal black. If dried and parched immediately, then the color of the rice is a beautiful shade of green. We children thought it great fun and we felt very important to be allowed our turn with the rice.

It fell to one of my brothers to next “dance” or jig the rice. This process is one in a wooden barrel-type container. The purpose of jigging is to crack the chaff and break it from the kernel. Because it can take an hour to dance one portion, the proper treading requires strength, suppleness and endurance. My broth-
er always wore long sleeves and long pants that were tied at the bottom over heavy socks.

Continued on page 15...
Miskwaabikaa continued...

In May 2019, a detailed soil description of the site was completed before Chris Borden (NRCS), Nathan Kilger, Daniel Wiggins Jr, and Eric Andrews (Maskiiziibii Natural Resource Department) and Phil Deloe (Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa) completed the installation of the TSCAN station.

The TSCAN station provides hourly data to the network. Data include solar radiation, temperature and relative humidity, precipitation, leaf wetness, wind speed and direction, and soil moisture at four, eight, and twenty-inch depths. As part of this project, NOAA’s Northeast Regional Climate Center assisted with programming the units so that SCAN data can be ingested into the national NOAA database. The data will be regionally useful due to the extensive nature of the soil type in which the station was installed.

The website portal to look at these weather stations across the country, as well as find the one in the Bad River watershed, head over to this shortened link: http://bit.ly/TribalSCAN

News from Mashkiiibiizii Forestry

The last weekend in October was a splendid and sacred time for a small group of youth and a small group of youthful adults. Hiking 2 1/2 miles west on the Potato River Road Railroad grade to the tribe’s cabin on Vaughn Creek, we got a good look at the woods. There was a nice variety of aspen, young pine, balsam fir, birch, and very mature pine to admire as we carried our gear to our destination.

The weather was cool, but the boys were warned that they’d get too hot if they attempted to wear their new hunting coats on the way in. Some listened, some learned. Once we got there, they were eager to try out the pellet gun. There was some healthy competition over the weekend as we used targets to see who the best shot was.

Alyosha Wilding and his Red Cliff companion, Nick, showed us how to build fire with friction. They also showed us how to build emergency shelters out of forest materials, like balsam boughs (or whatever is available). Alyosha told us about a time when he had to use his survival skills to stay alive as he was stranded in the forest. Experience teaches a wealth of knowledge.

Abs Fergus, Mashkiiibiizii Wildlife Experience teaches a wealth of knowledge.

A Miskwaabikaa is installed in Bad River Watershed

Nathan Kilger, Mashkiiibiizii Air Quality Specialist
Chris Borden, Natural Resource Conservation Service Tribal Liaison

In 2018 the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa made a request to the Natural Resources Conservation Services’ (NRCS) National Water and Climate Center to fund the installation of a Tribal Soil Climate Analysis Network (TSCAN) weather station. This was a part of an initiative between the NRCS and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to combine their technical and financial resources to purchase and deploy thirty TSCAN stations to eligible Tribes and Nations to support agricultural and forestry operations and enhance Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programming.

The Band applied to this NRCS/BIA partnership program to help all the communities within the Bad River watershed in several ways. This automated station is located centrally within the 1,000 square mile Bad River watershed and can be used to develop location-relevant environmental education curriculum in the educational programs on the Bad River Reservation and school districts.

Most importantly, this data will provide increased warning when a heavy precipitation event incites possible flood conditions and will monitor weather conditions and wind patterns in an area far from the nearest weather station, helping to fill in an important data gap for many agencies.

Maskiiziibii Natural Resource Department staff in the air quality and climate change offices worked with soils scientists from the regional NRCS office to identify a site on which to install the station. Then Bad River staff worked with leadership at the Copper Falls State Park to secure permits for the installation.
The Mashkiiziibii NRD (MNRD) hosted a community meeting on October 29, 2019, to discuss the state of the manoomin (wild rice) ecosystem on the Bad River Reservation. Twenty-nine (29) community members attended the meeting (not counting the community members who are also part of the MNRD team). MNRD team members took turns presenting on our efforts to protect and restore manoomin through an integrated ecosystem approach, including harvesting Wapato (a tuber of the arrowhead plant) in October 2018 with Education and Food Sovereignty staff and purchasing 385 acres of land in the Sloughs through Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding.

MNRD staff also highlighted our Departments' next steps planned for 2020, such as implementing surveys to better understand Wazhashk (muskrats), improving our common carp control efforts, and creating a Manoomin Specialist position to join the MNRD team.

We also distributed copies of the draft manoomin plan for the Sloughs, which was drafted in our efforts to protect and restore the manoomin ecosystem, and the graphic above highlights some of our 2020 commitments. Since the community meeting, we've had many conversations in MNRD about our actions and commitments to better respect the manoomin ecosystem. The MNRD presented the draft position description for the Manoomin Specialist to the Tribal Council at the December 17, 2019, meeting for approval and commitment of funds to support this position; this new position will be posted soon.

The MNRD recently hired a 4th Conservation Warden to follow up on the recommendations for community collaborations needed to protect and restore manoomin. We also started discussions for the establishment of a Manoomin Workgroup—a group of tribal employees and community members who will help move community initiatives forward. We’re hoping to establish this workgroup in January 2020 so stay tuned for more information about this workgroup and other manoomin-related initiatives.

Miigwech to Dan Wiggins for facilitating the meeting and community discussion on the next steps to move forward. The need for more community action was repeated throughout the meeting. This cry for action was not solely focused on MNRD efforts. We need the community's help and partnership to protect and restore manoomin in the Lake Superior coastal wetland system; we can't do it alone. The MNRD is committed to improving our efforts to better protect and restore the manoomin ecosystem, and the graphic above highlights some of our 2020 commitments.

This month, we're launching a new project to restore manoomin on the Sloughs, and the graphic above highlights some of our 2020 commitments, including improving our communication about manoomin-related projects.
Miigwetch to our former Brownsfield Specialist, MarKatie Mealy, for updating our public record.

Table 7: Spill sites description on the Bad River Reservation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Remediation &amp; Monitoring</th>
<th>Size (acres)</th>
<th>Latitude &amp; Longitude</th>
<th>Township, range, section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kettle Fire, Deer River</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>NE3/4 NW3/4, SEC. 25 T46N R5W</td>
<td>On October 27th, 2019 an Enbridge helicopter conducted an inspection on the Line 5 pipeline crude release at a fuel, engine oil, and hydraulic fluid to the surrounding wetland ecosystem. Remediation was selected as a method of cleanup to reduce the impact on water resources.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kettle Fire, Deer River</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>SE3/4 NW3/4, SEC. 27 T44N R5W</td>
<td>On November 7th, 383,804 gallons of crude oil was in an accident off highway 5 running to a spill of approximately 23,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the ditch. The area was excavated, backfilled with clean soil, and reseeded with a native seed mixture using seed and soil.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site was properly closed, cleaned, and soil reseeded and abatement costs have been removed</td>
<td></td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUSTs):

LUST’s are typically used to store petroleum or other hazardous substances underground. The LUST’s on the reservation have primarily been in relation to gas stations to store fuel. When the tanks are in poor condition or are abandoned, they have the potential to rupture and need to be removed. A ruptured LUST (underground storage tank) can contaminate groundwater and surface water which may impact human and environmental health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Remediation &amp; Monitoring</th>
<th>Street Address</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>Inspection of site for indication of residual contamination</td>
<td>51925 Blitch St, Odanah, WI</td>
<td>On March 11th, 2016 an unknown vehicle drove over the fill fill leaving an un regulated storage tank to rupture and release fuel oil to the area. Approximately 90 gallons of unregulated water was pumped out, contained soil was removed, and ruptured LUST was removed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J&amp;J Quick Mart</td>
<td>Monitoring of contaminant movement is still ongoing</td>
<td>72767 US Hwy 2, Odanah, WI</td>
<td>This site discontinued the use of LUST’s in 1999. However, the LUST’s weren’t properly closed and were building fuel. In 2016 a site assessment was done to confirm leaking LUST’s. The tanks and product lines were removed from the site in November of 2018. Residual contamination exists and additional monitoring is underway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MidMil Gas Station</td>
<td>Inspection of site for indication of residual contamination</td>
<td>Old US Hwy 2 &amp; Old Odanah Rd</td>
<td>The site was originally a gas station, store, and residence. The site was active from 2002-2009 but was closed due to leaking of fuel and reside fuel. Site was properly closed but residual contamination remains.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact the Bad River Brownfields Specialist with questions, comments, or knowledge of potential brownfield sites on the reservation.

Brownfield Specialist
Bad River Brownfields Office of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Office: (715) 685-7640 ext 1587
Cell: (715) 685-3400
lbrownfield@badriver.индис

Midweth to our former Brownfield Specialist, MarKatie Mealy, for updating our public record.

Ma’iingan Symposium will educate on Anishinaabe’s brother

By Abi Fergus, Wildlife Specialist

Since the beginning of my employment in July as the Tribe’s Wildlife Specialist, I’ve been hitting the ground running. The Tribe filed its lawsuit against Enbridge six days after I was hired, and I was just picking up where we had left off in planning a Ma’iingan Symposium before previous Wildlife Specialist Lacey Hill-Kasten took a job with WTCAC. I’m excited to report that thanks to the dedication of our planning team and of our event coordinator Aurora Conley, we’re on track for an event that will bring valuable knowledge to all people who have a relationship with brother ma’iingan, the wolf.

In 2017, Mashkiiziibii Tribal Council called for a Ma’iingan Symposium and former Wildlife Specialist Lacey Hill-Kasten wrote the following explanation of a Ma’iingan Symposium to the Voigt Task Force:

“Last year in Wisconsin (2016), there was a Great Lakes Wolf Summit hosted by state Senator Tom Tiffany. This Summit was very anti-wolf. There should be a counter to this. The Chippewa Tribes should hold a Great Lakes Ma’iingan Symposium. This Symposium would highlight the significance of Ma’iingan to the...”
Anishinaabe and also highlight positive research that shows the important role that Ma’iingan plays on the landscape. Wisconsin Public Television has been working on a documentary about Ma’iingan with both Red Cliff and Bad River and this symposium could also be a great place to release this film. GLIFWC may be a good organization to coordinate this symposium in collaboration with other tribes and tribal organizations."

Fast forward to 2019, Mashkizibi Wildlife Program has been collaborating with Red Cliff and GLIFWC to host this event. Our agenda now entails cutting edge scientific research about ma’iingan, traditional stories and teachings about ma’iingan, breakout groups to discuss ma’iingan’s relationship with livestock and people, and a tribal working session to collaborate on a treaty or some other outcome that will express tribes’ support of and companionship with ma’iingan.

Working with Mashkizibi since my initial internship in 2017 has taught me most of what I know about ma’iingan, so it’s an honor to bring together people from all walks of life to spread more knowledge.

Boozhoo!

My name is Stanlee Kmiecik. My parents are Brook Kmiecik and Booj LaBarge. My Nokomis is Rae Ann Maday. My Mishomis is Gary Kmiecik. My great grandparents are the late Raymond and Patricia Maday. I graduated on May 14th, 2019 from Vermillion College with an Associate of Applied Science in Wildland/Wildlife Law Enforcement. I am an avid exerciser of my inherent treaty rights as a Bad River tribal member. I enjoy spring/winter spearfishing, snaring, hunting, processing maple syrup and wild rice. It is crucial to harvest in a sustainable way. My love for Natural Resources led me to pursing a degree that would allow me to fulfill my passion. I hope to be a mentor, teacher and role model to the youth in the community. I am honored to have this opportunity to work for my tribe, as a warden for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

Miigwech