Bad River Natural Resource Department’s 2018 Gitchi Gumi (Lake Superior) Days Event

By: Berthea Olby, NRD Outreach Coordinator

On July 13th, 2018 the Bad River Natural Resource Department hosted their Annual Lake Superior Days Celebration & Cultural Camp on the shores of the beautiful Lake Superior. During this celebration there are several educational booths on display for your viewing which focus on Lake Superior. A couple of the educational booths included were: NRDs Water Resources, Beach Monitoring Project, and GIS Program. Some other educational booths involved were USFWS who brought in LIVE Sea Lampreys, SNAPSHOT Wisconsin, and Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). Lunch was provided, which consisted of grilled hot dogs, brats, and:

Bad River Natural Resources Department Rolls Out Comprehensive Project Review Process

Jessica Strand, Environmental Specialist

The Bad River Natural Resources Department (NRD) recently went to Tribal Council for approval to begin implementing a new process that will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of project reviews completed by NRD. The goal of this new Project Review Process (PRP) is it to provide community members and...
other applicants within the Reservation a straight-forward, efficient way to get feedback from NRD on their projects, and protect the natural resources on the Reservation. Through the PRP the NRD will provide insight and comments on how to reduce impacts to natural resources and identify any conditions or permits an applicant may need to move forward towards starting their project.

The PRP is meant to be straight-forward. A packet has been created that contains all the information needed to get started, including the one-page application form with instructions. Anyone interested in conducting an activity within the Reservation can get this packet from NRD or download it from NRD’s webpage (http://badriver-nsn.gov/tribal-operations/natural-resources/project-review-information-forms).

Once the application is received by NRD, staff here will compile comments from each program on the project proposed. These comments will then be provided to the applicant, so they can see if any additional steps are needed prior to starting the proposed work. If any additional steps are needed, the NRD review comments will clearly identify what these steps are and the NRD staff member who is the contact person.

Since the Bad River Tribal Council has supported the PRP through a motion to allow the NRD to begin implementation at the August 1, 2018 regular council meeting, the NRD has now started to require that all new projects start using the PRP. If you are planning a project, please begin your PRP form today! Miigwech!
**Bad River Natural Resources host 2018 Beach Clean-Up Event**

On Wednesday, August 29th the Bad River Natural Resource Department held a Beach Clean-up Event in effort to keep our beautiful beaches clean. During this event we had groups go to Joe Rose Beach, Waverly Beach, and Madigan Beach with garbage bags and gloves to pick up trash off the shoreline. Together we gathered approximately 5 bags of trash, a hot tub, plus a pair of crocs’!

Unfortunately, due to the weather, we were unable to include Bad River Mouth Beaches in this event but NRD staff took care of it a few days later removing a washed-up hot tub from the shore.

We’d like to thank the Bad River Recycling program for disposing of the trash collected and helping maintain the trash cans by Waverly Beach, it’s greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank the Bad River community for maintaining the cleanliness of our beaches as they still look better than Ashland’s beaches. From experience, I’ve learned that we work best together and if we continue these efforts our beaches will remain beautiful for our future generations. As stated in the NRD’s mission statement, we strive to conserve & provide natural resources for our future generations along with present generations, and Water IS Life after all and our most important resource.

Watch for future events on the Natural Resource Department Facebook page or Check out the NRD website at [http://badriver-nsn.gov/tribal-operations/natural-resources/](http://badriver-nsn.gov/tribal-operations/natural-resources/)

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**Piping Plover Season Wrap-up and Chequamegon Point Clean-up**

This year the piping plover monitoring season extended from May 24th to August 2nd. In that time three piping plover nests were confirmed hatching a total of six chicks. Only two chicks survived the season to flying status (fledglings). This year we ran into some unique issues. Including a great horned owl that was hunting shorebirds on the beaches at night.

Over the years we have been noticing a steady, shrinking shoreline on Chequamegon Point. Large storm events have altered the shorelines including adding large amounts of woody debris to the beaches. Driftwood is completely normal on a beach but this year there were excessive amounts in the wrack line along the beaches. This may have made the beaches appear to be less suitable as nesting areas for piping plovers. It did make it more difficult for the chicks to escape predators, including unleashed dogs on the beaches.

Over the course of the season the Tribe’s piping plover monitors were noticing the piping plover chicks were having difficulties evading predators due to garbage and accumulating driftwood on the beached. Driftwood on a beach is normal but the storms in recent years have exacerbated the accumulation of these materials and it was proving to provide difficult conditions for the piping plovers.

The Bad River Wildlife Program organized a beach clean-up day on the last day of the monitoring season between the Apostle Island National Lakeshore staff, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff, and staff from the Bad River Natural Resources Department and we spent the day removing the excessive amounts of driftwood, decking material, plastic materials, and litter from the nesting beaches. This day was a great success and we were able to get a lot accomplished.

We understand that there will be storm events that will continue to alter the beaches leading up to the nesting season next May. Some years we are unable to get to the point before the piping plovers have already returned and are nesting. If given the window of opportunity we will plan another trip out there prior to the piping plovers return, to ensure suitable nesting areas for the federally endangered piping plover.

Have you ever thought about spending your summer camping on Chequamegon Point? How about having a job where you walk to beach watching birds and educating visitors? If this sounds like the job for your keep an eye out this December for the piping plover monitor position openings. You can also contact the Bad River Wildlife Specialist to get more information.
and burgers with all the sides, and Cake!

On the cultural camp side of the event we had UW Extensions Jesse Conaway giving kayaking lessons and teaching how to play lacrosse, the kids really enjoyed that! We also had Cultural demonstrators present, demonstrating how to do beading, wild rice stick making, and birch bark basket making!

This year we had 75 participants registered and I would like to Thank You All for coming and keeping this event going. Next year I plan to promote more and plan earlier!
1. Cancer Causing Agent: Studies have found that radon is linked to over 20,000 deaths annually.

2. "Just because your neighbor had tested and found low levels does not mean you will have low levels in your home. " Each home (structure) is unique from each other and has unique features that all can contribute to different levels of indoor radon. For ex: Homes will have different types and sizes of basements, possibly in addition to a crawlspace. Each allows for a different pathway to allow radon entry.

3. Testing is inexpensive and simple: The Bad River Tribe offers free radon testing through the Tribal Indoor Radon Program for tribal members. In this circumstance tribal members have radon resources, such as: radon testing professional, free test kits, and free analysis of the test kits to understand the results. States will also offer some incentives for testing; however, test kits will usually range from $15-$25, and can be found in local hardware stores. Most kits have simple directions and can be done easily by the homeowner within minutes.

4. Your greatest exposure is likely at home: A person spends a majority of their time indoors, and is expected to spend most of that time indoors at home. Since a majority of your time is spent at home it is important to determine the amount of radon you are exposed to in your home. (Other structures should still be tested. Ex: Schools, work buildings, daycares, etc.)

5. Radon is odorless, tasteless, and cannot be seen: Radon is naturally occurring and cannot be detected by any human senses.

6. If you smoke you are at higher risk: Since smokers are already at risk of developing lung cancer, exposure to high levels of radon will increase chances of developing lung cancer.

7. If you do not smoke you are still at risk: Nonsmokers chances of developing lung cancer decrease; however, if exposed to high levels for a long period of time will still increase those chances.

8. There are solutions to lower indoor radon levels: Although the EPA suggests that radon reduction methods can cost from $800-$2,000, actual costs have been seen towards $2,000-$5,000.

9. Testing is the only way to know

10. Related to over 20,000 lung cancer deaths annually.

Please Contact Daniel Wiggins, Air Quality Technician and Tribal Radon Program Manager for more information and/or any questions at 715-682-7123 or email at Air1@badriver-nsn.gov.

RADON IS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF LUNG CANCER

Bad River Tribal Radon Program
715-682-7123
Call for testing services!
Hi everyone! You may know me already from my work on various teams in the Natural Resources Department, including my work as Piping Plover Monitor and Natural Resources Aide, but I’m excited to make the transition to a permanent position in the Natural Resources Department as the Climate Change Coordinator.

I grew up in western Chicago, however I spent many weeks of my childhood camping in different parks of Wisconsin, including Devil’s Lake State Park, which remains one of my favorite hiking spots. After high school I attended Northland College in Ashland, where I obtained a degree in Biology with a minor in Environmental Studies. After graduating from Northland in 2014, I worked on a variety of different natural resources projects, including three seasons studying Common Loons in Minocqua and Rhinelander, a six-month deployment to the remote Johnston Atoll in Hawaii, and three months in rural Madagascar where I studied endangered Greater Bamboo Lemurs.

After being on the move for the last four years, I’m excited to settle down in this region again and reconnect with Lake Superior and the Northwoods. In my free time I like to bake, go camping, or gather my friends together for a board game. I’m looking forward to working with the rest of the Natural Resources Department and doing my part in the fight against climate change.

Gerry White, BRNRD Lead Conservation Officer

Bozhoo,

My name is Gerald (Jerry) White and I’m the newly hired Chief Warden for the tribe since July of this year. Since I moved back home in 1980 I’ve held several positions in the name of the tribe of which I’ve found to be very rewarding personally. In the earlier years I worked at the Casino when it first opened, the position I held was in the Security Department. From there I went to work for GLIFWC in the Conservation Enforcement Department for approximately 20 years. Started working as a field warden and then ending my career there as the Chief Warden for the last five years of my time there. I then went back to work at the Casino for the next eleven years holding several positions but most know me from my time as the Human Resource Manager there. Which brings me back to working for the tribe as the Chief Warden. I hope that my past experiences will help me in this position and that I may pass on what is needed for the current and future staff and for the membership of our tribe.
Shea Schachameyer grew up across from Lake Michigan in Milwaukee, where she developed a love of the water and outdoors. With an interest in furthering her knowledge of environmental science, Shea attended Northland College from 2015 - 2017 and in that time earned a B.S. in Natural Resources-Ecological Restoration. During this time Shea also worked as a Research Technician with Northland’s Burke Center for Freshwater Science where she assisted with stream monitoring programs and most recently a climate change vulnerability study in Apostle Islands coastal wetlands. Prior to starting as Bad River’s Water Resource Specialist, Shea worked as a Wildlife Technician with the Red Cliff Tribe, assisting with the sharp-tailed grouse restoration project in the Moquah Barrens. Before moving to the Chequamegon Bay area, Shea worked as a Research Technician on environmental education and outreach expeditions around the world as well as on the UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Science R/V Neeskay.

Shea Schachameyer, BRNRD Water Resource Specialist

Brad Bigboy started as a Conservation Warden with the Bad River Natural Resources Department on September 18, 2017. Brad left Odanah on June 3rd to travel to Rhinelander, WI, to start the Law Enforcement Academy at Nicolet College on June 4th. Nineteen weeks later and after a lot of hard work, Brad graduated from the academy on October 12th! The Bad River Natural Resources Department is proud of Brad’s hard work and dedication! Amazing job, Brad! Please make sure to congratulate Brad on his big accomplishment.

Congratulations to Brad Bigboy for Graduating from the Law Enforcement Academy!
The four-week Bad River Natural Resource Department Summer Youth Program in July ROCKED! But even before that, we had a week with Indigenous Arts and Sciences where our Youth collaborated with Red Cliff Youth to collect water samples and identify aquatic species with Linda Reaux, at the Raspberry Tribal Campground, in Red Cliff. Huge KUDO’s goes out to Lori Lemieux, Earth Partnership/Indigenous Arts & Sciences Program Coordinator and Suzi Smith, GIS Specialist who supervised the youth through the entire project. This year’s program was structured to have four, 4-day workshops. We started out the first week of July learning about Safety on the water for both, boating and swimming, and took a day off in observance of 4th of July. The second week was spent learning about birch bark and each youth had the opportunity to learn how to make a birch bark basket from our local basket maker Elder, Charlie Ashmun, and his niece Angela Ashmun. That week ended at Lake Superior Days. The third week was Shadow Week, which sounds kind of spooky, but it was just following BRNRD staff around so that youth could get a feel for what staff did every day by actually having hands on experience doing their work. The concept of this workshop was to enlighten youth about what it takes to work in the various positions within the Natural Resource Department, and hopefully gain enough interest to want to pursue a college degree and someday take our jobs away. (Wait...WHAT!? ) The fourth and final week was the most excellent as it entailed getting reconnected to our Tribal lands on Madeline Island. During this week, Youth had the opportunity to be the first Tribal members to spend a week out at the Tribal Cabins, since the end of the business lease. Believe me, it wasn’t as glamping (glamorous camping) as we thought it would be. We spent a day cleaning the cabins (inside and out) and making them comfortable as they didn’t come with furniture, but evidently had mice visitors! (Now that was spooky!) The 2nd day was our first full day which opened with a sunrise ceremony conducted by Edith Leoso, THPO. A beautiful sunrise at 5:00am kicked off the tone of the week which was spent implementing a full-time curriculum that included, identifying plants on Tribal lands, learning their purpose, and learning their Ojibwe names. That activity was led by Gloria Rodriguez and Dan Powless. That evening was spent not around the campfire, but in complete darkness walking along the road lis-
tending for...BATS! YES, BATS! (Now, that was really spooky!) But by the end of that activity, it was beautiful to walk barefoot along the beach with Youth, looking at a view of Mars, unobstructed by light pollution, sparkling like a ruby in the sky, talking about the Creation Story...(sigh). Thanks to our very own, Lacey Hill-Kastern, Wildlife Biologist, who led that activity along with Abby Fergus. The 3rd day was spent on a bike ride to culturally significant and historic sites on the Island that resulted in only one flat tire...which wasn’t mine. That evening, the Youth had an opportunity to watch our very healthy meal be prepared on an outdoor grill by Marty Curry and Beth Paap, proprietors of Island Eats farm and food truck. They also had a chance to taste test some not so common foods like, Jicama, a root vegetable Native to Mexico that has the consistency of a water chestnuts but leans more towards the taste of an apple. Later that evening, Youth finally had the chance to sit around a campfire with our Youth Services Coordinator Mitch Crowe and our very own Tribal Chairman, Mike Wiggins, making smores, and telling tales, tall tales, I’m sure. Our final day, we packed, and with much apprehension, but full of fond memories, we left the confines of being unplugged for a week and returned to the mainland. And that was the conclusion of our BRNRD Summer Youth Program. A great time, indeed.
The Bad River Ma’iingan Management Plan is currently open for its five-year review and the Bad River Wildlife Program is seeking comments and feedback from you. We have been regularly attending Elder lunches and other community events seeking input. On Wednesday, September 19th, we held a community conversation circle and howling survey at the Bad River Food Sovereignty Building.

This year Wolf Awareness Week will be October 22nd-26th. Northland College and the Timber Wolf Alliance will be hosting several events that week in Ashland. The Bad River Wildlife Program will be hosting a second Community Conversation Circle about Ma’iingan and howl survey on October 24th. We will also be visiting the local schools to educate youth about Ma’iingan.

Copies of the Bad River Ma’iingan Management Plan can be downloaded from the website at https://badriver-nsn.gov/tribal-operations/natural-resources/wildlife-program/ma-iingan or hard copies can be picked up at the Bad River Natural Resources Department. Comments on the plan can be submitted through BRNRD or by emailing Lacey at wild-lifegis@badriver-nsn.gov.

Injured or Sick Wildlife Response

Lacey Hill-Kastern, Wildlife Specialist

BRNRD is always willing to help when responding to sick or injured wildlife on the Reservation, but what if someone cannot be reached? There are several great facilities in the surrounding area that the Bad River Wildlife Program will bring injured or sick wildlife to. Just give them a call and they can talk you through the process or sometimes they will even send volunteers out to help capture the sick or wounded wildlife. Just remember when trying to capture wildlife that you can get bitten or they may have a disease that can be transmitted to people, so always consult with a professional first and always wear gloves and other forms of protection.

- Wildwoods Wildlife Rehabilitation
  4009 W Arrowhead Rd, Duluth, MN 55811
  218-491-3604
  Wildwoodsrehab.org

- Northwoods Wildlife Center
  8683 S Blumenstein Rd, Minocqua, WI 54548
  715-356-7400
  Northwoodswildlifecenter.org
  Wild Instincts – 4621 Apperson Dr, Rhinelander, WI 54501
  715-362-9453
  www.wildinstinctsrehab.com

- Raptor Education Group, Inc
  N2160 W Rollwood, Antigo, WI 54409
  715-623-4015
  www.raptoreducationgroup.org

All these rehabilitation centers have helped rehab Bad River wildlife over the years and are all great facilities.
The Wisconsin Department of Resources (WDNR) on Wednesday August 8th, passed an emergency rule regulating the movement of deer carcasses from CWD-affected counties for the 2018 season. Whole deer carcasses may now not leave the CWD-affected county of harvest unless they are taken to a licensed meat processor or taxidermist within 72 hours of the carcass leaving the county of harvest. Deer carcass parts may now be left in the field, including on state-owned/managed lands. Over the past 17 years, CWD has spread to 55 of the states 72 counties and is making its way into Northern Wisconsin.

What about the Bad River Reservation? The Bad River Wildlife Program would like to hear your thoughts about CWD, testing, and response. Stay tuned for a community conversation circle coming this fall to discuss this.
The Bad River Tribal Council recently adopted a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for the Bad River Reservation. The plan was developed by a multi-department team led by the Natural Resource Department.

Miigwech to FEMA for providing the funding & support needed to complete this plan!

Miigwech to team members & community members for helping accomplish this plan!

*Contact the Natural Resource Department for copy of the plan.*

~MISSION STATEMENT~

The Department strives for resource management which both conserves the natural resources for the future generations and provide for the needs of the present. The departments existence reflects the importance the Bad River Tribe places on its right and ability to exercise sovereignty, self-determination and self-regulation in the area of natural resource management.

Were on the Web!
Visit www.badriver-nsn.gov