

Manoomin Niikaanisag

Wild Rice

Coalition Building and Conference

Conference Collaborators

Bois Forte Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
Environmental Leadership Program
Ferris State University
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
Great Lakes Regional Water Program
Indigenous Environmental Network
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Menominee Indian Tribe
Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance
Michigan State University-Extension
Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc.
Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
Northern Michigan University
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service
University of Minnesota-Extension
University of Wisconsin-Extension
White Earth Land Recovery Project
Wisconsin Wetlands Association

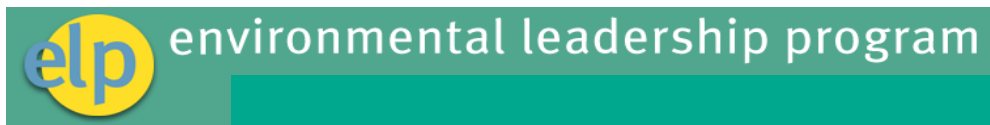
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Wild Rice Restoration and Preservation Conference Sponsors



LAC VIEUX DESERT BAND OF
LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS





Wild Rice Restoration and Preservation Conference Planning Committee

Scott Herron, Co-Chair
Ferris State University, University of Michigan Biological Station, and Environmental
Leadership Program Fellow

Patrick Robinson, Co-Chair
University of Wisconsin-Extension and Great Lakes Regional Water Program

Sarah Alexander
White Earth Land Recovery Project

Maureen Baude
Lac Vieux Desert Resort Casino

Donald Chosa
Northern Michigan University Center for Native American Studies

Peter David
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Laura England
Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Robert Evans
USDA Forest Service

Andrew Hansen
Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc. and Environmental Leadership Program Fellow

Melissa Holman
Ferris State University

Mark Knee
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Roger LaBine
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and Michigan Anishinaabek
Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance



Glenn Lamberg
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural
Preservation and Repatriation Alliance

giiwegiizhigookway Martin
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Gale Nobes
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and Muskegon River Watershed
Assembly

Rebecca Power
University of Wisconsin-Extension and Great Lakes Regional Water Program

Robert Shimek
Indigenous Environmental Network

Kim Spedowski
Lac Vieux Desert Resort Casino

Andrew Wold
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College

Deborah Zak
University of Minnesota Extension Service



Speaker Biographies

Brian Biermier

Wildlife Specialist, USDA-APHIS-WS

Brian has been with Wildlife Services since 1990 as a Wildlife Specialist and conducts beaver damage management in Lincoln, Langlade, Marathon, and Oneida Counties to protect trout streams, roads, wild rice, and timber from damage caused by beaver. He has been picking wild rice since 1970 on lakes in Northeastern Wisconsin. He has also provided seed rice to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for reseeding efforts.

Jessie Brandon

American Indian Science and Engineering Society Student Member

Jessie Brandon is a Ho-chunk, Arikara, Hidatsa and Alaska native. She is a 10th grade student attending Madison West High School and has been involved in the American Indian Science and Engineering Society for three years.

Callie Byington

American Indian Science and Engineering Society Student Member

Callie Byington is a member of the Choctaw-Oklahoma Band. She is a 10th grade student at Madison West High School and has been involved in the American Indian Science and Engineering Society for three years.

Donald Chosa and Karlene Drift (Chosa)

Northern Michigan University Center for Native American Studies (Donald)

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa (Karlene)

Don Chosa is a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Tribe of Ojibwa (K.B.I.C.) and he resides on the K.B.I.C. reservation located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan along with his wife Karlene Drift (Chosa) who is a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. Don and Karlene have six children. Don attended the Native Language Instructor's Program at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario and received certification in teaching the Ojibwa Language. He has completed the Anishinaabe Pane Language Immersion course through Bay Mills Community College to further his language study to be a more effective and knowledgeable instructor. He has attended Gogebic Community College, Grayson County College, Finlandia University, Bemidji State University, Northern Michigan University, and the University of South Dakota. He currently teaches as a full time adjunct instructor at Northern Michigan University. He teaches two sections of "The Native American Experience", "Anishinaabe Language Culture & Community I and II" and is the language consultant for a class titled, "Kinomaage, The Earth Shows Us the Way" which teaches Native American plant identification and usage. At home Don and Karlene's family practices their traditional



Ojibwa (Anishinaabe) culture, customs and religion. Their family is traditional dancers and they participate in local pow-wows and ceremonies. They gather local plants for medicinal purposes and for food as well as hunt deer and spear fish for subsistence. Every year they harvest blueberries and wild rice using traditional methods. They also own and operate an internet business selling their own handcrafted traditional art such as dreamcatchers, jewelry, porcupine quillwork, and birch bark basketry.

Patti Christie

American Indian Science and Engineering Society Middle School Coordinator

Patti Christie is from the Lac du Flambeau Anishinaabe nation and is a community elder advising the American Indian Science and Engineering Society students involved in the Madison Metropolitan school district-Title VII Wild Rice Project. She has a degree in Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Master certification as an herbalist and has participated in ricing for years with her grandparents.

Craig Cotterman

Houghton Lake Lake Association

Craig Cotterman is a board member of the Houghton Lake Lake Association. He has a degree in conservation from Central Michigan University and is a part-time teacher. Craig grew up fishing and hunting at Houghton Lake. For the past ten years, he has been actively involved in efforts to restore the natural beauty of the lake.

Peter David

Wildlife Biologist, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Peter David is a native of Wisconsin, being born near the once great, but long-lost rice beds along the Fox River and Green Bay. After obtaining B.S. and M.S. degrees in Wildlife Management from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, he began working for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, where he has had the opportunity to work with waterfowl, wolves, and this wonderful plant, wild rice. After 20 years of working with it, he is still coming to understand and appreciate the cultural and ecological values of manoomin, the complexities of its nature, and the endless methodologies for its consumption.

Annette Dray Drewes

Doctoral Candidate, Land Resources Program, Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Developing and building cooperative partnerships and programs for the benefit of the environment through education and community outreach has been the focus of Annette's work for the past 20 years. This year she was awarded one of three national dissertation fellows through the University of California – Berkeley's Community Forestry Research Fellowship Program. Through this funding she is working to engage wild rice harvesters across the rice growing region in developing effective participation processes to influence wild rice management and research. Annette received a degree in Fisheries



and Wildlife Management from South Dakota State University, a masters degree in Environmental Studies from Bemidji State University and was invited to participate in an international PhD Master Class held in the Netherlands entitled *Integrative Research for the Planning and Management of Sustainable Landscapes*. She resides in northern Minnesota, surrounded by pine trees, family, friends, and rice.

Karen Drift

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and Nett Lake Head Start Program

Karen Drift is a teacher for the Nett Lake Head Start Program. She teaches Anishinaabe culture and the Ojibwe language to the youngsters in the Head Start program.

Lester E. Drift, Sr.

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and Traditional Wild Rice Harvester

Lester Drift is a Mental Health Supervisor in the Human Services Division of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. He is a traditional wild rice harvester and conducts presentations to share his knowledge regarding Anishinaabe culture and tradition.

Robert A. Evans

Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, USDA Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest

Robert Evans has worked for the USDA Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest, since 1980. He has worked as a wildlife biologist for the Ottawa National Forest since 1988. Robert has a strong interest in wild rice, both for its ecosystem values and also its cultural values. Since about 1990, he has been personally involved with efforts to restore wild rice to suitable waterbodies within the Ottawa, working cooperatively with GLIFWC and the LVD Tribe. These efforts have resulted in successful restoration of wild rice to at least 7 different waterbodies on the Ottawa National Forest.

Charles Fox and Terry L. Fox

Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Members

Terry L. Fox is a Member of the Lac Vieux Desert Tribe and Granddaughter of Daniel and Josephine McGeshick. Through her younger years, Terry spent time with her grandparents who passed on many crafts and skills. Terry continues this tradition by teaching other youth the skills of harvesting/processing wild rice and harvesting/making birch bark baskets. She and her husband, Charles Fox, appeared in the Manoomin film Northern Michigan University made for the Lac Vieux Desert Tribe. Charles is an elder of the Sokaogon (Mole Lake) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and works as an AODA Counselor for the Lac Vieux Desert Behavioral Health Department.

Scott Herron

Wild Rice Conference Co-Chair, Ferris State University and University of Michigan Biological Station

Scott Herron is a faculty member in both Ferris State University's Biology Department and The University of Michigan's Biological Station. He is a 2004-2006 Environmental

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Leadership Program fellow, which is one of the programs through which the concept of this wild rice coalition and conference developed out of. As an ethnobotanist (researcher into the direct uses of plants by cultures/people) and community ecologist specializing in traditional ecological knowledge, Scott brings together divergent disciplines, cultures, and ideas into dynamic, sustainable, functioning systems when possible. Scott was trained as a classic field botanist (plants) and mycologist (fungi) with taxonomic, morphological, ecological, and evolutionary focuses both at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and Grand Valley State University in Michigan. He was simultaneously trained as a cultural anthropologist, Great Lakes historian, botanical archaeologist, and American Indian studies specialist within the university systems and also within the Anishinaabek Great Lakes Indian communities he has lived in, researched in, and where his family is from (Walpole Island First Nation/Bkejwanong & Detroit, MI/Windsor, Ontario). Wild Rice has been a research focus of Scott's since the completion of his dissertation on the Ethnobotany of the Anishinaabek Great Lakes Indians. He has worked with the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly on a 3 year grant for Wild Rice Restoration and with several Michigan tribes on similar projects.

Earl and Kathy Hoagland

Adjunct Faculty, White Earth Tribal and Community College

Earl and Kathy Hoagland live in northern Minnesota and teach youth the traditional Anishinaabe ways including how to paddle a canoe; how to net and clean fish; how to harvest and finish wild rice; and how to make jellies, jams, syrup, and birch-bark baskets. They also teach as adjunct faculty at White Earth Tribal and Community College, where they instruct courses related to Anishinaabe art and traditional practices.

Chris Kolasinski

UW-Oshkosh Graduate Student

Chris Kolasinski graduated from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in 2004 with a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife. He is currently attending UW-Oshkosh and working on an M.S. degree in biology with a botany emphasis.

Paul LaBine

Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Member

Paul LaBine is a Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Member and an experienced ricer. He is also an experienced rice boat builder and makes his boats using traditional Anishinaabe methods. Paul demonstrated his ricing knowledge in the Manoomin film Northern Michigan University made for the Lac Vieux Desert Tribe.

Roger LaBine

Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Member and Recreation Director

Roger LaBine is an experienced ricer and a member of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. Roger works as the Recreation Director for the Lac



Vieux Desert Tribe. Roger appeared in the Manoomin film Northern Michigan University made for the Lac Vieux Desert Tribe.

Winona LaDuke
Executive Director, White Earth Land Recovery Project and White Earth Anishinaabe

Winona LaDuke is an Anishinaabekwe (Ojibwe) enrolled member of the Mississippi Band Anishinaabeg who lives and works on the White Earth Reservations, and is the mother of three children. As Program Director of the Honor the Earth Fund, she works on a national level to advocate, raise public support, and create funding for frontline native environmental groups. She also works as the Executive Director for the White Earth Land Recovery Project.

In 1994, Winona was nominated by Time magazine as one of America's fifty most promising leaders under forty years of age. She has been awarded the Thomas Merton Award in 1996, the BIHA Community Service Award in 1997, the Ann Bancroft Award for Women's Leadership Fellowship, and the Reebok Human Rights Award, with which she began the White Earth Land Recovery Project.

A graduate of Harvard and Antioch Universities, Winona has written extensively on Native American and Environmental issues. She is a former board member of Greenpeace USA and serves as co-chair of the Indigenous Women's Network, a North American and Pacific indigenous women's organization. In 1998, Ms. Magazine named her Woman of the Year for her work with Honor the Earth. Also in 1997, her first novel, "Last Standing Woman", was published by Voyager Press. She has authored four more books since then, including the most recent, "Recovering the Sacred", which was published by South End Press. Winona's editorials and essays have also been published numerous times in national and international journals and newspapers.

Michelle McDowell
Wildlife Biologist, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Michelle gained a Master of Wildlife Science degree from Oregon State University in 2000 and earned a B. A. from Moorhead State University in 1995. She has worked for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 6 years and is currently the wildlife biologist at Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge. She's interested in migratory bird/habitat relationships, ecological preservation and restoration, fire effects, student mentoring, education and outreach. On the personal side of life, she enjoys spending time with family, hiking, bird watching, reading, drawing, birch bark weaving, working in her stained glass studio and playing the cello with the Great River Strings. Her two long-term goals are to be happy and leave the world a better place.



Ray Norrgard

Wetland Wildlife Program Leader, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Minnesota born, raised and educated, Ray Norrgard has served natural resource management in that state for 33 years. Although his professional experience includes work with foundations, conservation organizations, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and MN DNR, it has focused primarily on the restoration and management of wetlands and shallow lakes. Previous positions include Wildlife Manager, Dodge Nature Center; Advanced Hunter Education Program Coordinator, MN DNR; Education Consultant, MN Environmental Sciences Foundation; Executive Director, Minnesota Waterfowl Assn; and Wildlife Lake Specialist, MN DNR.

Jim and Pat Northrup

Ricers

Jim has been making rice for 45 years, and Jim and Pat have been making rice together for 25 years. Jim is a writer and poet whose stories have been featured in several anthologies. His poetry has appeared in numerous literary magazines, and he writes a syndicated column called "The Fond du Lac Follies." Jim and Pat's family live the traditional life of the Anishinaabe in northern Minnesota.

Doug Pavlovich

Wildlife Technician, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Houghton Lake Field Office

Doug Pavlovich has been a Wildlife Technician with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the last 33 years, of which the last 23 years have been at the Houghton Lake Field Office. He has a broad range of experience with most wildlife species in Northern Michigan including activities ranging from moose translocation to *Galerucella* beetle translocation to battle the invasive species purple loosestrife, from gathering biological data to conducting population surveys, from deer habitat improvement projects to handling nuisance deer complaints and nuisance bat complaints, from planting wild rice and Japanese millet to capturing and banding waterfowl, and from erecting nest structures to a wide variety of wetland maintenance activities.

Dr. Robert W. Pillsbury

Wetland Ecologist, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

Dr. Pillsbury is an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh in the Department of Biology and Microbiology. In the summers he is an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan Biological Station. A broadly trained aquatic ecologist, he received his B.S. in Fisheries from the University of Minnesota St. Paul, M.S. from University of Minnesota Duluth and PhD from Bowling Green State University (Ohio). Some of his research includes: the effects of zebra mussels on the Great Lakes ecosystem, algal taxonomy and ecology, wetland ecology, and the ecology of wild rice. He uses multi-variate statistical techniques to find patterns in large data sets.



Rebecca Power

Great Lakes Regional Water Liaison, University of Wisconsin

Rebecca Power is the CSREES and Land Grant Regional Water Liaison to federal and state agencies, non-profit and professional organizations, and businesses working on water quality issues in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio as a part of the Great Lakes Regional Water Program. Prior to her Liaison position, Rebecca was a watershed educator with the University of Wisconsin-Extension, where she provided outreach and technical support on natural resource-related issues in Wisconsin's Upper Fox and Wolf basins. She began her career with a private consulting firm working on prairie and wetland restorations, and continued with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, coordinating savanna restoration and Refuge strategic planning.

George Spangler

Professor, University of Minnesota

A native of northern California, George learned to hunt and fish in the foothills of the Sacramento Valley on the ancestral grounds of Ishi, the last Yahi Indian. He studied fisheries biology in college and pursued fisheries research in graduate school at the University of Toronto, earning a Ph.D. in 1974. George worked as a research scientist for the Ontario government for nearly 10 years on Manitoulin Island in northern Lake Huron before joining the faculty of the University of Minnesota in 1978. His scientific expertise lies in the disciplines of fish population biology and management, for which his expert opinion was sought by Lac Courte Oreilles, et al., in their litigation with the State of Wisconsin over the continuing exercise of treaty-recognized rights to hunt, fish and gather in northern Wisconsin. George is currently a Professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences, where he researches and teaches courses in fish population biology, treaty rights and resource management.

Kelly Thiel

Assistant District Supervisor, USDA-APHIS-WS

Kelly has been with Wildlife Services since 1988, and currently holds the position of Assistant District Supervisor. Kelly oversees the Rhinelander District WS Beaver Damage Management Programs.

Rod Ustipak

Ducks Unlimited/Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Wild Rice Enhancement Coordinator and Managing Director of Cook Waterfowl Foundation

Rod is a 1973 graduate of Bemidji State University. Since 1980, he has worked as the Manager and Managing Director of Cook Waterfowl Foundation. In addition, he has worked since 1978 on wild rice management and as a wild rice consultant, with his primary clients including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, and Ducks Unlimited.



Leon Valliere (ozaawaagosh)

Director, Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe Language Program

Ozaawaagosh directs the ongoing Ojibwe Language revitalization efforts at Waaswaaganing (Place of the Torch) in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. Ozaawaagosh directs a fluent elder's advisory board and teaching staff to teach Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 students and adult community members. Key responsibilities include dialect preservation, teaching material development in various mediums, sequential learning, and promotion of Ojibwemowin within the community.

Darren Vogt

Environmental Biologist, 1854 Treaty Authority

Darren Vogt received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Minnesota Duluth, and a Master of Arts degree in management from The College of St. Scholastica. Darren has been employed as an environmental biologist for the 1854 Treaty Authority for the past 10 years. The 1854 Treaty Authority manages the off-reservation treaty rights for the Bois Forte Band and Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the 1854 Ceded Territory of northeastern Minnesota.

Monica White

Community Development/Extension Director, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College

Monica White is the Community Development and Extension Director at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College. The Community Development program provides outreach education in Community Development and Leadership to Lac Courte Oreilles citizens. The program networks with other agencies and builds a knowledge base of resources and information for community leaders. They also provide support to other Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College programs to increase their capacity and ability to reach the community. The program offers workshops such as Regalia Making and Traditional Ojibwe Family Values and resources for community members. Monica has an MA in Education from Silver Lake College, a BA in Broad Field Social Science History Concentration - Grades 7-12 and a BA in Elementary Certification - Grades 1-8 from Mt. Senario College, and an AA in Ojibwa Language from Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College.

Deborah Zak

Campus Regional Director, Crookston, University of Minnesota Extension Service

Deborah has a B. S. in Vocational Home Economics Education from the University of North Dakota and a M. S. in Education/General Studies from the University of North Dakota. She has spent her entire professional career working with the University of Minnesota Extension Service in a county educator position, as a Northwest District Director, and as a Campus Regional Director, located at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. For the past nine years, Deborah has worked with the White Earth Reservation to design and deliver a four week math and science program for youth in

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grades 5-8. The program focuses on natural resources, the Ojibwe culture and traditional foods, including wild rice. Deborah co-chairs the University of Minnesota Extension Service's Native American Task Force that includes faculty from the University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources, Center for 4-H Youth Development and Community Vitality. The purpose of the task force is to increase the ways in which the University of Minnesota Extension Service provides programs that are relevant to Native American communities.



Presentation Descriptions

KEY TO PATHS

Path A - Wild Rice Ecology and Conservation

Path B – Cultural Importance of Ricing and Subsistence Use

Path C – Communication and Networking

OPENING KEYNOTE – August 8th, 1:30 pm – 2:15 pm

Manoominike Giizis – Nii Tah Ba Wa Um (Ricing Moon - I Can Rice)

Lester E. Drift, Sr.

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and Traditional Wild Rice Harvester

Lester Drift will discuss the traditional way of harvesting wild rice including wild rice camps, the implements used, and the step-by-step process of getting the finished product. He will also discuss the potential impact of cultivated rice on the traditional way of wild rice harvesting. Lester will provide his insights and perspectives regarding trying to compete with other methods of harvesting rice.

OPENING KEYNOTE – August 8th, 2:15 pm – 3:00 pm

See(d)ing the Future: The Restoration and Management of Manoomin (Wild Rice)

Peter David

Wildlife Biologist, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

This presentation will serve as an overview/introduction to the Wild Rice Ecology and Conservation path to follow. It will discuss the need, culturally and ecologically, to restore, manage, and protect the wild rice resource, and offer a perspective of a future landscape that retains rice as a valuable feature. Various management and restoration issues will be introduced, and the opportunities and roadblocks to success will be outlined, setting the stage for their deeper exploration in later presentations.

OPENING KEYNOTE – August 8th, 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm

Wild Rice Research: An Opportunity for Multi-cultural Scholarship

George Spangler

Professor, University of Minnesota

The teaching environment in a modern university is a powerful platform for learning, not only for enrolled students, but also for the faculty and administration of the academy itself. An opportunity for intensive multi-cultural learning presented itself in the Fall

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Quarter of the 1998-99 school year, when a course entitled "Native American Perspectives on Land Issues and the Environment" was offered to students in agriculture and natural resources at the University of Minnesota. At issue were Anishinabeg concerns over the university's research into the genetic code of wild rice, documented in a letter from Minnesota Chippewa Tribe President, Mr. Norman Deschampe, to Mark Yudof, then President of the University of Minnesota. The Honors class undertook an examination of this issue through a multi-cultural inquiry facilitated by tribal elders at the White Earth Reservation, and academic faculty and staff at the university. A second opportunity of a similar kind occurred in fall semester, 2003, when another Honors class participated with the White Earth community to explore and better understand how Anishinabe see their relationship to the land.

This presentation recounts the students' perceptions of the issues, and their suggestions for approaches to exploring and reconciling differences of opinion between the "culture" of the academic community and the Anishinabeg. Also described are the university's recalcitrance in dealing with the issue, together with some rationalizations commonly offered to assuage the institutional and personal embarrassment experienced by those in positions of authority who are culpable in repeatedly trampling upon the feelings, rights, and sensitivities of their less powerful constituencies. Finally, a few suggestions are offered for addressing the current controversy, including recourse to the rules of governance of the university itself.

OPENING KEYNOTE – August 8th, 4:15 pm – 5:00 pm
The Journey Ahead: Building a Regional Network to Sustain Manoomin/Wild Rice

Scott Herron
Wild Rice Conference Co-Chair, Ferris State University and University of Michigan
Biological Station

This presentation explores the process Scott has taken to help organize and facilitate the Wild Rice Coalition. Through an Environmental Leadership Program activity fund grant he was able to get the momentum to organize Great Lakes citizens, scientists, governmental agencies, homeowner & lake-owner associations, and tribal communities to focus on the importance of manoomin/wild rice in our Great Lakes watershed. His focus has been to build sustainable wild rice communities, including the humans harvesting this cultural food resource through the networking of people and organizations from across Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. He will discuss how the concept of wild rice community meetings facilitated by him using ELP facilitation training has empowered local citizens and organizations to become invested in this natural resource and better educated about wild rice. In his experience, miscommunication has been the biggest road block to resource managers, land-owners, and governments working together to ensure the health and sustainability of both our human communities and the wild rice communities. This conference is being utilized as an outreach tool to



create the momentum and level playing field needed for wild rice management, restoration, harvest, and education to keep our regional Wild Rice Coalition functioning into the future. Some data from the community meetings that have happened to date in Michigan will be discussed in hopes of stimulating dialog about a similar approach that could be used in other states to address wild rice or other environmental issues. There will be a discussion about the challenges and benefits of building a regional network on an environmental issue where empowerment thru facilitation and education are the approach utilized. Suggestions for future Wild Rice Coalition projects, research, outreach, and publications will be covered.

Wild Rice: An Ecological Overview – August 9th, 10:00 am – 10:55 am (Path A)

Darren Vogt
Environmental Biologist, 1854 Treaty Authority

Wild rice (manoomin in the Ojibwa language) is an aquatic plant and member of the grass family. Several species and varieties occur, with annual species of the plant found in Canada and into the Great Lakes region. Germination of wild rice seed begins after ice-out in mid to late April. As the plant grows, long ribbon-like leaves form underwater and eventually spread across the water surface during the “floating leaf stage” through June. By early July, the plant begins to emerge from the water and eventually stands up to 3-4 feet tall in most locations, but can be found up to 6-8 feet tall. Wild rice flowers into August and wind pollination results in the production of the grains or seeds. Upon maturing or ripening in late August or early September, the seed falls into the water and sinks into the sediment to start the cycle again.

Wild rice grows best in shallow lakes and rivers with a soft, organic bottom. Water depths are a prime factor affecting wild rice success, with depths of about 3 feet or less considered optimal. Extreme variations in wild rice crops can be observed, largely the result of changes in water levels. High water can negatively impact germination or uproot plants in the floating leaf stage. Competing aquatic vegetation can also affect wild rice growth. Because wild rice seed has the ability to remain dormant until favorable conditions exist, the plant is highly adaptive to overcome seasons with poor success.

Wild rice is a valuable food source and culturally significant resource for the Ojibwa. It is also serves as a food source and habitat for a variety of wildlife, primarily waterfowl and other birds.

The 1854 Treaty Authority is an inter-tribal natural resource agency governed by the Bois Forte Band and Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The organization preserves and protects treaty rights and associated resources in the 1854 Ceded Territory of northeastern Minnesota.



Anishinaabe Manoomin – August 9th, 10:00 am – 10: 55 am (Path B)

Leon Valliere (ozaawaagosh)
Director, Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe Language Program

Conference attendees will learn the various processes associated with the Native harvest of wild rice as learned by Ozaawaagosh in the Waaswaaganing community. It is hoped attendees will utilize this presentation to revitalize Ojibwe language terms associated with wild rice harvest within their Native Communities. Ozaawaagosh will discuss a wide range of topics including ancient harvesting and finishing methods, machine finishing, safety, current environmental concerns, and Ojibwe Language terminology. Hand-outs will be provided. Two waaswaaganing birch bark canoes used in wildrice harvest will be available for viewing and possible paddling during the conference.

An Overview of Threats to the Future of Wild Rice Conservation and Management – August 9th, 11:00 am – 11:55 am (Path A)

Ray Norrgard
Wetland Wildlife Program Leader, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Threats to the future conservation and management of wild rice reflect both the failures of the past and new clouds on the horizon. Some of these threats are relatively easy to categorize and examine. Changes in hydrology driven by watershed modifications and outlet dams began in earnest as the 20th century burst on the scene and are still important today. Increased shoreland development and more intensive motorized water surface use became important a half century later and still pose formidable public policy challenges. More recent threats such as chemical contaminants and genetic engineering are still evolving and, as a result, the consequences are unclear but no less troubling. Barely visible on the horizon yet perhaps the greatest threat to traditional wild rice stands in the long term is global warming. Threaded throughout these categories is our greatest challenge, overcoming neglect of a unique and priceless resource because of ignorance resulting from the impoverished experiences of citizen conservationists and professionals alike.

Nutritional Aspects of Wild Rice – August 9th, 11:00 am – 11:55 am (Path B)

Donald Chosa
Northern Michigan University Center for Native American Studies

Wild rice has been blessed with amazing qualities. It has a high protein and carbohydrate content and is very low in fat. The nutritional quality of wild rice appears to equal or surpass that of other cereals. In addition, amino acid composition of processed



and unprocessed wild rice is similar, which indicates little reduction in nutritional quality during processing. Mineral content of wild rice, which is high in potassium and phosphorus, compares favorably with wheat, oats, and corn. Processed wild rice contains no vitamin A, but serves as an excellent source of the B vitamins: thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin. It is high in complex carbohydrates and is a good source of fiber. In contrast, its sodium content is refreshingly low. Wild rice is a valuable component of a balanced diet, and it also offers exquisite flavor. Anyone who cooks and eats wild rice will benefit from its nutritional composition.

Restoration in the Real World – August 9th, 1:00 pm - 1:55 pm (Path B)

Peter David
Wildlife Biologist, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

This presentation will discuss practical approaches to wild rice restoration; it should serve as a primer to restoration efforts for those interested in restoring rice beds. Topics to be covered include: site selection, the challenges of historic versus non-historic sites, seed sources, seeding rates, timing of seeding, social and ecological challenges to restoration, the benefits of multi-year seeding and follow-up monitoring, reasonable expectations, and when to call it a success - or quits.

Workshop: How to Make Ricing Sticks and Push Poles – August 9th, 1:00 pm – 2:55 pm (Path B)

Donald Chosa
Northern Michigan University Center for Native American Studies

Paul LaBine
Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Member

Roger LaBine
Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Member and Recreation Director

Jim and Pat Northrup
Ricers

This workshop will teach participants about harvesting using knocking sticks and push poles as well as the process of making your own knocking sticks and push poles. Traditional ricing is a coordinated effort that takes two people to maneuver and gather the rice. Poling through the thick, tall reeds of a rice field in a canoe is hard work; you can't paddle through these thick reeds, so a long pole is used. Two long sticks called knockers are used to knock ripe grains into the canoe while leaving some to sustain the



natural reseeding of the beds. The knockers are tapered and made of light weight white cedar. One stick pulls or holds down the rice stalks while the other stick is used to brush or “knock” the ripe rice into the boat. The aim is to keep the long, pointed seeds as unbroken as possible, while threshing it with the knockers.

Adaptive Management of Wild Rice and Pickerelweed at Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge – August 9th, 2:00 pm – 2:55 pm (Path A)

Michelle McDowell
Wildlife Biologist, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Rice Lake is a 3,800 acre shallow basin that supports an important crop of wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*), and is a Globally Important Bird Area as designated by the American Bird Conservancy. One goal of Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge is to maintain healthy wild rice beds to benefit migratory birds. Large areas of the lake are becoming dominated by pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), a native perennial, where wild rice, a native annual, once flourished. After a 2-year study of water quality effects on wild rice and pickerelweed, the University of Minnesota recommended the refuge explore mowing or herbicides to control pickerelweed. The response of pickerelweed to mowing was determined through this study comparing six treatments. A weed cutter attachment on an airboat was used for the mowing treatments. Study design was reviewed by the United States Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, as will the data analysis and publication drafts. One year after the mowing treatments, pickerelweed cover was less for all the mowing treatments except the “cut 1x early” compared to the control ($p < 0.05$). Mowing may be an effective management option for reducing pickerelweed. Monitoring will continue in an effort to determine the longevity of mowing effects. Pickerelweed mowing and evaluation of larger treatment blocks will begin July, 2006. Changing water management to simulate natural fluctuations may be tried in combination with mowing in the future.

USDA-WS Beaver Damage Management Program – August 9th, 2:00 pm – 2:55 pm (Path A)

Kelly Thiel
Assistant District Supervisor, USDA-APHIS-WS

Brian Biermier
Wildlife Specialist, USDA-APHIS-WS

USDA-WS has cooperative agreements with several agencies for beaver damage management on 21 wild rice lakes across northern Wisconsin. WS removes beavers and dams from these lakes to enhance the germination and growth of wild rice. Beaver dams on the outlets of these lakes create water levels too high for the wild rice to



germinate in early summer and that negatively impact the later growth stage. WS beaver and dam removal on these lakes have restored wild rice beds which has had a positive impact on wildlife habitat and the recreational harvest of this natural resource.

The USDA-WS program opened its District Office in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, in 1988. At that time the program focused on removing beaver and beaver dams from selected trout streams in the Northeast portion of the state through cooperative agreements with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the US Forest Service. Since that time the beaver damage management program has expanded into protecting other resources, including roads, timber, wild rice, and other sensitive habitats. Currently USDA-WS protects over 1,500 miles of trout streams and resolves over 400 beaver damage complaints annually.

The Effect of Changes in the Watershed on the Distribution of Wild Rice (*Zizania palustris* L.) and the Surrounding Macrophyte and Bacterial Communities – August 9th, 4:00 pm – 4:55 pm (Path A)

Dr. Robert W. Pillsbury
Wetland Ecologist, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh

A recent decline in wild rice (*Zizania palustris* L.) wetlands is cause for concern due to its importance as a food source, refuge for wildlife, and cultural resource. We assessed the environmental factors significant in understanding the distribution of *Zizania palustris* and the surrounding macrophyte community and compared it to wetlands where wild rice has been lost. Sixty wetlands in Wisconsin and Minnesota (U.S.A.) were sampled, with approximately equal numbers displaying dense, moderate and sparse wild rice production. Chemical and physical factors, as well as densities of aquatic plants, were measured. Data were analyzed using multivariate statistics (CCA). The measured environmental parameters explained a significant amount of the variation found within the aquatic plant community. Using forward selection, a subset of the environmental variables (Agricultural activity in the watershed, NH₄ in the water, Residential activity in the watershed, Dissolved Inorganic Carbon, and the amount of Cleared land in the watershed) could account for most of the explainable variation. Most of these factors are linked to changes within the watershed. Moderate levels of phosphorus, strongly correlated with agricultural activity, appear beneficial to the wild rice density. Free-floating macrophytes show an overwhelming positive response to higher levels of phosphorous and thus may competitively exclude wild rice from these wetlands. New approaches using bacterial communities to assess the health of wild rice wetlands will also be discussed.



Wild Rice Management in Rice Lake, Sokaogon Chippewa Community – August 9th, 4:00 pm – 4:55 pm (Path A)

Chris Kolasinski
UW-Oshkosh Graduate Student

Rice Lake on the Sokaogon Chippewa Community reservation has been a stable and prolific wild rice lake for at least the last 300 years. Anecdotal evidence and historical photos indicate the wild rice has been declining on the lake. The Sokaogon Chippewa Community's management strategies are to identify causes of decline and ultimately restore Rice Lake to historical conditions when wild rice dominated the lake. Past and future restoration projects include: various hydrological studies, the removal of a water control structure, the removal of cattails and excess water lilies, the removal of beaver dams and seeding wild rice. Monthly water quality sampling, wild rice surveys, aquatic plant surveys, invertebrate sampling and algae sampling are also done.

Wild Rice Restoration at Lac Vieux Desert - August 9th, 4:00 pm – 4:55 pm (Path A)

Robert A. Evans
Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, USDA Forest Service, Ottawa National Forest

This presentation will summarize efforts, since the early 1990's, to restore wild rice to Lac Vieux Desert. Lac Vieux Desert historically supported wild rice beds at least several hundred acres in size. This rice began to decline in the early 1900's, followed by an accelerated decline after about 1938. This decline is believed to be associated with control of water levels at LVD; first due to a historic logging dam built at the outlet in the late 1880's, then reconstruction of this dam in 1937 as a concrete dam, for hydro purposes. In the early 1990's, Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corp. applied for a new FERC license to operate this and a series of other dams along the Wisconsin River. At this time, the resource agencies (USFS, MDNR, WDNR, USFWS), along with GLIFWC and the LVD Tribe, became involved in the relicensing process, through authority of the (amended) Federal Power Act. These agencies and the tribe recognized an opportunity to restore an important ecological resource (wild rice) that had been lost from LVD over time. This process has been long and contentious, but eventually FERC approved a "Wild Rice Restoration Plan" as part of the new FERC license. We are now several years into implementing this Plan, with results to date quite encouraging.



Popping Hand Finished Rice – August 9th, 4:00 pm – 4:55 pm (Path B)

Don Chosa
Northern Michigan University Center for Native American Studies

Karlene Drift (Chosa)
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

Karen Drift
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

Yes, you can pop wild rice. Traditionally, popped wild rice was fried in deer tallow or bear fat and served with maple syrup or in the winter hardened sap-candy was poured over it and made into balls. For winter travel, pop-rice was crushed and shaped into cakes with some deer fat and quite a lot of melted sugar and dried berries. It was lightweight, filling, and nutritious. The presenters will share their method of popping hand finished wild rice for conference participants, as well as their knowledge of uses for popped rice.

A Cooperative Venture for Wild Rice in Minnesota – August 10th, 10:00 am – 10:55 am (Path A)

Rod Ustipak
Ducks Unlimited/Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Wild Rice Enhancement Coordinator

People have long recognized the value of wild rice as a food resource and as waterfowl habitat. Many other game and non-game species benefit from abundant wild rice. The encroachment of modern man and accompanying development pressures have eliminated or constrained wild rice growth on many historic wild rice lakes in Minnesota. Lake and wetland drainage, agricultural runoff and road bridge and dam construction have altered many naturally occurring wild rice lakes. Beaver dams have severely impacted wild rice habitat through their sustained dam building and maintenance efforts. Beaver populations have increased as a result of low fur prices and improved habitat. This causes high water which limits wild rice growth and abundance.

Many wildlife managers have long recognized the value of enhancing wild rice habitat. Productive wild rice lakes and rivers are important for migrating waterfowl in both spring and fall. It is also preferred breeding pair and brood rearing habitat for several duck species on lakes where it grows, thus contributing to waterfowl production, largely in the forested region of Minnesota.

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Time, budget and knowledge restraints have precluded establishment of a comprehensive wild rice management program in Minnesota until recently. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Ducks Unlimited have joined together to develop a low cost, wide ranging program which impacts approximately 50% of the wild rice habitat there. About 30,000 acres per year on average are managed or enhanced on about 100 lakes. Management consists of assessing wild rice lakes and their outlets, and coordinated beaver and dam removal where problematic. This program is funded through wild rice harvesting license revenues collected by DNR and with contributions of cash and staff time from Ducks Unlimited. The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources has also contributed funds from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Its major contribution was to fund a project which mechanically opened the outlet of Big Rice Lake using a cookie cutter in 2004. This lake is a historically significant wild rice lake of approximately 2500 acres located in central Minnesota. This project was completed in conjunction with the Fond Du Lac Band of Ojibwa, which provided equipment and operators well suited to the task.

There are currently several other wild rice management initiatives being conducted by state, federal, tribal, and private agencies which contribute to the reestablishment and enhancement of wild rice in Minnesota. These efforts compliment one another and are a positive step toward securing the abundance of wild rice habitat for future generations.

Sustaining a Ricing Culture: A Landscape Approach to Understanding Harvest and Management of Wild Rice Across State, Tribal and Treaty Ceded Lands in Minnesota and Wisconsin – August 10th, 10:00 am – 10:55 am (Path C)

Annette Dray Drewes

Doctoral Candidate, Land Resources Program, Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Sustaining a ricing culture is dependent on having wild rice available, and accessible, for harvesting. Prior to European settlement wild rice (*Zizania palustris* L.) covered vast regions of the Upper Great Lakes but has since declined significantly across the landscape. Whether wild rice is continuing to decline or expanding across the region is unknown and unclear. Known as 'manoomin' by the Ojibwe and classified taxonomically as *Zizania palustris* (L.), wild rice has been used in ceremonies and for sustenance by the Ojibwe of the region for centuries. Today this unique resource, found in the shallow lakes and slow moving streams of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada, is harvested by hand by both Native and non-Native Americans.

Wild rice habitat, like other water based resources, is under increasing pressure from development, recreation and changing land use. Management of wild rice and wild rice habitat, which typically falls under state jurisdiction, is complicated by public water rules



that can vary from state to state as they do between Minnesota and Wisconsin. In addition, tribal reservations and areas of land that have been ceded through treaties are managed under tribal governance and tribal/state cooperative agreements respectively. Across the region the pattern of management for wild rice is fragmented and understanding of its distribution incomplete.

This integrated study explores the connections and relationships between harvest, distribution, and management of wild rice. Questions framing this research include: What is the distribution of wild rice lakes across management regimes? Who is harvesting the rice and what are their harvesting traditions and patterns? And how does access to harvest and 'improvement' of wild rice lakes through seeding influence harvesting patterns? Methods used in this study include interviews of harvesters, site visits to contact harvesters, GIS analysis of wild rice distribution, survey data and data refinement. This is the second year of field study.

Support for Wild Rice Communication and Networking: What University and Tribal Extension Systems Have to Offer – August 10th, 11:00 am – 11:55 am (Path C)

Rebecca Power
Great Lakes Regional Water Liaison, University of Wisconsin

Monica White
Community Development/Extension Director, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College

Deborah Zak
Campus Regional Director, Crookston, University of Minnesota Extension Service

Wild rice is a resource with value beyond measure. It has fed both people and wildlife for thousands of years and is part of the woven ecological, cultural, and spiritual fabric of the western Great Lakes region. Land Grant University and College Extension systems are newcomers in comparison, with some systems beginning their work with farms and farm families in the mid-1800s, and the tribally-affiliated Extension services beginning their work in 1994.

Extension systems were founded on the principle of community service, and the idea that the resources of public institutions of learning should be used to solve real-world problems where people live, work, and play. This interactive session will explore how Extension systems can support wild rice communication and networking in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, some challenges to providing support in those states, and how to access Extension resources related to wild rice or other community needs.



Passing Ricing Knowledge onto Youth – August 10th, 11:00 am – 11:55 am (Path B)

Earl and Kathy Hoagland
Adjunct Faculty, White Earth Tribal and Community College

Earl and Kathy Hoagland will share information about the work they've been doing to pass ricing knowledge onto youth. An important component of their work is providing an opportunity for youth to interact with elders and learn about the sacredness of wild rice to the Anishinaabe people. One of the ways they accomplish this is through rice camps that are used as instructional gatherings. Elders, including the Hoagland's, teach younger members the traditional ways at the rice camps. Young and old mix for several days of demonstrations and talking circles that culminate in a feast to honor the elders. During their presentation, the Hoagland's will also discuss the decline in wild rice on Big Rice Lake and possible reasons for the decline.

Panel Discussion: Houghton Lake Case Study: Community Perspectives on Wild Rice – August 10th, 1:00 pm – 1:55 pm (Path C)

Craig Cotterman
Houghton Lake Lake Association

Doug Pavlovich
Wildlife Technician, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Houghton Lake Field Office

Rod Ustipak
Managing Director of Cook Waterfowl Foundation

Houghton Lake and its associated habitats were studied in the mid 90's to examine possible factors for the significant observed reductions in wild rice plant densities on Houghton Lake. Associated habitats in the area were also evaluated and informal recommendations for wild rice management were developed. This panel will discuss the history of wild rice in Houghton Lake and the lessons learned from their experiences related to wild rice management.



Workshop: MANOOMINIKE, Making Wild Rice and Birch Bark Fanning Baskets – August 10th, 1:00 pm – 2:55 pm (Path B)

Charles Fox and Terry L. Fox
Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Members

Paul LaBine
Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Member

Roger LaBine
Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Member and Recreation Director

Jim and Pat Northrup
Ricers

This workshop will demonstrate how to parch wild rice, dance on wild rice, and fan wild rice using a cast iron kettle to parch, a dancing pit, and birch bark baskets. The workshop will also demonstrate how to make fanning baskets using birch bark harvested in the summer months. The bark is easier to work with and does not tear as easy when freshly harvested. The fanning basket is shaped and sewn together with willow trim used to help keep the shape of the basket. Workshop presenters will demonstrate how the fanning basket is used to winnow the hulls from the rice and how any remaining hulls can be cleaned by hand.

Wild Rice Cultural Awareness and Ecological Restoration Project: A Service Learning Experience for Youth – August 10th, 2:00 pm – 2:55 pm (Path C)

Jessie Brandon
American Indian Science and Engineering Society Student Member

Callie Byington
American Indian Science and Engineering Society Student Member

Patti Christie
American Indian Science and Engineering Society Middle School Coordinator

The Wild Rice Cultural Awareness and Ecological Restoration Project aims to increase knowledge and awareness of the cultural, historical and ecological importance of wild rice. It provides urban Native American students and school district classrooms with resources on indigenous knowledge systems and their relevance to ecological science and sustainable resource management. During the past year, eight core Native American students received six weeks of training to develop background and instructional materials, including a website for science classrooms to serve as "experts"

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for classroom activities involving wild rice during the 2005-06 school year. American Indian Science and Engineering Society students have compiled historical, cultural, and biological information on wild rice; documented the status of wild rice beds in southern Wisconsin through field research and interviews of native and non-native experts; developed a website, including an electronic journal of gathering and cultivating seeds for experimentation; and participated in demonstrations of Ojibwe traditional harvesting and reseedling on the Bad River reservation. This project engages both native and non-native students in research and management activities that provide knowledge of the historical, cultural importance of wild rice to Native American communities in the context of modern plant biology and restoration ecology. This presentation will show participants the steps taken that enabled the Madison school district-Title VII program to network and develop the necessary relationships with agencies to create the student service-learning project.

CLOSING KEYNOTE – August 10th, 3:30 pm – 4:25 pm

Manoomin - Threats of Genetic Contamination and Patenting: Potentials for Positive Action

Winona LaDuke

Executive Director, White Earth Land Recovery Project and White Earth Anishinaabe

Manoomin, or wild rice, is a sacred food to the Anishinaabeg, and a key part of the ecosystem of the Northern Minnesota Lakes region. Over the past decades, plant breeders have developed wild rice for paddies in Minnesota, and today most of the wild rice on the market comes from rice paddies. Minnesota is the center of the biodiversity of all wild rice. There are over 60,000 acres of natural wild rice growing throughout the lakes and rivers. Today, new work on wild rice has the potential to threaten the genetic integrity of this plant. The White Earth Land Recovery Project has worked on combating the genetic manipulation, patenting and the misrepresentation of wild rice locally, nationally and internationally.