

Manoomin

WILD RICE HARVEST

Boozhoo! Today's Agenda

- Welcome – Treaty Rights Celebration Week Overview
- Participation Roll Call
- History
- Rules and Regulations
- Gathering
- Finishing
- MLB DNR & Manoomin Protection
- Video titled: Mahnomen Harvest of the North
- Traditional Values



Treaty Rights Virtual Celebration March 15-March 19, 2021

- Lots of fun stuff going on this week in honor and celebration of our 22nd Anniversary of the 1999 Supreme Court Case victory!
- **Zoom Participation Raffle:** Today is our final Zoom Participation Raffle Presentation.
 - Roll Call: Participants please provide your name and contact information in the chat to enter the raffle drawing for today. If you prefer to message Alyssa privately, please do so.
- **Youth and General Raffle:** Entry deadline is TODAY at 5:00pm (today). Help spread the word! Please contact Rosa Sam at 320-532-7439 or Rosa.Sam2@millelacsband.com to sign up.
- **Virtual Treaty Rights Celebration:** Join us Friday, March 19th (tomorrow) via Zoom to celebrate! We will draw all of our raffle contests beginning at 11:00am following a short presentation. Some prizes include: Traeger Grill set, Yeti cooler (2), Spearing/Netting packages, Fish cleaning package, Fish cooking package, Food preserving package, fishing trips on Mille Lacs (for youth) and more!

HISTORY

- Manoomin is a sacred gift from the Creator.
- Our ancestors arrived here at Mille Lacs following a vision to seek the place where “Food grows on the Water.”
- Manoomin means wild rice in our language, in fact, it is the most nutritious of all natural foods that our people harvest. Others know Manoomin to also be known as the good berry and/or wonderful grain.
- Manoomin is high in protein and dietary fiber and a good source of vitamin B, iron, magnesium, and potassium.
- Manoomin was an important food for our ancestors because it had a long storage life and was cooked with other foods to stretch rations in lean times.
- Our people harvest Manoomin in the same traditional ways as our ancestors, however like our other resources harvested, some modern processing techniques have made things more efficient.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Where can I harvest Manoomin?
 - Mille Lacs Tribal members with a valid federally recognized ID can harvest Manoomin on any public body of water in Minnesota.
 - Lake Onamia is open to harvest only by Mille Lacs Band members, and the residents of the upper 4 townships in Mille Lacs County: Onamia, Kathio, South Harbor and Isle Harbor.
- What are the times of day I can harvest Manoomin?
 - All federally recognized tribal members can harvest between 9:00am and sunset 7 days a week. Inside Mille Lacs boundaries same harvesting times apply. For non-tribal members, Minnesota state rules apply.
- Is there a size requirement for the canoe? Knockers? Push pole?
 - 1837 MN Conservation Code requires:
 - Flails (Knockers) can be no longer than 32 inches
 - Any length or material is acceptable on push poles
 - Canoes can't be more than 17 feet long and 38 inches wide

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- How do I obtain a license or permit? Do I need one?
 - As of 2016, Tribal Band members who possess a valid Tribal identification card from a Federally recognized tribe located in Minnesota are deemed to have a license to harvest manoomin, and do not need to purchase a State license.
 - Optional: The Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources Harvesting Permit covers ricing for Band members and we encourage Band members to stop by their district location and obtain one.
 - Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) affiliated Tribes issue their tribal member's permits accordingly.

First things, first.

- Biindaakoozh – make a tobacco offering.
- Zhakamodaw – If you have lost a loved one in the past year or it is your first time at sugar bush, it is recommended that you are spoon fed prior to going out. If you need to be spoon fed, please contact our Cultural Resource team at 320-532-7439.



GATHERING

- How do I know when the Manoomin is ready to harvest?
 - Mature Manoomin heads will be fully developed and have hardened to semi-hard grains which will be semi-translucent. The grains will easily fall from the head with very little milky excretion.
 - Most experienced Harvesters know mature Manoomin when they see it.
 - Harvesting green Manoomin is not traditionally practiced, however, there are some who prefer it. It is not recommended, but there is awareness of those who target it for varying reasons.
 - Please see MN 1837 Conservation Code for details in the 1837 Ceded Territory or Minnesota Regulations for applicable laws that apply.
- Is there a limit on the number of pounds of Manoomin that can be harvested?
 - There is no limit on pounds of Manoomin a person can possess as long as a harvesting license is valid.





Finishing



Baaso
Dry



Gaapizan
Parch



Mimigoshkam
Jig or Dance on Manoomin



Manoomin



Nooshkaatoon
Winnowing

FINSHING

- Some Harvesters may seek assistance in finishing their rice and may ask, “where can I bring Manoomin to have it finished?”
 - A quick Google search can provide harvesters with Manoomin finishing locations around the State. Some DNR staff and community members have utilized some of the following finishing plants. Please note these are only sources and the Band does not endorse any of the following:
 - Spirit Lake Native Farms, 1032 Spirit Lake Road, North Carlton, MN 55780
Phone: (218) 393-6902
 - A B Rice Processing, 6568 161st St NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633
Phone: (218) 335-6859
 - VP Processing, 51830 Willie Road, Deer River, MN 56636
Phone: (218) 246-2003 Cell: (218) 244-1627

MLB DNR & Manoomin Protection

- Staff works on various land, air, & water issues to protect our sacred Manoomin.
- The Band partners with Federal, State, & local agencies to protect Manoomin.
- Instances of pollution or damage to Manoomin beds should be reported to the Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources: (320) 532-7439 or Mille Lacs Tribal PD Dispatch: (320) 532-7490.
- Staff recruits Band member youth to participate in Manoomin harvest and teach traditional preparation.

Mahnomen - Harvest of the North

- Documentary created in 1960 by Film Research Company and re-issued in 2004.
- This documentary was part of a collection the Band acquired in recent years, and was shared by our Archive department.
- The film features Mille Lacs Band members: John and Lucy (Kegg) Clark among others.
- It was shared by a community member this film was created in the Northwest Angle because the year they captured the footage there was no manoomin in our usual harvesting areas.
- You may notice some variances of wording/spelling than present day.



[mahnomen harvest of the north – YouTube](#)

Q and A: Discussion

- Miigwech to everyone for joining our Zoom meetings this week. Good luck to all who have entries in the drawing! We will draw 3 lucky winners tomorrow during our Treaty Rights Virtual Celebration. Prizes up for grabs:
 - Deluxe Yeti cooler with wheels. Fish Cleaning Package and Spearing/Netting Package
- Please ask questions if you have them.
- Be a Mentor. Let's keep our traditional harvesting practices alive. Help teach others.
- If you have additional questions about the presentation today or the activities this week, please contact our DNR office at (320) 532-7439.
- Virtual Celebration begins at 11:00am tomorrow. See you then on the zoom!
- **Miigwech for joining us today! Good luck in the drawing!**



REMEMBER YOUR TRADITIONAL VALUES

Gwayakwaadiziwin (Honesty): To achieve honesty within yourself is to recognize who and what you are. Do this and you can be honest with all others.

Dabaadendiziwin (Humility): Humble yourself and recognize that no matter how much you think you know, you know very little.

Debwewiwin (Truth): To learn Truth, to live Truth, to walk Truth, and to speak Truth.

Nibwaakaawin (Wisdom): To have Wisdom is to know the difference between good and bad and to know the result of your actions.

Zaagi'idiwin (Love/Compassion): Unconditional love and compassion is to know that when people are weak, they need your love and compassion the most.

Manaadendamowin (Respect): Respect others, their beliefs. Respect yourself. When you practice respect, respect will be given back to you.

Aakode'ewin (Bravery/Courage): Have bravery and courage in doing things right even though it may hurt you physically and mentally.