



# TURTLE PRESS

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

NHBP celebrates  
in November

**ON PAGE 02**

## WATER IS LIFE

NHBP takes to the Straits  
of Mackinac to shut down  
Enbridge Line 5

**ON PAGE 06**

## THE GATHERING

Wasauksing First Nation  
hosts the Gathering in  
Parry Sound, Canada

**ON PAGE 18**

**FALL 2019**



NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI  
A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT





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# N.A.H.M.

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

A historic timeline of treaties that the Sovereign Nations within present-day Michigan signed with the United States federal government. *Information collected from the Clarke Historical Library of Central Michigan University. Spelling errors were not corrected in order to reflect historical data and records as they were recorded by the United States government.*



### 1795

#### FORT GREENVILLE, OHIO

Between the U.S. federal government and the Wyandots, Delawares, Shawanoes, Ottawas, Chipewas, Putawatimes, Miamis, Eel-river, Weeas, Kickapoos, Piankashaws and Kaskaskias.

### 1817

#### FOOT OF THE RAPIDS (FORT MEIGS)

Between the U.S. federal government and all or any of the Tribes or Nations of Indians within the boundaries of the state of Ohio, including the sachems, chiefs and warriors of the Wyandot, Seneca, Delaware, Shawanese, Potawatomees, Ottawas and Cheppeway Tribes of Indians.

### 1821

#### CHICAGO

Between the U.S. federal government and the Ottawa, Chippewa and Pottawatamie Nations of Indians.

### 1833

#### CHICAGO

Between the U.S. federal government and the United Nations of Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatamie Indians, being fully represented by the chiefs and head-men of those Tribes.

### 1837

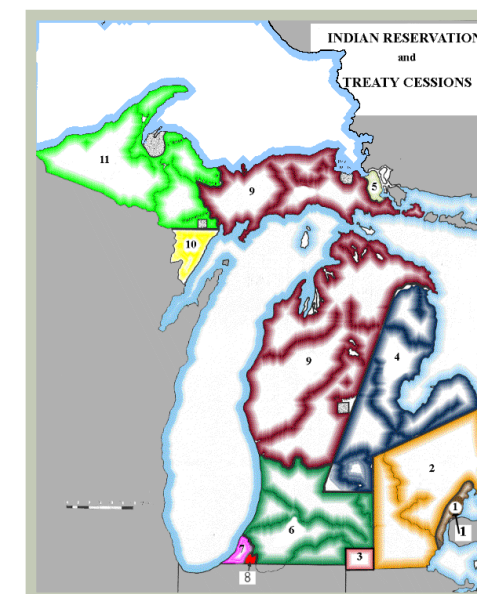
#### DETROIT

Between the U.S. federal government and the Saginaw Tribe of the Chippewa Nation.

### 1855

#### DETROIT

Three treaties were signed in Detroit in late July and early August 1855, with the Ottawa and Chippewa, in Sault Ste. Marie, and the Chippewa Indians of Saginaw.



Map provided by the Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University.

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### 1807

#### DETROIT

Between the U.S. federal government and several nations of Indians northwest of the Ohio River, including the sachems, chiefs and warriors of the Ottoway, Chippeway, Wyandotte and Pottawatamie nations of Indians.

### 1819

#### SAGINAW

Between the U.S. federal government and the Chippewa Nation of Indians at Saginaw, Michigan.

### 1820

#### SAULT STE. MARIE

Between the U.S. federal government and the Chippewa Nation of Indians at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

### 1828

#### CAREY MISSION

Between the U.S. federal government and the Tribes of Potowatomi Indians at St. Joseph, Michigan.

### 1836

#### WASHINGTON

Between the U.S. federal government and the Ottawa and Chippewa Nations of Indians, by their chiefs and delegates in Washington in the District of Columbia.

#### CEDAR POINT

Between the U.S. federal government and the chiefs and head men of the Menomonie Nation of Indians of Wisconsin.

### 1842

#### LA POINTE

Between the U.S. federal government and the Chippewa Indians of the Mississippi, and Lake Superior, by their chiefs and headmen.



# NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND ANNOUNCES 2019 GRANT RECIPIENTS

WRITTEN BY LEIA FULLER | PHOTO BY JAKY REPLOGLE

The Native American Heritage Fund (NAHF) Board selected projects in seven Michigan communities as recipients of the fund's 2019 grants, at the Board's July 29 meeting.

The fund, which was approved in 2016 as part of the Second Amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between NHBP and the State of Michigan, allocates a portion of NHBP's state revenue sharing payments to the NAHF.

## *The 2019 NAHF grants include:*

1. Bay de Noc Community College – \$6,000 to publicly acknowledge the Treaty of 1836 through a public plaque on each campus and a Treaty Day celebration.
2. Godfrey-Lee Public Schools – \$98,000 to rebrand the current mascot from "Rebels" to a new mascot and nickname that is culturally responsive.
3. Grand Rapids Community College – \$5,285 to support the Grand Rapids Community College Education and Reconciliation Project, including a trip to the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways and a Native American Speaker's Forum.
4. Indigenous Law and Policy Center at Michigan State University College of Law – \$20,000 to provide a two-day symposium, Native Family Day, and ancillary programming throughout the year.
5. Monroe County Community College – \$199,234 to create curriculum and a set of immersion experiences for K-12 students, focused on how to research stories from the Native perspective.
6. Northern Michigan University – \$134,612.80 to expand Anishinabék language course offerings at undergraduate and graduate levels.
7. The Friendship Community/LIFT Teen Center – \$16,650 to support an overnight backpacking trip to South Minitou Island, exposing students to the history of the Ottawa Tribe.



2019 NAHF grant recipient Monroe County Community College at the NAHF Check Presentation. (L-R): River Raisin National Battlefield Park Superintendent Scott Bentley, Monroe County Community College Grant Writer/Coordinator Cajie D'Cunha, Wyandot of Anderdon Nation Grand Chief Ted Roll, and NAHF Board of Directors Jamie Stuck, Dorie Rios, Elizabeth Kinnart, Kimberly Vargo and Melissa Kiesewetter.

This is the second consecutive year that Michigan's K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and local units of government were eligible for funding to defray the costs of projects that promote positive relationships and accurate information about the history and role of Michigan's Indian Tribes and Native Americans in the state.

Last year, the NAHF approved over \$469,800 to go toward several projects, including the support of the replacement of equipment, apparel and signage following the revision of the Belding Area Schools' mascot from "Redskins" to "Black Knights," an education initiative by Lake Superior State University to increase local Tribal imagery on campus and implement cultural events, and a partnership project with Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College to co-create curricula, among other projects. This year, the NAHF approved over \$479,700 total. To date, the NAHF has approved and awarded 14 entities with nearly \$950,000.



# WATER IS LIFE:

NHBP TAKES TO STRAITS OF MACKINAC  
TO SHUT DOWN ENBRIDGE LINE 5



WRITTEN BY ERIC MCCLURE  
PHOTOS BY ERIC MCCLURE

**T**HE GLASS-LIKE SURFACE OF THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC RIPPLED WITH EACH PADDLE STROKE OF THE LONG, WOODEN CANOES AND BRIGHTLY-COLORED KAYAKS, AS THE MIGHTY MACKINAC BRIDGE TOWERED OVER THE GROWING FLOTILLA.

As a group of kayakers paddled together to raise up a banner with the message, "Shut Down Line 5," a Tribal Elder in a nearby canoe performed a traditional water ceremony. Slowly, cheers of "Nibi Bimadiziwin Awan," ("Water is Life," in Anishinabemowin) spread across the hundred-plus participants on the water for the 5<sup>th</sup> Pipe Out Paddle Up Flotilla.



“The flotilla is meant to bring awareness to the issues of Enbridge Line 5, the proposed Line 5 tunnel and the danger that currently lies at the bottom of the Great Lakes,” said Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Member Andrea Pierce, who also served as one of the event’s organizers.

The annual Pipe Out Paddle Up Flotilla, held over Labor Day weekend in Mackinaw City, Michigan, brings together Michigan’s Tribes, environmental activists, political leaders and water protectors alike to fight for a common goal: decommissioning Enbridge Line 5.

This year, NHBP sent its first-ever official delegation to represent the Tribe during the flotilla. The group was comprised of NHBP Environmental Department staff, including: Habitat Specialist Steve Allen, Wild Rice Coordinator Lee Sprague, Environmental Technician and Tribal Member Robert Williams, and Job Bank Wild Rice Intern and Tribal Member Nat Spurr. The Environmental Department’s 24-foot, 16-person, custom hand-crafted canoe was also hauled north for the flotilla.

“As traditional American Indian and Bodéwadmi People, we are stewards not only to the water we all depend on to live and survive, but to the environment and everything given to us by the Creator,” said Spurr, who has participated in the flotilla for four out of the last five years.

The weekend of activism began with an event after dark Friday night, sponsored by the Ann Arbor and Detroit Light Brigades. Participants gathered at the foot of the Mackinac Bridge, illuminating the night with lighted signs with the messages, “Shut Down Line 5,” “Stop Enbridge,” and “Green New Deal.” Illuminated fish, held high on top of poles, ‘swam’ around the signs as a reminder that the participants were acting in defense of nature and wildlife.





As Saturday morning arrived, the flotilla was taking shape as canoes and kayaks from Tribal Nations, activists and community participants began to line the shore. As the last Tribal canoe, bearing the NHBP Mshiké (Turtle) and logo, was carried to the shoreline a Tribal Elder stepped forward to start off the flotilla in a good way by blessing the waters of the Straits of Mackinac with Séma (Tobacco). A hundred-plus participants then took to the water in canoes and kayaks, some bearing signs with the messages, "Water is Life," "Water is Sacred," and "No Tunnel."

For some participants, including Spurr, this event wasn't the first time activism had led them to embrace being a water protector.

"I went with many other Tribal Members to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation to offer support and deliver supplies to over 5,000 water protectors, and we found ourselves on the front lines when all hell broke loose," Spurr said, recalling his experience at the Standing Rock protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline project in November 2016. "The difference with Line 5 is that it threatens the safety of our People, and our land and all of its resources. It is a threat to our Great Lakes, and everything that depends on the resources of our Great Lakes."

The participants remaining on land were able to hear from over 20 speakers, including Tribal and political leaders, event organizers, environmental activists and those involved in the legal fight to both stop the proposed Line 5 tunnel and decommission Enbridge Line 5.

Missing and murdered Indigenous women was also a topic of discussion, as speakers exposed



Flotilla participants hold up signs with the messages, "Water is Life," and "Water is Sacred," while canoeing on Lake Huron, near the Mackinac Bridge.



NHBP Associate Supreme Court Justice Holly T. Bird and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Member Andrea Pierce, an event organizer for the flotilla, speak on the legal fight to shut down Enbridge Line 5.

the dangerous connection between "man camps," temporary housing for pipeline workers often near or on Reservation lands, and the instances of domestic violence, sexual assault and even murder among Indigenous women in these areas. Some participants painted a red hand across their mouths, symbolizing standing up for victims who don't have a voice to do so themselves.

The core message relayed by the flotilla was to act now by stopping the Line 5 tunnel and decommissioning Enbridge Line 5, to ensure that the next Seven Generations are guaranteed quality of life.

"I fight for the water of Michigan and our Great Lakes every day," Pierce said. "Now that we are spreading knowledge about the danger of Line 5, we have to ask ourselves what will be our legacy? What are we going to leave for our children and grandchildren?"

Although this was the first year that NHBP sent an official delegation to join the flotilla, the Tribe continues to both stand in opposition of the proposed Line 5 tunnel and call for the decommission of Enbridge Line 5.



Participants hold illuminated signs with the message, "Stop Enbridge," during an event after dark Friday night, sponsored by the Ann Arbor and Detroit Light Brigades, at the foot of the Mackinac Bridge.



NHBP STANDS WITH MICHIGAN'S 11 OTHER SOVEREIGN NATIONS, AND THE GREATER NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, IN OPPOSING BOTH THE PROPOSED LINE 5 TUNNEL AND THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF ENBRIDGE LINE 5. ALTHOUGH WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT GOV. WHITMER AND ATTORNEY GENERAL NESSEL ARE ABLE TO FIND A PERMANENT SOLUTION FOR THE UNACCEPTABLE DANGER OF LINE 5, WE STAND FIRM IN OUR OPPOSITION. NHBP REMEMBERS ALL TOO WELL THE LARGEST INLAND OIL SPILL IN NORTH AMERICAN HISTORY, JUST LESS THAN A DECADE AGO. THE KALAMAZOO RIVER OIL SPILL HAPPENED IN OUR BACKYARD AND WE ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP THAT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN, ESPECIALLY IN OUR GREAT LAKES.” – NHBP TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON JAMIE STUCK

*For a complete, official statement regarding NHBP's position on Enbridge Line 5 and the proposed Line 5 tunnel, continue to page 16.*

## Enbridge Line 5

- Length: 645 miles (4.5 miles under Straits of Mackinac)
- Diameter: 30 inches
- Age: 66 years (commissioned in 1953)
- Contents: Crude Oil and Natural Gas Liquids
- Capacity: 540,000 barrels or approx. 23 million gallons per day
- Route: Originates in Superior, Wisconsin; Travels through Upper Peninsula, under Straits of Mackinac, and through Lower Peninsula; Terminates in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada
- Owned by: Enbridge Inc., a Canadian multinational energy transportation company based in Calgary, Alberta

## Proposed Line 5 Tunnel

- Timeline: Construction to begin in 2021; to be completed by 2024
- Cost: Approx. \$500 million
- Replacing: Current, dual Line 5 pipelines under Straits of Mackinac (would be deactivated)
- Installing: New pipeline, encased in utility tunnel, buried approx. 100 feet under Straits of Mackinac



Kayakers band together to hold up a sign with the message, "Shut Down Line 5," during the flotilla on Lake Huron, as the Mackinac Bridge towers high above in the background.



A group of flotilla participants, led by NHBP Habitat Specialist Steve Allen, carry the NHBP canoe from the shoreline to be loaded for the journey from Mackinaw City, back to the Pine Creek Indian Reservation.





# NHBP OPPOSES CONTINUED OPERATION OF ENBRIDGE LINE 5 AND PROPOSED LINE 5 TUNNEL

PHOTOS BY ERIC MCCLURE



*This official statement is on behalf of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) Tribal Council regarding NHBP's position on Enbridge Line 5 and the proposed Line 5 tunnel.*

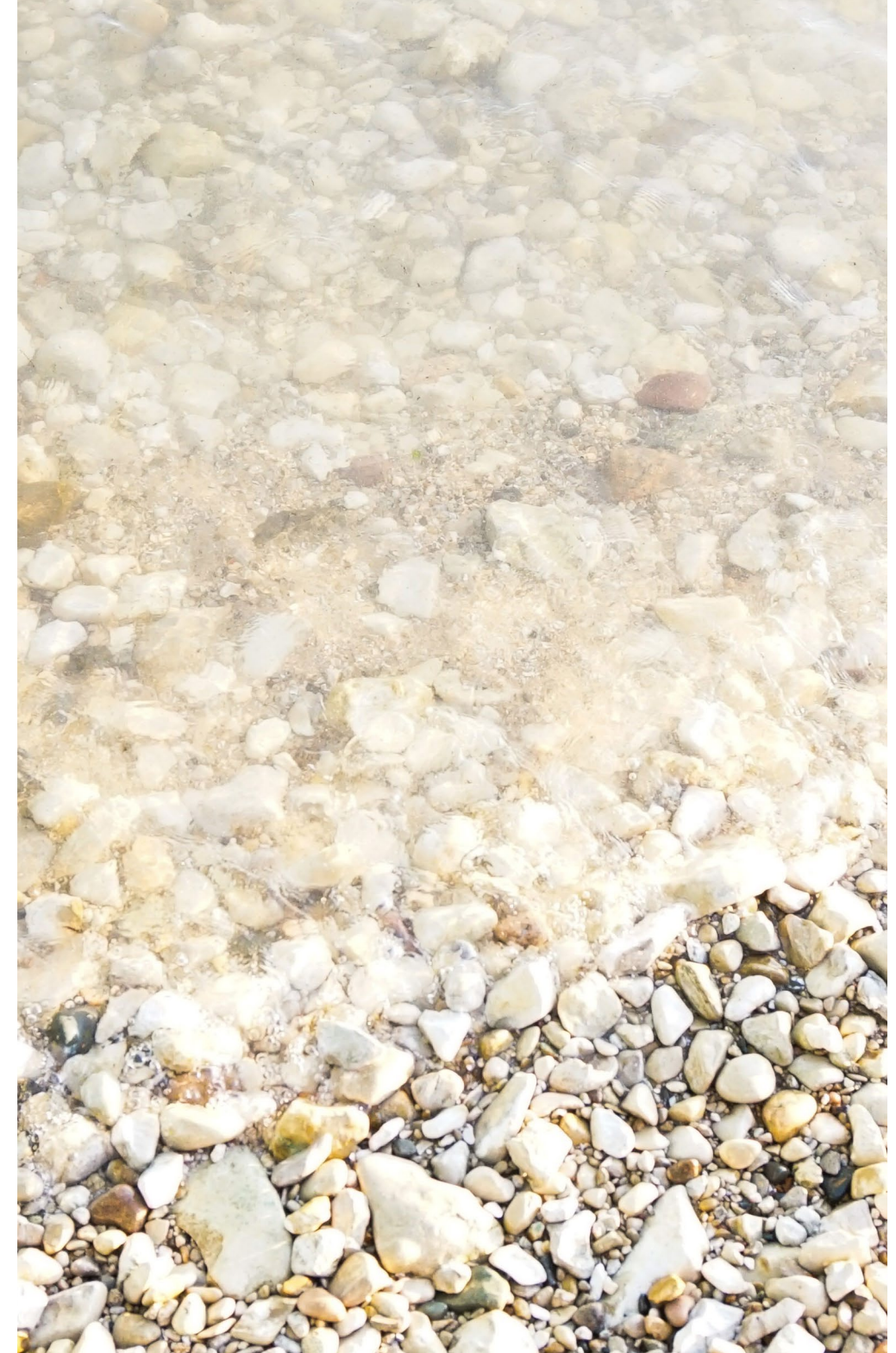
The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) reiterates its opposition to the continued operation of Enbridge Line 5, and the more recently proposed Line 5 tunnel. We maintain our opposition to Enbridge Line 5, and vehemently disapprove of the non-public and rushed process that would pave the way for the proposed Line 5 tunnel and the continued operation of Enbridge Line 5. However, we continue to be hopeful that the Whitmer Administration will be more thorough and deliberative in respecting the sovereign interests of the Tribes and work with us to discontinue operation of Enbridge Line 5.

Though no reminder may be needed, we are fast approaching the 10-year anniversary of the largest inland oil spill in North American history, the Kalamazoo River Oil Spill, July 25, 2010. Final remediation from the spill of Enbridge's Line 6B is still occurring along stretches of the Kalamazoo River, which inflicted more than \$1.5 billion in damages to Michigan's environment. This spill directly affected natural and cultural resources used by the NHBP Community, and has served as a benchmark for just how costly a modern oil spill can be, which would be much costlier and harder to contain in the dynamic Straits of Mackinac environment. The Kalamazoo River Oil Spill should serve as a cautionary warning, that the insurance requirements carried by Enbridge are insufficient, particularly those related to the Tunnel Agreement and Leases signed in December 2018, in the event of improper pipeline design, maintenance, or some unforeseen geological event resulting in a worst-case release.

NHBP has experienced a worst-case release within the core of its ceded territory, for which the Tribe has reserved Treaty rights. NHBP learned that the time to inventory the ecological and cultural resources is before the release occurs. After the Kalamazoo

River Oil Spill, NHBP had restricted access to the affected Kalamazoo River and its tributaries, because of the remediation efforts. This restricted access made it impossible to provide an accurate inventory of ecological and cultural resources lost or damaged. To this end, NHBP requests that Enbridge pay for unbiased, third-party experts and Tribal environmental staff to conduct a proper ecological and cultural resource inventory as part of any Risk Assessment.

We do support the decision of Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel to halt any further work by the Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority to pursue construction of the proposed Line 5 tunnel. When the State of Michigan and Enbridge entered the initial 1953 Easement, none of the Michigan Tribes were consulted, and NHBP would not be federally re-recognized for 42 more years. This is a violation of the Treaty Rights and sovereign interests of all the Michigan Tribes, including NHBP, to protect and preserve the natural resources of the Great Lakes. We worked for decades for federal re-recognition, and we continue to fight for recognition of our 1821 Treaty of Chicago Rights, among other treaties signed by NHBP Ancestors and other Potawatomi Bands. These sovereign interests formed the basis for the Tribal-State Environmental Accords and recognition of the government-to-government consultation, particularly on issues as fundamental to the entire Great Lakes ecosystem. The 1953 Easement should be re-examined to determine if it still meets the public and Tribal interests of the citizens of Michigan. The previous Michigan Attorney General stated that the pipeline would not be permitted if it were built today. The easement needs to comply with Part 325 of the State of Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) Great Lakes Submerged Lands in order to meet Michigan law.



*In conclusion, NHBP wishes to reiterate its opposition to the proposed Line 5 tunnel and the continued operation of Enbridge Line 5. NHBP's position is in concert with Michigan's other 11 federally recognized Tribes, the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA), and the Michigan Intertribal Council. The decommission of Enbridge Line 5 is strongly urged to protect the invaluable resources of the Great Lakes.*



# 2019

## GATHERING OF THE POTAWATOMI NATIONS



WRITTEN BY LEIA FULLER  
PHOTOS BY EMILEE GUZAK

The Wasauksing First Nation hosted the 2019 Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations this year in Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada. This international trip treated visitors with a gorgeous backdrop to Mother Nature in the heart of Georgian Bay.

Many Tribal Members traveled to Canada a few days early to attend the Language Conference. This year, the NHBP Culture Department funded four language students to attend all the activities, free of charge.



**Left:** Tribal Members Haley, Dax and Maizie Irwin.  
**Middle:** Tribal Member Samantha Wethington and Rachel Kuhn. **Below:** Tribal youth enjoy the fresh air on the dinner cruise around the Parry Sound islands.

"Migwéch to the NHBP Tribal Council for funding language students to attend this year's Potawatomi Language Conference," said Language Coordinator Mon-ee Zapata, who is also an NHBP Tribal Member. "I am thankful that we were able to attend and visit with the Wasauksing Community, as well as other Potawatomi Bands – the lands are beautiful there and it was a blessing to hear the Language being spoken by Elders from their Community."

Day one focused on embracing each Tribe's dialect, noticing the differences and similarities between the dialects, but appreciating each one's style. Day two brought language instructors to share information about how to use the language to protect traditional Potawatomi plants and preserve knowledge about these Indigenous plants.



“The second day of the Language Workshop focused on genealogy and how traditional plants relate to our language,” Tribal Member Eric Williams said. “The traditional food language and the everyday language is something we always talk about, which is important, but I really enjoyed that we heard a different perspective and talked about how plants relate to our language.”

Several workshops ushered in a variety of learning new and old techniques. The first day included beadwork, ribbon work, baby moccasin making, tulip bags, corn curing and a special Fire Keeping workshop at the Teaching Lodge. A new therapy program with horses also assisted several people with finding their inner peace. Other days included many similar workshops, as well as a Maple Sugar Bush Walk, a quillwork exhibition, storytelling with Elders and other Members of the Community, and a water workshop.

On one of the evenings, Wasauksing First Nation provided a dinner cruise. The cruise ship had three levels of seating, fit over 500 people, and traveled around the Georgian Bay area. Georgian Bay is made up of nearly 30,000 islands in the northeastern arm of Lake Huron. On the cruise, attendees saw a black bear, several island houses, seals, and the gorgeous landscape and waters that comprise the Wasauksing First Nation's way of life.

**“We did a baby moccasin making workshop the first day for our daughter, Addison,” Tribal Member Johnny Trosper**

said. “We also went on the dinner cruise, which was very nice. The weather was perfect for a ride around the islands.”

After the event-filled days of workshops, and a dinner cruise, Tribal Members were eager to Dance during the Pow Wow Grand Entry. The beautiful scenery, overlooking the water, served as a stunning backdrop for the Pow Wow. The sound of Tribal Drums setting up in the Arena echoed through the island, and vendors laid out beautiful beadwork, lotions and balms, dreamcatchers, clothing, Medicines and more. Food vendors also set up shop for the weekend, providing a mixture of pre and post-colonial food for all to enjoy.

Grand Entry began as Tribal Veterans led the way around the Arena. With the bay in the background, Tribal Members from all nine Potawatomi Tribes Danced their way around the Arena. With several Inter-Tribal Dances, Spot Dances, and competitions throughout the Pow Wow, there was much to enjoy. The busy week came to a close as Tribal Members packed up and headed back home, after nearly a week full of activities celebrating the Potawatomi heritage.



Community Member Ricky Williams relaxes on the island cruise with Tribal Members Tracey Dedrick and Curtis Dougherty.

**“Being here, seeing all the Nations together is awesome, and the food, of course, is wonderful,” Tribal Member Terri Dougherty said. “But most of all, seeing other Reservations and their lands, because it is what makes us, us.”**



Top Left: Tribal Members Bree and Shontell Clark.  
Top Right: Tribal Members Onyleen and O'felicia Zapata.  
Bottom Left: Tribal Member Monique Zuidema.  
Bottom Right: Addison Trosper stands tall in her wagon with her parents, Tribal Member Johnny Trosper and Rebecca Trosper, after making baby moccasins.





NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Tribal Council Chairman Matt Wesaw, and Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians Tribal Council Chairman Bob Peters at the August 2019 Quarterly Joint Tribal Council Meeting, held in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

## *Keepers of the Fire: Potawatomi Tribes hold Quarterly Joint Tribal Council Meetings*

WRITTEN BY LEIA FULLER | PHOTO BY ERIC MCCLURE

Love, Respect, Bravery, Truth, Honesty, Humility, and Wisdom. These Seven Grandfather Teachings guide the Potawatomi Tribes throughout their lives. NHBP and Tribal leadership strive to embody these Teachings given to us by the Creator, and one example of succeeding at that is a joint collaboration between three local, sister Potawatomi Tribes.

Tribal Council Members from the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, and NHBP have been meeting on a quarterly basis in an effort to collaborate on key issues and endeavors, as well as to improve the lines of communication with each other.

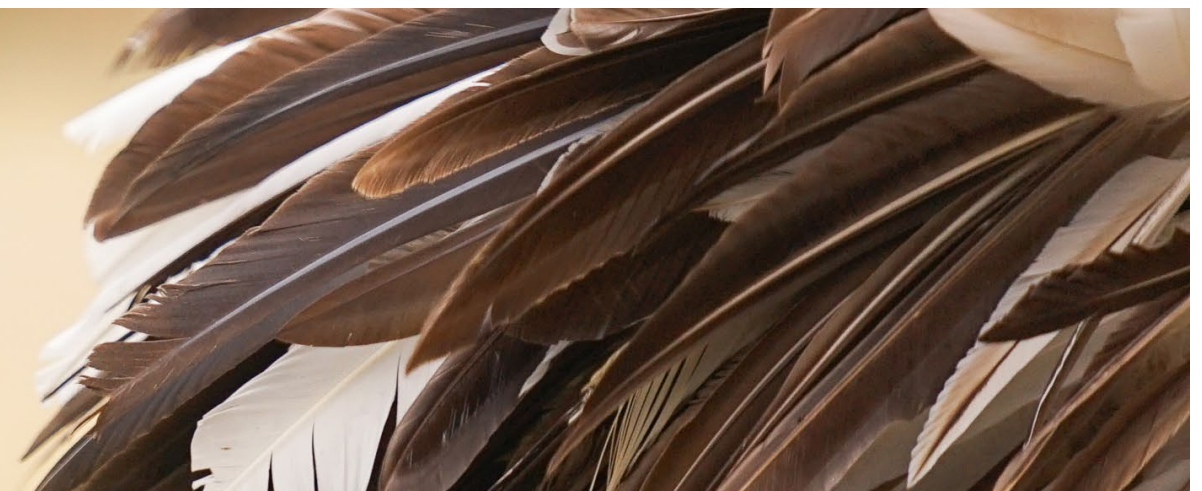
These quarterly meetings began near the beginning of 2019 and are intended to bring the sister Potawatomi Tribes together to work on shared issues and projects that are prominent in the Native American communities. Some of these include language preservation, treaty rights, food sovereignty, purchase power and community outreach, among others.

“I am grateful to Pokagon and Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish for continuing to improve the collaboration and communication between the local, sister Potawatomi Tribes,” said NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck. “These meetings are just one way that we can learn from each other, thereby improving services to our Tribal Members.”

One goal for NHBP is to continue to improve the preservation of the Potawatomi language. As a

common topic of these meetings, language preservation has provided areas for collaboration. The NHBP Tribal Council currently collaborates with the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, which has several people fluent in the Potawatomi language. By working with Pokagon, NHBP is able to see what has been successful for them in the past and what didn’t work as expected, make necessary adjustments, and ultimately provide NHBP Tribal Members with high-quality language programming. Much of this has already begun this year, with the addition of new Culture Department staff dedicated to preserving the Potawatomi language.

The meeting is not only used as a platform to discuss issues faced by Tribes, but also to socialize with each other and share information related to what each Tribe is accomplishing and working toward completing. The discussion provides a chance to open up the lines of communication and share with one another, and to ultimately create a collaborative environment through the discussions. By working in unity, each Tribe is able to save time and resources, which in turn improves the programs and services provided to their respective Communities.



“As in the past, the Gun Lake Tribe looks forward to continued collaborations with our Sister Tribes,” said Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Tribal Council Chairman Bob Peters. “Our ultimate goal as Sovereign Nations is to promote the sense of community, while jointly working together on initiatives that we can mutually bring to a desired outcome.”



FIREKEEPERS CASINO HOTEL HONORS

# NHBP TRIBAL MEMBER JACK PELTON

FOR 10 YEARS OF  
PERFECT ATTENDANCE

WRITTEN BY LEIA FULLER | PHOTO PROVIDED BY FKCH



Tribal Member Jack Pelton celebrates 10 years of perfect attendance as an employee at FireKeepers Casino Hotel.

On average, a person works 40 hours per week. Over a 10-year period, that is roughly 2,600 days, 20,800 hours, and nearly 1.248 million minutes. Tribal Member Jack Pelton just finished his 10 year anniversary at FireKeepers Casino Hotel (FKCH) and celebrated perfect attendance during that decade of service. Pelton worked over 1.248 million minutes and never called in a single time and was never late during that 10-year period.

Pelton started as general maintenance in June 2009, then worked his way up to general maintenance II, and eventually ended up in machine repair, which is where he currently works today.

Pelton, and his wife, Chris, previously owned their own fishery in Grand Haven for over 25 years. They attribute much of their success to this business. Pelton said owning their own business was how they learned that dedication and commitment is necessary to succeed. He also attributes all-natural medicines and healings for their health and ability to come to work every day.

"We do natural healing and use herbal treatments whenever we can," Pelton said. "We trust Mother Nature for cleansing and healing, and I think that has helped. No extras or synthetics, just all natural medicines."

Ten years of perfect attendance at FKCH showcases the quality and level of expertise that FKCH serves its patrons and guests. Working in an environment like FKCH shows dedication to their work culture, WEEA, which stands for Welcoming, Engaging, Enthusiastic, and Appreciative. FKCH continually instills this philosophy in all their employees, which has resulted in the property being voted one of the best casinos to work for in the nation.

"FireKeepers has a good bunch of versatile talent," Pelton said. "They practice their WEEA skills and put them to use. My wife and I have enjoyed working somewhere that believes in that."

Chris also just completed 10 years of perfect attendance, as well. The power couple shows that dedication in all aspects of their life has proven to be successful.

"Congratulations and Chi Migwéch to Jack and Chris Pelton for their continued dedication to FireKeepers Casino Hotel," said NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck. "FireKeepers continues to be the "Casino of Choice" because of their WEEA (Welcoming, Engaging, Enthusiastic, Appreciative) approach to service; in addition to their work ethic and dedication."



## BAKER ENGINEERING SPONSORS GVSU SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING SENIOR CAPSTONE PROGRAM AWARD-WINNING TEAM

WRITTEN BY PRESIDENT & CEO OF WASÉYABEK  
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC DEIDRA MITCHELL

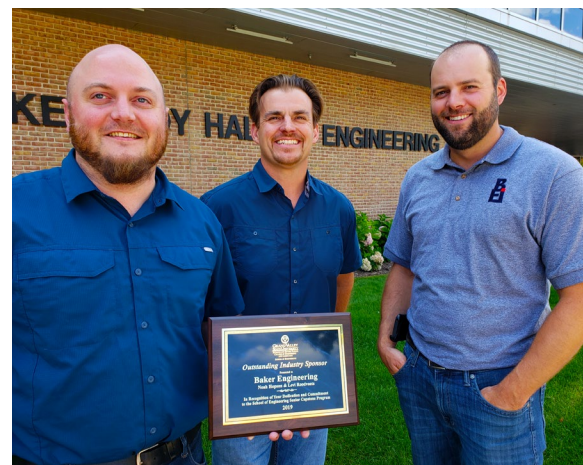
Baker Engineering, LLC, a subsidiary of Waséyabek Development Company, LLC, sponsored a team of mechanical and electrical engineers for the Grand Valley State University (GVSU) School of Engineering Senior Capstone Program. This team of engineering students was tasked with designing and building a small engine altitude testing apparatus capable of simulating altitudes from sea level to 20,000 feet. The project had a timeframe of seven months, kicking off in January and concluding at the end of July.

GVSU hosted their 2019 Engineering Design Conference August 2. All of the teams presented their finished projects, and sponsors were invited to participate in the celebration event. Baker Engineering representatives Mark Dorner, Levi Roodvoets and Noah Hopson received the Outstanding Industry Sponsor award, in recognition of Baker's dedication and commitment to the School of Engineering Senior Capstone Program.

"It was a team effort between the students and the team at Baker," said Roodvoets, a Senior Project Engineer at Baker Engineering.

The award is a reminder of the teamwork needed to make any project, especially one this challenging, a success,"

Hopson, a Project Engineer at Baker Engineering and graduate of GVSU, has firsthand experience



Baker Engineering, LLC, employees win the Outstanding Industry Sponsor award from Grand Valley State University, in recognition of their dedication and commitment to the School of Engineering Senior Capstone Program.



GVSU students partner with Baker Engineering, LLC, for their Senior Capstone Program project.

with the capstone program from the sponsor and senior team positions.

"I was lucky to have a challenging, multi-disciplinary project during my own capstone experience," Hopson said. "I thought it was important to offer the same type of challenge and support, as we discussed the possibility of sponsoring a project at GVSU, that offered a real value for Baker Engineering. Some projects are lower priority or wishlist projects that may never see use, but we have real engine testing applications for our project as soon as it is delivered."

The GVSU senior team did a tremendous job from start to finish. They took home the most

prestigious award, the Project of the Year. The team consisted of Brian Arcangeli, Olen Berezecky, Dylan Coolidge, Nathan Esch, Edward Whaley and former Baker intern Grant Borregard. The team was guided by Baker's engineers, who have extensive knowledge and experience in a wide range of thermal-fluids, and research and development. GVSU professors and lab supervisors also assisted and provided technical support. Overall, the contributions of the GVSU staff and sponsorship teams helped to set the 2019 capstone program apart from the rest.

Baker Engineering is proud to sponsor such a successful team, support GVSU's capstone program and mentor these young professionals as they prepare to enter the workforce!



## WASÉYABEK DEVELOPMENT COMPANY HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AND FIRST LEAD ASSOCIATE

WRITTEN BY PRESIDENT & CEO OF WASÉYABEK DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC DEIDRA MITCHELL

Waséyabek Development Company, LLC (WDC), hired two new individuals this summer: Bethany Harris and Traci Pelton.

Harris serves as the Executive Assistant to Rabih Jamal, Chief Operating Officer of Waséyabek Development Company, LLC. Harris holds a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University in Political Science and a Juris Doctor degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. She practiced law in Chicago for six years before moving back to her hometown of Holland, Michigan.

As a litigator, Harris gained extensive experience with the discovery process and negotiated settlements. She also has business law experience in matters involving real estate, environmental compliance and employment



*Bethany Harris serves as the Executive Assistant to Rabih Jamal, Chief Operating Officer of Waséyabek Development Company, LLC.*

issues. Harris is licensed to practice law in Illinois and Michigan, and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States in 2017.

Harris has served as a volunteer and junior board member with several non-profit organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters and The Women's Treatment Center in Chicago.

Harris spends her time outside of work with her husband, daughter and twin boys. She enjoys being outdoors, going to the beach and baking.

Pelton joins WDC inaugurating the new Leadership Exploration and Development (LEAD) Program. She has held roles for 21 years in the office furniture industry, concentrating on design, engineering, marketing, inside sales and manufacturing. Pelton is currently working toward her next goal, learning more about federal contracting, as well as gaining experience and understanding of Tribal businesses and entities.

Pelton received her certification in Project Management from Davenport University in 2018 and has also completed many of their leadership and management classes.

Pelton is an NHBP Tribal Member who currently resides in Grand Haven, Michigan. She enjoys serving at City Impact in Cedar Springs and helping those in need with job searches and career aspirations.

***"The LEAD Program is providing me an opportunity to do my due diligence before starting my own business, by joining the best one in town," Pelton said.***



*Tribal Member Traci Pelton joins Waséyabek Development Company, LLC as part of the new Leadership Exploration and Development (LEAD) Program.*





2018 – 2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

“It’s a cultural and Ancestral identity that I treat with honor and pride. It’s a history too and a connection to an extended family with a common goal for its people while protecting sovereignty and preserving history, culture, languages, environment and arts.”

– NHBP Tribal Member

“To be a Member of NHBP means many things. I am proud to be a NHBP Member. I feel my family ties are stronger, and I have formed new and lasting relationships with extended family and Tribal Members as well. As an NHBP Member, I have a sense of security knowing I have a group that will help me, and I can in return help them. I am relieved to know my children and grandchildren will have refuge with the peoples of the NHBP. I wish my Ancestors were able to see the amazing accomplishments of the Tribe.”

– NHBP Tribal Member

“I’ve been told I was a Member ever since I could understand. I was taught to be proud of my heritage.”

– NHBP Tribal Member



# FIREKEEPERS CASINO HOTEL CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

WRITTEN BY LEIA FULLER  
PHOTOS BY EMILEE GUZAK

It's hard to believe that a decade ago, on Aug. 5, FireKeepers Casino Hotel (FKCH) cut the ribbon marking the Grand Opening of FireKeepers Casino. This special 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated with a Tribal Drum performance by Lookout Hill, as well as several speeches from leadership, including NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson Jamie Stuck, FKCH CEO Kathy George, former FKCH CEO R. Bruce McKee, and City of Battle Creek Mayor Mark Behnke. Ceremonies on Aug. 5 were topped off with cake, while the casino held celebratory promotions throughout the month of August.

The ceremony took place at the MoneyKeepers Mainstage on the casino floor, with several Tribal Members stopping by on their way back from the Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations. Many of the memories shared were reflections on the many successes of FKCH's first decade of operation, including an expansion which added a four diamond hotel, an events center for concerts and conventions, and additional dining options. Speakers also shared information about future improvements, including the Hotel Tower II project.



**Top Left:** Lookout Hill performs a Welcome Song. **Bottom Left:** Tribal Elder Shirley English smiles while listening to speakers talk about the accomplishments in the past 10 years. **Above:** Tribal Council stands proud with the mayor of Battle Creek and past and present FireKeepers Casino Hotel Leadership.

"Along with the strong leadership of past Tribal Council Members, NHBP Tribal Members and initial operating oversight, we have had partnerships and support at the local, state and federal levels," Stuck said. "This collaboration has assisted in the success of FireKeepers Casino Hotel. Because of that, the possibilities for the next Seven Generations and beyond are endless."

Following the ceremony, Tribal Members were invited to a ballroom for a special gift and meal. After the ballroom festivities, all were able to go outside and view a large number "10" mowed into the grass on the grounds to commemorate the decade that FKCH has been in operation.





## Casino Connection: TRIBAL MEMBER AND TIER MEMBER COMPLETE TRACK II

WRITTEN BY FKCH | PHOTOS PROVIDED BY FKCH

FireKeepers Casino Hotel (FKCH) acknowledges NHBP Tribal Member Dane Stauffer for receiving Keeper of the Month. Stauffer is currently a Valet Attendant and has been with FKCH for one year. He was nominated for Keeper because of his great customer service skills, positive attitude and his dedication to FKCH's motto: Welcoming, Engaging, Enthusiastic and Appreciative (WEEA).

At FKCH, Team Members are offered the opportunity to advance and grow as a leader by attending development trainings such as FKCH's track courses. Dane Stauffer and Brandon Lester, who is a spouse of a Tribal Member, have both taken the initiative to participate in Track II.

"Track II has been a great learning experience and I am excited to grow with FireKeepers," Stauffer said.

This twelve-week training focuses on leadership and management development. During this course, participants have the opportunity to complete 32 hours of on-the-job training in a department of their choice.

"I am appreciative of Track II and look forward to the tools I will be provided with," Lester said.

Both Stauffer and Lester will be graduating from Track II this November.



NHBP Tribal Member and FKCH Valet Attendant Dane Stauffer.



FKCH Track II participant Brandon Lester.

To view our openings, go to [firekeeperscasino.com/careers](https://firekeeperscasino.com/careers) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Contact FKCH Trainer Kiara Dougherty at 269.660.5401 or [kdougherty@firekc.com](mailto:kdougherty@firekc.com).

### TIME TO **TURN UP** THE VOLUME

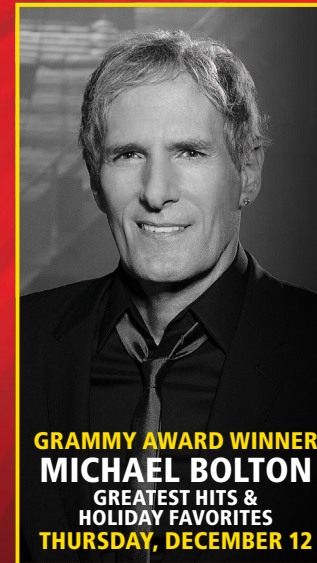


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**COOLIO** **C & C MUSIC FACTORY**

**90s HOUSE PARTY**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

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Must be 21 or older. Tickets based on availability. Schedule subject to change.



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TRIBAL YOUTH GAIN EXPERIENCE AND GIVE BACK THROUGH

# Youth Learn Work

WRITTEN BY ERIC MCCLURE | PHOTOS BY EMILEE GUZAK, ERIC MCCLURE AND SARA MOORE



Tribal Members Josev Keith and Chris Wilson craft their Hand Drums in a workshop led by the Culture Department.

A group of 10 Tribal youth joined the ranks of NHBP Tribal government employees during the 2019 Youth Learn Work program held mid-June through mid-August. During this time they gained both experience in the workplace and a better understanding for their fields of interest.

Tribal youth participating in this year's Youth Learn Work program consisted of five returning participants, two participants in their first year of college, and one participant in their second year of college. Each were purposefully placed into a Tribal government department that mirrored their own interests.

However, it wasn't solely the time spent in the workplace that helped Tribal youth gain life-changing experiences and valuable skills, but also the volunteering events within the community that the Tribal youth participated in. One such event that provided Tribal youth with a humbling experience was volunteering at S.A.F.E. Place, an organization in Battle Creek, Michigan, dedicated to providing shelter, counseling, advocacy and other services for domestic violence victims.



**Top Left:** Tribal Member Leo Mandoka crafts a Hand Drum. **Bottom Left:** Tribal Member Journi Wilson works to prepare a meal for the residents of SAFE Place. **Bottom Right:** Tribal Member Nyana Mandoka husks sweet corn for food bank recipients.





Throughout the program, Tribal youth volunteered once per week in a variety of ways, including cleaning the kitchen area, sorting through donated items, sprucing up the landscaping and outdoor playground, and even by preparing a meal for the residents to enjoy at a picnic with the Tribal youth, an event which included food, games and face painting.

*"I had a really good experience baking for the residents, because it was my first time baking cupcakes," Tribal Member Adriona Mandoka said. "I've gained a greater awareness in helping people and see the need to give back and to help others."*

Donating time at the Food Bank of South Central Michigan, a distribution center that collects canned and dried goods, and provides fresh produce to over 200,000 people per year, was another impactful experience for Tribal youth each week.

*"Learning how to sort and weigh the food and cans takes a lot more effort than I thought," Tribal Member Journi Wilson said. "It feels good to give back because they always are in need of volunteers."*

While at the Food Bank, Tribal youth lent a hand by sorting and preparing boxes of goods for shipment, cleaning out delivery truck bays and washing the windows of the building. Some even were tasked with husking and bagging sweet corn for the fresh produce program.

Other interactive experiences throughout the Youth Learn Work program allowed for Tribal youth to participate with their assigned departments in the Tribal Police's annual active assailant training, attend a finance workshop and ask one-on-one questions about payroll, taxes and investments with the Finance Department, and take part in a traditional Shaker workshop, for the girls, and Drum making workshop, for the boys, both led by the Culture Department.

Tribal youth marked the end of their participation in the 2019 Youth Learn Work program by presenting in front of Tribal Council what they had learned throughout the summer, both from the work they completed in the workplace and through their volunteering within the community.



*"I really enjoy giving back to the community. This experience has been very humbling, and I'd be very happy to come back and help in any way that I can."*  
*– Tribal Member Megan Moffat*

(Pg.38) Top Left: Tribal Member Megan Moffat cuts tomatoes while prepping food for SAFE Place residents. Top Right: Tribal Member Adriona Mandoka reads directions before helping to prepare a meal for residents of SAFE Place. Bottom Left: Tribal Member Dyami Harris helps to cook a meal for SAFE Place residents. Bottom Right: Tribal Members Marcell Day and Keyon Mandoka husk and bag sweet corn for recipients at the food bank. (Pg.39) Bottom Right: Tribal Members Keyon Mandoka and Josev Keith help to beautify the landscaping and playground area at SAFE Place.







# *Mnomen {Wild Rice} Season*

WRITTEN BY LEIA FULLER | PHOTOS BY LEIA FULLER AND ERIC MCCLURE

As the summer growing season began to transition toward fall, the NHBP Environmental Department hosted a full week of Mnomen {Wild Rice} activities. Several NHBP Tribal Members and employees participated in the two-day Wild Rice Camp at the Environmental Center.

At the start of Wild Rice Camp, the NHBP Culture Department provided a short language class for camp participants. Language Coordinator Mon-ee Zapata

and Language Associate Jenniffer Wethington went over a list of words related to Mnomen {Wild Rice}, spoke on the pronunciation of each, and then gave the participants an opportunity to repeat the words back, in order to get pronunciation of the Bodéwadmí {Potawatomi} words correct.

“We are preserving our heritage, culture and traditions,” Tribal Member Rob Larson said. “These are the things our Ancestors did in this region to survive. It is so

important to continue these traditions, and it is a belief and value that will always be sacred to our People.”

The camp included a class that allowed participants to make their own Ricing sticks and poles, and live demonstrations of traditional Wild Rice cooking in a kettle. The process of winnowing and separating the Wild Rice to remove the chaff was also highlighted during the camp. The Wild Rice production process was described and detailed by Wild Rice Coordinator

Lee Sprague, who is also a Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians Tribal Member. This process includes collecting and drying the Rice, parching the Rice in a copper kettle with a cedar paddle, Dancing on the Rice with moccasins to remove the chaff from the Rice, and winnowing the Rice in winnowing baskets to separate the chaff from the Rice.

This year, river outings were available at two locations. One river outing was held at Tract 22, on the Nottawa



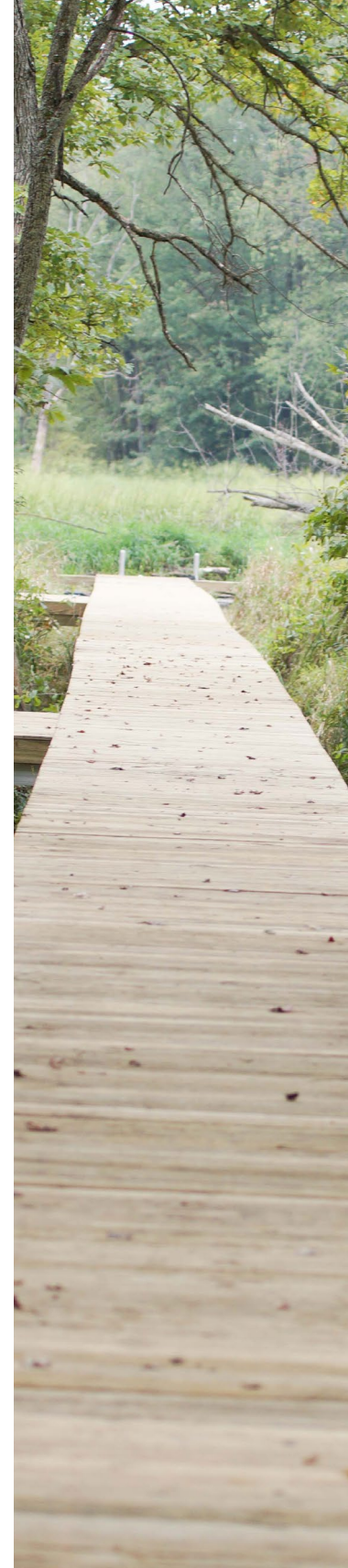


River in Factoryville, Michigan. An additional location, with a newly-installed dock, just outside of Athens, Michigan, allowed participants to gather Wild Rice from different locations along the river. This not only allowed for a widespread collection this year, but also will improve harvests in the future.

"You guys did a great job out there today, you should be very proud," Sprague said. "Every one of those seeds can produce 200 more seeds, and be the grandfather to many more seeds and plants of Wild Rice to come."

The Environmental Department also uses GPS technology to track where the Rice was located in the water. These measurements include where the Rice is located and an approximate area that is in each location. The goal is to continue the growth of Wild Rice, and also to determine which bodies of water are more suitable for Wild Rice and what causes them to be more suitable.

"To be out on the river that our People were named after and to be in our homelands, it was very special," Larson said. "Practicing our traditional methods of Wild Ricing and making sticks, it was awesome. I really enjoyed every bit of it and I am going to try to bring my kids next year."



## WILD RICE WEDNESDAY

The NHBP Environmental Department partnered with Community Health to host the third annual Wild Rice Wednesday mid-August to kick off the Mnomen {Wild Rice} season. The cultural event began with a Welcome Song, performed by Cultural Specialist Mike Medawis. As he was performing, several Tribal youth Danced as part of the traditional opening to the event.

Wild Rice Coordinator Lee Sprague kept the attendees interested during a cultural teaching on the importance of the Wild Rice harvest, the methods to collect and harvest Wild Rice, and how the treaties between the U.S. federal government and Native American Tribes are significant to Wild Rice harvesting.

The Wild Rice Wednesday event came to a close with a provided lunch featuring chicken, beef, Wild Rice soup, and a dessert.

(Pg.42) **Top:** Tribal Member Nathaniel Spurr guides a Michigan State University food sovereignty student around Pine Creek. **Middle:** Tribal Members and Language staff Jenniffer Wethington and Mon-ee Zapata teach attendees common Bodéwadmi phrases associated with Wild Rice. **Bottom:** Wild Rice Coordinator and Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians Tribal Member Lee Sprague shares progress of the Wild Rice Restoration and the importance of treaties. (Pg.43) **Right:** Tribal Member Doug Taylor and his partner, Sue Bean, listen attentively to the language presentation.



COLLABORATING ON JUSTICE:

## NHBP HOSTS MICHIGAN TRIBAL STATE FEDERAL JUDICIAL FORUM

WRITTEN BY ERIC MCCLURE | PHOTOS BY ERIC MCCLURE

Spotlights illuminated the wooden stage floor as actors parted the heavy, black curtains to enter the stage. As the audience sat in anticipation, five words suddenly echoed out into the ballroom, breaking the silence, "I remember where I was."

The play that followed placed the audience in the middle of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2013, through the reenacted voices of senators and representatives in the halls of Congress, Native grassroots activists fighting to expand protections for Native women and children, and Native survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault on Reservations.

"This is a topic that is important to me as I know that people can go through domestic violence or assault and never find their voice to talk about it," said Tribal Member Lauren Simmons, who portrayed an array of characters in the play.

The staged reading of the play *Sliver of a Full Moon* was one of several events during the 2019 spring meeting of the Michigan Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum, the first-ever to be hosted by NHBP.

"These meetings provide an avenue for developing and strengthening personal relationships grounded in our mutual respect for each other," said NHBP Tribal Court Chief Judge Melissa L. Pope. "They provide Native Nations with the opportunity to share their unique history, values, traditions, government, and Tribal justice systems."

The Judicial Forum was created to establish a relationship between Tribal, state and federal judicial systems in order to work together on shared issues and initiatives. In addition to collaboration efforts throughout the year, the Judicial Forum hosts two official meetings annually, with the 2019 spring meeting held at FireKeepers Casino Hotel in May.







NHBP Tribal Court Associate Judge David M. Peterson threads beads on his Medicine Bag, during the Culture Department activity.

"The Judicial Forum allows us the opportunity to develop a collective understanding of Tribal, state, and federal judicial systems and engage in training that enhances judicial skills," Pope said. "It also helps to identify the challenges for American Indian children, families and Native Nations, within the context of these judicial systems, and to develop solutions."

The coming together of the Tribal, state and federal justice systems included: the chief judge of each of Michigan's 12 federally recognized Tribes, 12 judges appointed to the Judicial Forum by the Michigan Supreme Court, and a federal district court judge from the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan.

Another major part of the event was the Tribal Advocates Meeting, featuring both Tribal and non-

Tribal partners whose work is focused on advocating for and providing resources and services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

"We work together to develop strategies to help to improve our communities in culturally meaningful ways," said NHBP Domestic Violence Victim Advocate Patti McClure. "Meetings like this allows us to come together to share ideas, maximize our resources to provide quality services, and to provide advocates with fellowship and self-care."

The Judicial Forum and the Tribal Advocates Meeting both focused on an array of similar issues, including: reauthorization of VAWA, domestic violence and sexual assault, human trafficking and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). As host, NHBP was also able to share its history and culture. The Culture Department provided a presentation that overviewed

the history of NHBP, the Tribal government and the Tribal Court, as well as a cultural activity for participants: crafting Medicine pouches.

"The Culture Department empowered the Tribal Court to enrich the participants' understanding by providing the opportunity to engage in the traditional activity of making Medicine pouches," Pope said. "This allowed us to share some of the history, values and traditions of NHBP."

The judicial officials were able to experience The Fire Hub and its unique initiative, the Kendall Street Food Pantry, followed by a tour of the Pine Creek Indian Reservation, including the

Tribal Justice Center. The goal of hosting the Judicial Forum was to increase understanding of Tribal sovereignty, constitutions and laws, and teach traditional methods of justice, such as peacemaking. One of the best ways to achieve that goal was through example, which was where Sliver of a Full Moon came in.

"After attending Sliver of a Full Moon, the Judicial Forum unanimously prioritized addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Indian Country and educating about the jurisdictional issues relating to violence committed in Indian Country," Pope said. "I believe that experiencing the play was one of the best avenues for better understanding of those important issues."



Language Associate Jenniffer Wethington and Probation Officer April Taylor pass out materials, as participants start the Culture Department's Medicine Bag activity.



The Nottawaseppi Boyz perform a Welcome Song during the opening ceremony for the Michigan Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum.





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