

The Manomin Project's Spring Equinox Newsletter



@manominproject

Updates on the Manomin Project

The Manomin Project is excited to welcome spring.

Over the winter months, our team has prioritized research. University of Guelph (UofG) members visited the Archives of Manitoba and the Archives of Ontario to collect historical documents on Manomin on the Upper Winnipeg River. The information gathered will be used for further analysis of historic manomin growth.

Additionally, UofG members of the Manomin Project have been busy researching and writing a paper on the lack of available historical water information and the importance of oral testimony in hydrologic analyses. This project is funded by a grant the Manomin Project obtained from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

In February, PhD student Samantha Mehlretter and Metis Professor Kim Anderson presented at a workshop for undergraduate students in the Guelph Engineering Leadership program. They spoke about Indigenous ways of knowing and how engineers can form better relationships with the communities they work alongside. We continue to advocate for the cooperation and partnership of university researchers and Indigenous communities.

In March, Dr. Andrea Bradford, along with Samantha and Dr. Brittany Luby, presented at an Indigenous Research Symposium hosted by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs. Andrea spoke about her experience with the Manomin Project and what she has learned about weaving knowledge.

Analysis of 2021 data has been used to finalize plans for the upcoming field season. The data from the water level gauges, core samples, and water quality analysis

will be compared to the data we collect during the 2022 field season. This information will help us determine how environmental conditions impact manomin yields. The UofG members of the team recently had the opportunity to share some of the results and plans with the Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation community. We are looking forward to continuing the conversation during the spring feast.



Pictured: Manomin. Photo by Dylan White.

After some revisions, the Manomin Anthology has passed UBC Press's internal review process! The anthology now qualifies for external peer review. Dr. Brittany Luby has also connected with Metis illustrator Dani Kastelein to create illustrations for the anthology. We are excited to see how this project progresses over the next several months!

We are also excited to announce that Dr. Brittany Luby is working on a Manomin picture book! She is in the process of securing a publishing deal with an indie publisher. In the meantime, she is revising the book in response to editorial feedback.

Meet the Team: Guy Henry

In our first member highlight of 2022, we are excited to introduce team member Guy Henry!

Guy Henry is a band member of Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation who works along the Winnipeg River to restore both Sturgeon populations and Manomin crops. His dedication to restoring local ecosystems is inspiring!



Pictured: Guy Henry.

Guy plays a key role in the continuation of the Manomin Project's photo diaries. Throughout the course of the season, he travels to different ancestral manomin fields to take pictures of Manomin and track crop growth. The photos that Guy takes and/or coordinates are critical for our team's observations and analyses.

Guy has also recommended another field for us to study, noting its high yield in years past!

We would like to thank Guy for his continuing dedication to the Manomin Project. Thank you, Guy!

Manomin Fun Facts

The process of harvesting Manomin is known as "Manoominikewin" in Ojibwa or "ricing" in English.¹

What's Next

The Manomin Project has many exciting projects in the works.

Several years of research have pointed to potential opportunities for enhancing manomin growth, such as managing the floating mats of wetland vegetation that are encroaching on manomin habitat. Dr. Andrea Bradford is looking forward to exploring these opportunities with the community and beginning to co-develop culturally appropriate restoration and management strategies with Anishinaabe values at their core. We hope that many community members will engage in this work! Andrea and her students will also be continuing to investigate off-river manomin sites.

After a winter of in-office work, we are excited to get back out into the field. Our team members are currently in the middle of planning our 2022 field season. We have outlined three tentative trips to Treaty #3: one in late-May, another in mid-August, and a final visit in September. We will hold the first feast in May to share our plans for 2022 and continue our conversations about Manomin. In the meantime, Andrea and Samantha are creating budgets, outlining our planned activities, and hiring undergraduate students to help us in the field. We are excited to announce that URA Jane Mariotti will be joining us on the river this year.

We are excited to visit Treaty #3, spend time in-person with our partners at Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation, and visit Manomin this season.

¹ The Ojibwe People's Dictionary, s.v. "Manoominikewin," accessed February 25th, 2022, <https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/main-entry/manoominikewin-ni>.

The Manomin Project is a cooperative research program led by the University of Guelph and Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation. This newsletter reflects our responsibility and commitment to knowledge sharing.