

The Manomin Project's 2023 Spring Equinox Newsletter

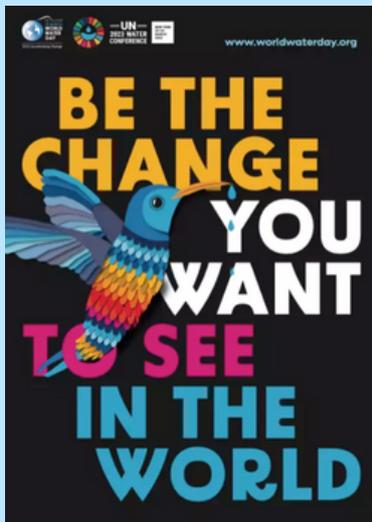


Updates

Knowledge-weaving strategies in freshwater restoration to be shared for World Water Day

To facilitate dialogue and action about water-related global challenges, the University of Guelph's Morwick G360 Groundwater Institute is hosting a set of talks for World Water Day on March 22. PhD candidate Samantha Mehlretter and Dr. Andrea Bradford will be sharing their research and lessons learned in a presentation titled "Respectful Braiding of Indigenous and Western Knowledge Systems for Freshwater Ecosystem Restoration".

World Water Day is led by the United Nations Water Task Force and held on March 22 in an aim to accelerate the accomplishment of targets within Sustainable Development Goal #6, Clean Water and Sanitation.



A United Nations poster for World Water Day 2023.

The Manomin Project's talk at the National Native Seed Conference shares Manomin with broad audiences.

Learning from the best in seed-based restoration at the National Native Seed Conference in Washington, D.C.

The Manomin Project is off to Washington, D.C. this March 27 - 29! Undergraduate Research Assistant and Communications Coordinator Laura Legzdins will be attending the National Native Seed Conference to learn from others and to gather knowledge that may inform reseeded efforts in Treaty #3.

This conference gathers environmental professionals and Traditional Knowledge Keepers to strengthen partnerships and guide seed-based restoration efforts with Western Science and Indigenous Knowledge. Workshops will teach groups like ours about seed planning, determining appropriate geographies for sourcing seed, and using Two Eyed Seeing principles in partnerships with tribal nations. We've also been invited to share The Manomin Project's history, efforts and goals as part of a panel on tribal partnerships in environmental restoration. Laura looks forward to sharing her notes and experiences with the team.

Global Commission on the Economics of Water consults Manomin Project members

A report titled "Indigenous and Western Knowledge: Bringing Diverse Understandings of Water Together in Practice" has been completed by Samantha Mehlretter, Sheri Longboat, Brittany Luby and Andrea Bradford to advise the Global Commission on the Economics of Water. The report is expected to be officially released in the coming months.

Data analysis and dissertation work continue

PhD candidate Samantha Mehlretter is progressing with her synthesis of field data and the writing of her dissertation which encompasses much of the Manomin Project's research. She is consulting closely with Dr. Andrea Bradford and will continue advancing her dissertation for several more months.

Know Your Relations!

Manomin is one of many plants which lives in Treaty #3 waters. These are some others found in the Winnipeg River during The Manomin Project's summer field surveys. Have you seen these plant relations on the river?



Okadamoo(g)

White Water-lily
(*Nymphae odorata*)



Oshkitebag(oon)

Yellow Pond Lily
(*Nuphar variegata*)



Apakweshkway

Cattail
(*Typha spp.*)



**Nsidaiindamowin
mshkiki**

**Fraser's Marsh
St. John's-Wort**
(*Triadenum fraseri*)



Wiikensh(an)

Sweetflag
(*Acorus spp.*)



Water Smartweed

(*Persicaria
amphibia*)



Three-way Sedge

(*Dulichium
arundinaceum*)

Anishinaabemowin translations are sourced from the Ojibwe Medical Dictionary (Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre) and The Creator's Garden (Joseph Pitawanakwat).

Meet the Team: Autumn Perry



Meet Autumn Perry! Autumn joined the Manomin Project in January 2022 as a Research Assistant, sharing typed transcriptions of historic documents. Autumn received her BA from the University of Guelph in 2022, majoring in Anthropology and History.

She is now a graduate student at Guelph who studies Public Issues Anthropology with a collaborative specialization in One Health. The One Health approach is shared between multiple disciplines and highlights the interconnected health of the environment, animals, and humans.

Autumn's Master of Arts research focuses on cultural responses to environmental change, with emphasis placed on resource sustainability. Through a One Health perspective, she hopes to learn more about the relationships between the environment, animals, and people. She is also interested in how these relationships impact culture and foodways.

What's Next?

March 22: World Water Day presentation

We encourage you to explore global actions and targets to tackle water and sanitation challenges by visiting the World Water Day information page:

<https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

March 27 - 29: National Native Seed Conference workshops and presentation

We look forward to sharing the knowledge and lessons we gain from the National Native Seed Conference with you soon!



A sunrise paints the sky over the Winnipeg River and reflects in the calm morning waters.

Food for Thought

"For as water was given certain responsibilities for sustaining the world, so were the people. Chief among their duties was to give thanks for the gifts of the earth and to care for them. (...)

A deep awareness of the gifts of the earth and of each other is medicine."

- Robin Wall Kimmerer, member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, scientist and author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*.

How can you care for the gifts of the earth with the skills and experience you have?

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.