

The Manomin Project's Winter 2022 Solstice Newsletter



Updates on the Manomin Project

Celebrating new Manomin literature

We are excited to announce that several works by Brittany Luby which share Manomin with audiences of all ages will be published in the coming months.

A collection of letters, recipes and essays which deepen our understanding of Anishinaabeg ecology and Manomin, tentatively titled *Manomin: Sustaining Anishinaabe-Aki*, will be moving onto the next stage of the publication process with UBC Press.

Additionally, a children's book about Manomin is being released this fall by Groundwood Books, featuring illustrations by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley, an Ojibwe Woodland artist from Barrie, Ontario, and a member of Wasauksing First Nation. Anishinaabemowin translations are provided by Mary Ann Corbiere, and a curriculum guide for teachers has been prepared by Rosella Fisher.



Colourful manomin flowers open on the Winnipeg River.



A poster for the Fall Rural History Roundtable which gathered those connected by land and culture to share, listen and learn.

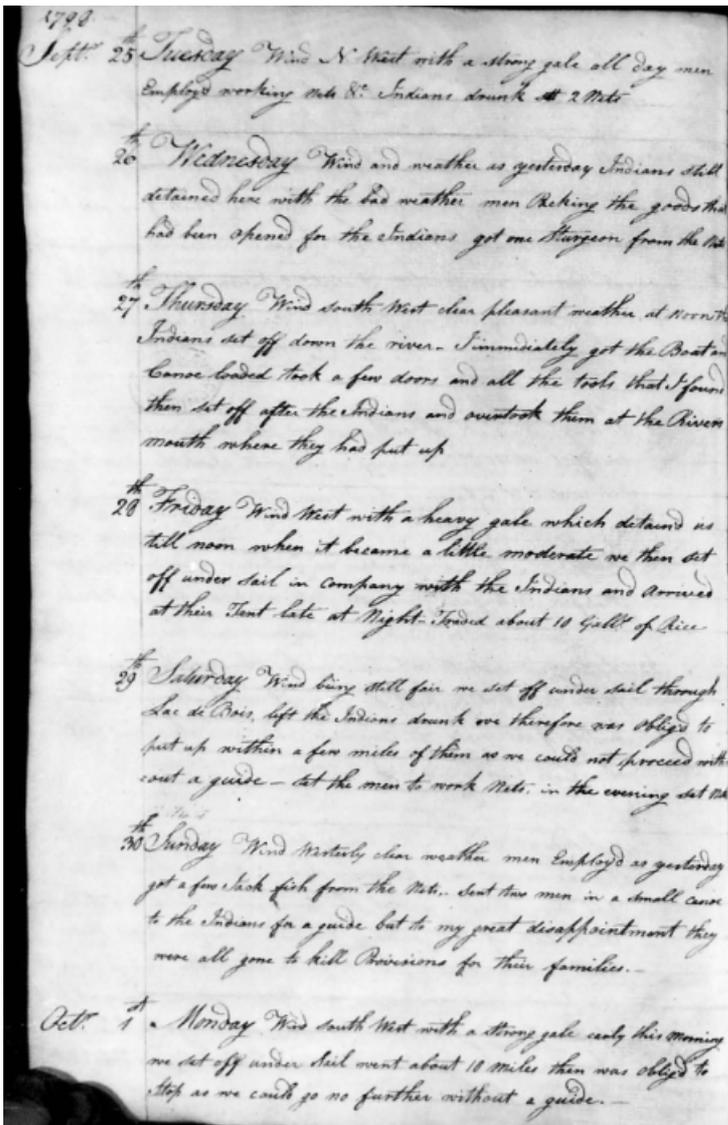
Sharing stories to guide future action

On October 19th, Brittany Luby and Laura Legzdins shared the history and potential paths forward for Manomin wellbeing and care for the Rural History Roundtable, a series of talks hosted by the University of Guelph's College of Arts. Titled *Activating Ancestral Knowledge to Restore Ecosystems in the Anthropocene*, they wove Anishinaabe horticultural precedents with Western plant science to discuss what restoring Manomin relations may look like in Treaty #3.

Expanding access to Winnipeg archives

Our transcription team has been analyzing historical documents which detail records of Anishinaabeg trade, Manomin yields and environmental conditions in Treaty #3. These documents are often handwritten and can therefore be challenging to read. By typing them, our team is making these historic records more legible to a contemporary audience.

These typed versions will now be returned to the Hudson's Bay Company Archives in Winnipeg where many of the original documents originate. This will ensure that future readers and educators can better access and understand this information.



A field journal written in 1798, one of the historic documents in the Hudson Bay Company archives in Winnipeg that has been transcribed by our team.

The Manomin Project

Manomin (other spellings include manomin and minomen) is known as *Zizania aquatica* in many scientific publications. It is the only cereal grain endemic to what we now know as North America. English speakers commonly call it "wild rice." Many Anishinaabeg reject this term because they and their ancestors have actively cared for manomin. There is nothing "wild" about seeding and monitoring your fields.

The Manomin Project's long-term goal is to co-develop culturally appropriate crop management techniques that are responsive to settler-imposed changes to Anishinaabe territories. Members of the Manomin Project hope their research will stimulate agricultural expansion in what is currently known as northwestern Ontario while contributing to cultural revitalization and food and economic security in Anishinaabe communities.



Information about Manomin shared by the University of Guelph in the 2022 Royal Agricultural Fair

Reaching audiences in agriculture

Broader audiences continued to learn about the Manomin Project this season during the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, held from November 4th – 13th. The Project's goals and an introduction to Manomin, for those unacquainted with the crop, were displayed by the University of Guelph in their exhibit, *The Future of Food*.



Undergraduate Research Assistants Tony Huynh and Jane Mariotti navigate the Winnipeg River.

Meet the Team: Emma Scott



Meet Emma Scott! Emma is a University of Guelph alum and long-time member of the Manomin Project. She graduated from the University of Guelph in 2021 with her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and History.

Throughout her undergraduate studies, she developed a strong interest in the use of language to form connections, recount the past, and inspire others. She used these interests to guide her work as a Communications Assistant for the Manomin Project from January 2021 to August 2022.

Currently, Emma is completing her Master of Library and Information Science degree at the University of Western Ontario. She now supports the Manomin Project as a Data Manager.

What's Next

Conducting analyses of field samples

We welcome Taylor Szubert to the Manomin Project! Taylor, a Water Resources Engineering undergraduate student is processing sediment samples from summer field work together with Tony Huyhn. Tests and analyses allow us to better understand physical characteristics of sediment in various locations on the Winnipeg River.

Synthesizing knowledge for improved care

We continue to develop several projects including an analysis of knowledge system weaving in freshwater management, a strategy to guide potential reseeding efforts, and an analysis of field data to expand understanding of Treaty #3 Manomin.

Food for Thought

"The traditional ecological knowledge of Indigenous harvesters is rich in prescriptions for sustainability. They are found in Native science and philosophy, in lifeways and practices, but most of all in stories, the ones that are told to restore balance, to locate ourselves once again in the circle".

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

We are all sustained by the environment, and we may also act to sustain it. Do you have a sense of balance in your relationship with the environment? How might you sustain or restore balance in this relationship?