

The Manomin Project's

2023 Summer Solstice Newsletter



Niibin! It is summer!

Happy Summer Solstice and National Indigenous Peoples Day!

Updates

New Mnoomin story on shelves this October

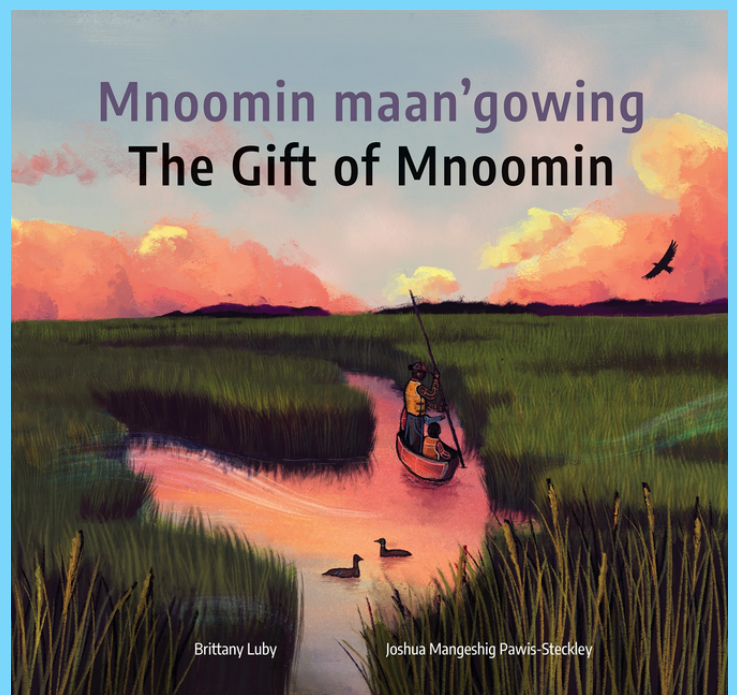
Seeds are stories of ecological teamwork, and the story of Mnoomin is certainly one of interconnectedness and reciprocity.

Mnoomin maan'gowing, The Gift of Mnoomin, follows a child who learns about all their relations responsible for the Mnoomin seeds we can enjoy. Muskrat, Eagle, Moose and others help Mnoomin along an exciting life cycle, in which Mnoomin gives back to these relations and us by providing food, shelter and healthy environmental relationships.

In Anishinaabemowin and English, *Mnoomin maan'gowing* teaches of the cultural and environmental roles Mnoomin upholds, and the generational stewardship which has sustained this gift of Mnoomin for centuries.

Mnoomin maan'gowing, written by Brittany Luby, illustrated by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley and translated by Mary Ann Corbiere, will be published by Groundwood Books October 3 in both print and e-book formats. A guide to accompany the book in classroom settings for educators is also available, created by Rosella Fisher.

Mnoomin maan'gowing The Gift of Mnoomin

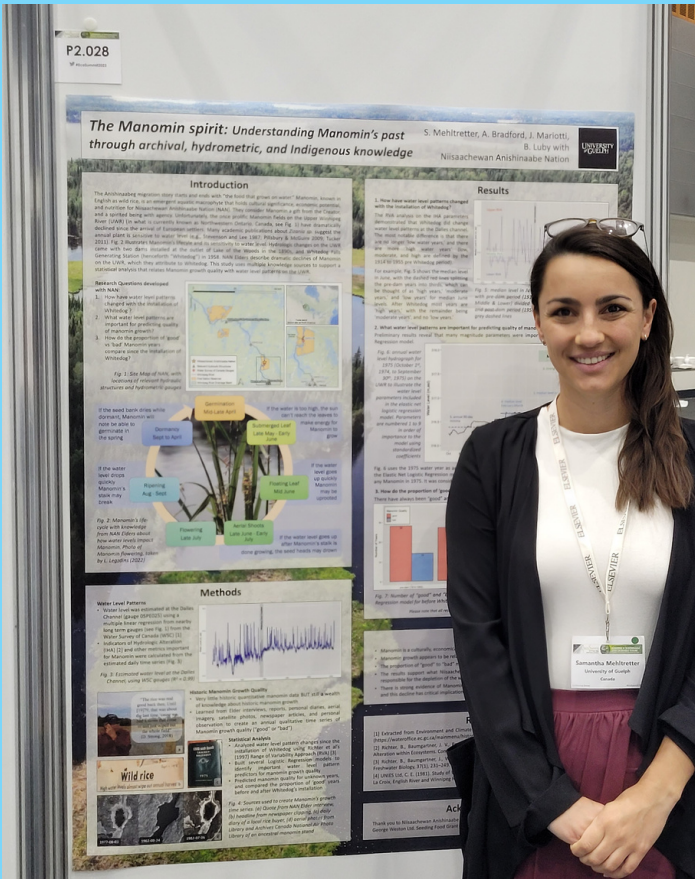


A beautiful story of Mnoomin's importance and relationships with all of Creation releases this October!

Manomin research shared in Australia

June 13-17, the Manomin Project reached new heights as PhD candidate Samantha Mehlretter and Dr. Andrea Bradford attended the 6th International EcoSummit Congress in Gold Coast, Australia.

Samantha and Andrea shared diverse knowledge from their years of collaborative research. A talk and two posters on historical Manomin conditions and future Manomin restoration displayed knowledge weaving in action; scientific and Indigenous knowledge together provide the best insights on Winnipeg River Manomin. This approach allowed for the meaningful, respective and effective research Samantha and Andrea were able to present.



Samantha displays a poster exploring multidisciplinary and culturally safe methods of understanding Manomin's history and status in the Winnipeg River.

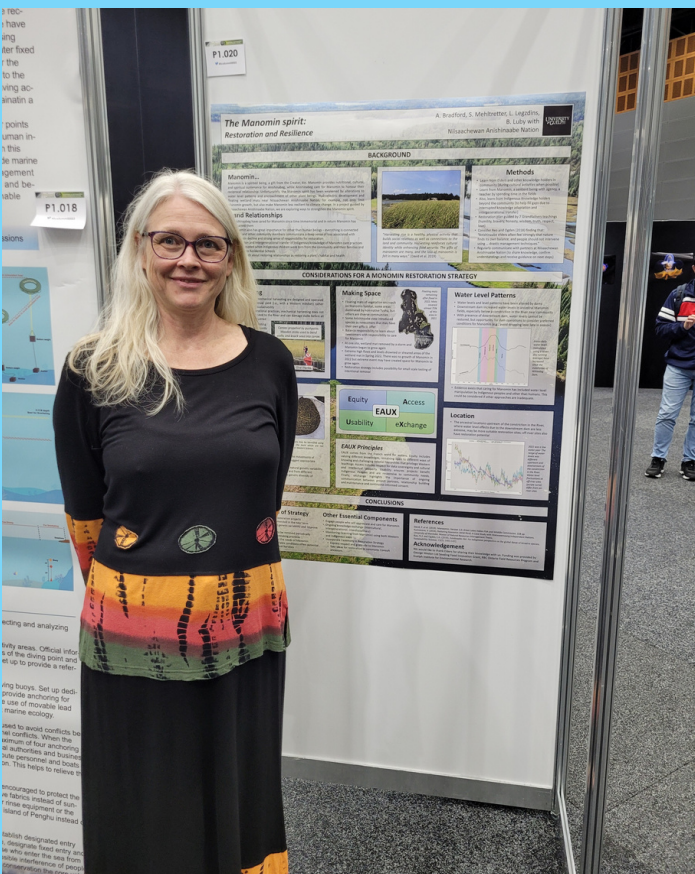


Samantha presents how different ways of knowing may be woven in Manomin research and restoration at the International EcoSummit Congress in Australia.

Reflections from the National Native Seed Conference in Washington, D.C.

In March, Research Assistant and Communications Coordinator Laura Legzdins attended the National Native Seed Conference which gathered environmental professionals, restoration partnerships and Indigenous Knowledge holders in the spirit of caring for ecosystems with seed-based restoration.

The Manomin Project was represented in the Tribal Partnerships in Restoration session, where Laura shared the cultural, historical and ecological context surrounding Manomin in the Winnipeg River, and discussed potential opportunities for seed-based restoration which honour Anishinaabe values and horticultural knowledge, and align with scientific best practices for seeding resilient, healthy plant populations.



Andrea shares a poster about Manomin restoration guided by Indigenous and scientific knowledge.

We'll learn: **The Case Study**

- An integral native crop and its role upholding Anishinaabeg lifeways and freshwater ecosystems
- Historical and cultural context: Manomin care and Manomin loss

We'll learn: **The Big Picture**

- Considerations for partnerships in restoration between institutions and Indigenous nations
- Restoration strategies which weave traditional care & scientific knowledge to inform seed decisions

Key points from 'Restoring Crops and Cultures: Caring for Manomin in Anishinaabe-Aki'

Meet the Team: Andrea Bradford

Most importantly, this gathering provided opportunities to listen and learn. Sessions like Two-Eyed Seeing, Seed Planning and Seed Sourcing enriched our knowledge.

Key information shared + common themes:

Principles for restoration and partnerships

- **Have humility. Listen.** You'll always have more to learn.
- **Engage in reciprocity.** Prioritize relationships and communities.

Insights on reseeded: How we may source, collect and plant seeds to increase success

- Gather seed from **multiple local populations**. This maintains **genetic diversity** (associated with healthier populations) and **local adaptability** (local seeds often know how to survive best).
- Gather seed from plants growing in **similar environmental conditions**, including similar **environmental difficulties** - they may be more **resilient** and survive the challenges of the areas we plant them in. This also maintains genetic diversity and local adaptability.
- **Think ahead** - predict future ecosystem conditions and make decisions to increase better survival down the road. Think with the **Seven Generations Principle**.



Meet Andrea! Andrea Bradford, Ph.D., P.Eng., has been a faculty member in Water Resources Engineering at the University of Guelph since 2002 and was named a Distinguished Professor in 2020. Her teaching and research have been in the areas of ecohydrology, stream and wetland restoration and green infrastructure for stormwater management.

She is currently learning how Indigenous and Western scientific knowledge can be braided in freshwater restoration projects and is working with Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation to restore Manomin on the Upper Winnipeg River.

Food for Thought

"For the Anishinaabe, the summer solstice marks the closest approach in the celestial dance of our grandfather, Mishoom Giizis – the Sun.

Honouring and celebrating the summer solstice (...) is a celebration of our spiritual way of life. A way for traditional people to gather together in fellowship with the Spirit World around us."

- Bob Goulais, Mzhaakwat n'dizhnikaaz, Migizi n'dodemun, Nipissing First Nation. Member of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge, Director of Aboriginal Relations Branch for the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.



Laura in Washington D.C. with fellow speakers from the Tribal Partnerships in Restoration Session.

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.