

The Manomin Project's 2024 Spring Equinox Newsletter



Ziigwan! It is Spring!

Updates

Review of knowledge weaving in freshwater management and restoration available soon

A scoping review of over 10,000 records, part of PhD candidate Samantha Mehlretter's thesis, was accepted for publication in the scientific journal *Water* earlier this week. The review identifies methods of weaving Indigenous and Western knowledges to better understand, manage and restore freshwater systems.

Large lakes research conference in May

Knowledge on lake health and its intersections with policy and public health will be shared May 20-24 in Windsor, ON at the International Association of Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) 67th Annual Conference. Communications Coordinator Laura Legzdins is exploring options to attend and has applied for travel funding. A keynote speaker of particular interest is Kelsey Leonard, an Indigenous scholar who inspires our team members with her work.

Keynote Speaker Kelsey Leonard



Kelsey Leonard is a water scientist, legal scholar, policy expert, writer, and enrolled citizen of the Shinnecock Nation. Leonard is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo, where her research focuses on Indigenous water justice and its climatic, territorial, and governance underpinnings. She seeks to establish Indigenous traditions of water conservation as the foundation for international water policymaking. She also serves as a member of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board of the International Joint Commission.

Read more at: <https://iaglr.org/iaglr2024/>



A canoe enters a field of Manomin growing in late summer

PhD defense of Manomin research in April

Samantha will be defending her PhD dissertation next month, where she will present her papers and research to a team of knowledgeable professors. We wish her luck!

Manomin Project highlighted in CBC Radio episode on Indigenous food sovereignty

We're on air! CBC Radio podcast "What On Earth" with Laura Lynch has produced a new episode on groups advancing Indigenous food sovereignty - among them, The Manomin Project is discussed. "What On Earth" follows stories of action within a changing climate. Listen to the episode soon at: <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-429-what-on-earth>

Manomin book in final stages of publishing

The Manomin Anthology, an engaging compilation of Manomin knowledge in various forms, has been copyedited and will be published in Fall 2024 with the University of Manitoba Press.

A letter from Jane Mariotti, Undergraduate Research Assistant graduating this year

Dear Manomin Project Team,

As I finish up my degree and prepare for the next step, I was invited by Dr. Brittany Luby to share a reflection on my time spent working for the Manomin Project. During my undergrad, I was so lucky to stumble across Brittany and Andrea's research, and to be invited on board. The two summers I spent doing fieldwork on the Upper Winnipeg River have changed my outlook on science, and what it means to "protect the environment".

In 2022 and 2023, our teams were fortunate enough to spend time with Elder Guy Henry, who guided us to the fields and taught us so much about the river. In 2022, we got to sit in on a meeting in the band office where Elders and community members shared stories of their early lives and their experiences with Manomin.



My most cherished memories were made in summer 2023, when Guy and I were contracted to collect vegetation data and aerial drone surveys from Manomin fields. During this week of fieldwork, I learned the Ojibwe names for the animals we saw on the river. I learned the name for large boulders found in the forest, which western science would call "glacial erratics," but in Ojibwe are known as *Mishomis* (grandfather). While working with Guy, I learned the proper way to offer tobacco, how to use ricing sticks without breaking Manomin stalks, and most importantly, how to listen.



Working for the Manomin Project has taught me that protecting our shared environment goes so far beyond research and science. It means learning to love the land you're a guest upon, respecting its interconnected nature, and listening to the people who know it best.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the Manomin Project, Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation, and Elder Guy Henry for teaching me these past years. I'll carry the lessons I learned with me wherever I go.

- Jane