

# Great Lakes Manoomin (Wild Rice) Gathering 2025

*Gimaada'oonidimin manoomini-gikendaasowin (We share wild rice knowledge)* Location: Kewadin Casino, 2186 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Dates: November 13-14th, 2025

<https://www.glmanoomin.com/>

---

*\*All times listed are in Eastern Standard Time (EST). For hybrid sessions, the Zoom meeting link will be emailed separately to virtual participants along with a calendar invite.*

## Wednesday, November 12, 2025

### 6:00 pm **OPTIONAL: Gathering of Friends Social Get-together**

Location: [Bird's Eye Outfitters](#), 107 E Portage Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

*\*Note - Kewadin has a [free shuttle service](#) available that runs until 12 am. Call 1.888.KEWADIN to request a ride.*

## Day 1 - Thursday, November 13, 2025

*\*All Day 1 activities will take place in the Grand Ballroom of Kewadin Casino's Convention Center.*

### 7:30 am **Breakfast & Registration**

### 8:45 am **Welcome and Opening Ceremony (hybrid)**

Led by Eric Clark (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians) and Frank Zomer (Bay Mills Indian Community).

- Invocation and smudging offered
- Performance by Bay Mills Youth Drum Group
- Opening remarks provided by:
  - Chairman Austin Lowes (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)
  - President Whitney Gravelle (Bay Mills Indian Community)
  - Danielle Fegan, Natural Resources Director (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)

### 9:30 am **Elders Panel (hybrid)**

Discussion with Elders about their relationship with Manoomin, thoughts on identifying priorities for restoration, and suggestions for bridging gaps and fostering mutual understanding among partners. - Led by Frank Zomer (Bay Mills Indian Community).

- Panelists:
  - Cathy DeVoy (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)
  - Wanda Perron (Bay Mills Indian Community)
  - Renee 'Wasson' Dillard (Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians)

- Frank Sprague (Gun Lake Tribe)
- Moderators:
  - Kayla Perron Assinewe (Bay Mills Indian Community)
  - Karol Perron Healy (Bay Mills Indian Community)

**10:45 am      Break**

**11:00 am      Introduction to Making Connections Activities (hybrid)**  
 Opportunities throughout the gathering to identify tools, networks, and other methods to improve and enhance coordination.

**11:15 am      Session 1: Geospatial Methods for Monitoring and Restoration (hybrid)**  
 Presentations on various geospatial methods, tools, and applications for supporting wild rice monitoring, mapping, and restoration efforts. - Led by Lara O'Brien (Contractor with NOAA's Office for Coastal Management).

- Speakers:
  - John Merrill (Galileo Group, Inc.) & Renee Walmsley (Tetra Tech) - *Airborne hyperspectral imagery and field data collection*
  - Shane Lishawa (Loyola University Chicago) - *UAV detection*
  - Josiah Hester (Georgia Tech) - *In situ monitoring sensors*
  - Shane Lishawa (Loyola University Chicago) - *Habitat suitability modeling*

**12:45 pm      Lunch**

**1:45 pm      Session 2: Michigan Stewardship Plan / We All Live Together in a Good Way with Manoomin: Stewardship Guide**  
 Led by Katherine Lambeth (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)) and Frank Zomer (Bay Mills Indian Community).

**3:15 pm      Break**

**3:30 pm      Session 3: Restoration Updates and Knowledge Sharing (hybrid)**  
 Lightning talks and panel discussions focused on two topics – restoration efforts and brown spot disease. - Led by Kathleen Smith (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community/GLIFWC), Frank Zomer (Bay Mills Indian Community), and Aimee Baier (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians).

- Speakers - Restoration Efforts:
  - Shane Lishawa (Loyola University Chicago)
  - Miles Falck (Oneida Nation/GLIFWC)
  - Eric Clark (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)
  - Matt Steiger (Wisconsin DNR)

- Speakers - Brown Spot Disease:
  - Wes Bickford (USGS) or Frank Zomer (Bay Mills Indian Community)
  - Alex Mixtli (Brothertown Indian Nation)
  - Alexis DeGabriele (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians)

**5:00 pm      Wrap-up and Overview of Evening Activities**

Led by Eric Clark (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians).

**5:15 pm      Break**

**6:00 pm      Dinner / Evening Feast**

Location: Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building, 11 Ice Circle Chi Mukwa, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

*\*Note - The Ceremonial Building is a four minute drive from Kewadin. Carpooling and shuttle will be organized as needed.*

**7:00 pm      Evening Talking Circle**

Location: Niigaanagiizhik Ceremonial Building, 11 Ice Circle Chi Mukwa, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. - Led by Kathleen Smith (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community/GLIFWC).

*\*Note - The Talking Circle will take place following the evening feast.*

**Day 2 - Friday, November 14, 2025**

*\*All Day 2 activities will take place in the Grand Ballroom of Kewadin Casino's Convention Center.*

**7:30 am      Breakfast**

**8:30 am      Reconvening / 2nd Day Welcome**

Welcome and overview of Day 2 activities. - Led by Bill Bernier (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians/Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan) and Lara O'Brien (Contractor with NOAA's Office for Coastal Management).

**8:45 am      Session 4: Tool-making Demonstration & Presentation**

Demonstrations for making traditional harvesting and processing tools followed by a presentation on best practices and recommendations for harvesting regulations. - Led by Roger LaBine (Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa).

**10:30 am      Break**

- 10:45 am      Session 5: Resilience Indicator Frameworks (hybrid)**  
 Panel presentations and Q&A followed by breakout groups focusing on wild rice resilience indicator frameworks, common indicators for the Great Lakes region, and opportunities for coordinating efforts moving forward. - Led by Jeff Feng (STRONG Manoomin Collective).
- Panelists:
    - Erin Johnston (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community) - *Manoomin Medicine Wheel Framework*
    - Nancy Schuldt (Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa) - *Lake Superior Manoomin Cultural and Ecosystem Characterization Study*
    - Jeff Feng (STRONG Manoomin Collective) - *Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS)*
  - Moderator:
    - Lara O'Brien (Contractor with NOAA's Office for Coastal Management)
- 12:15 pm      Lunch**
- 1:15 pm      Session 6: Great Lakes Regional Wild Rice Plan - Consortium for Cooperative Ecological Resilience (CCER) (hybrid)**  
 Led by Eric Clark (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians).
- 2:15 pm      Session 7: Building Partnerships and Collaboration - Part 1 (hybrid)**  
 Presentation regarding ways to work with Tribal Nations and inter-tribal organizations to better support stewardship and restoration efforts. - Led by Kathleen Smith (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community/GLIFWC) and Eric Clark (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians).
- 3:00 pm      Break**
- 3:15 pm      Session 7: Building Partnerships and Collaboration - Part 2 (hybrid)**  
 Brainstorming discussion regarding ways to actively improve partnerships, collaboration, and coordination for wild rice conservation and restoration and next steps. - Led by Kathleen Smith (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community/GLIFWC) and Eric Clark (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians).
- 4:00 pm      Closing Ceremony (hybrid)**  
 Closing remarks provided by:
- Kathleen Smith (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community/GLIFWC)
  - Cecil Pavlat (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)

## **Presentations**