

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)