



WTCAC Newsletter

WHAT IS WTCAC?

Established in 2001, the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) is an Association that provides a forum for eleven (11) Native American Tribes in Wisconsin to identify and solve natural resource issues on Tribal lands. We are a Council that gives a voice to our Tribes of Wisconsin on conservation issues that are important to us at the state and national levels.

Through a strong partnership with the USDA–NRCS, the Council reviews and recommends proposals for conservation projects from Tribes of Wisconsin. Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils were first authorized in the 1995 Farm Bill as advisory bodies to NRCS and all of USDA on Tribal issues. WTCAC was the first such council formed in the country.

Vision: Each tribe in Wisconsin achieves their conservation goals and develop strong partnerships with USDA agencies and beyond.

Mission: The mission of WTCAC is to create opportunities for tribes to accomplish their conservation goals

WTCAC IS GETTING A FRESH NEW LOOK

There has been a lot of transition with WTCAC over the past year. Our Board of Directors, the executive board members, a new executive director, and new full-time positions and employees. In this edition, we will introduce you to the team and some of our forest pest outreach and survey seasonal workers. In future issues we would like to highlight conservation success stories and the many partnerships of this organization.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Meet the WTCAC Team
- Meet the Investing in our Future seasonal workers
- Learn about forest pests
- Garlic mustard raviolis and pesto...YUM!



NRCS & WTCAC CONSERVATION COLLABORATION

In the fall of 2019, WTCAC entered into a conservation collaboration grant with NRCS. The grant includes staff funding, office space and equipment for two newly hired positions. (See WTCAC Staff Biographies) The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa also contributed significantly toward a match for the grant.

These positions will provide training, inventory, planning assistance and technical assistance directly to Tribal staffs statewide. Another outcome is the networking opportunities this grant provides; by introducing Tribal entities to: not only NRCS opportunities, but strengthening/establishing partnerships with existing and new partners.

Initially, the staff is focusing on getting to know all of the Tribal staffs more personally by setting up field visits and then listening to each Tribes' goals for conservation, in particular with traditional awareness and values in mind. We appreciate the invites we've received thus far, and are hoping to establish the trust necessary to make this work with each Tribe.

Both positions are located out of the Rhinelander NRCS field office and the staff is looking forward to serving Wisconsin's Tribes .

FAREWELL BY ALAN JOHNSON

Good Bye, So Long, and Farewell All. As retirement nears, and with new TEAM members on board, I predict excitement and positive changes for Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Board of Directors, Staff, and Wisconsin Tribes. Wisconsin has created a model for how USDA programs can work on tribal lands. Through outreach efforts to other states WTCAC has planted the seeds for successful Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils across the country.

Looking forward, I am confident we will see further growth for WTCAC resulting in support of Wisconsin Tribes:

- Tribal participation in USDA programs will grow with the new Farm Bill.
- WTCAC Tribal Student Internship will help launch the next generation of conservation professionals.
- Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, and Wetlands Committees will continue to “push the envelope” in the provision of training opportunities as well as “demo projects” that will yield technical guidance for Wisconsin Tribes as well as for others.
- WTCAC's representation on the Region-

al Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, USDA Task Forces, and their meetings with USDA leadership will yield continued positive results.

- Continuation of the important avenue WTCAC offers to USDA agencies—Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services—Wildlife Services, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Tribal Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program—Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection, Farm Service Agency, Forest Service, National Agricultural Statistics Services, Risk Management Agency, Rural Development, and Natural Resources Conservation Services—Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Collaboration Program, Conservation Stewardship Program to make their programs meaningful on tribal lands.
- Growth in relationships with other agencies, colleges, organizations, universities and more.

Thank you—thank you ALL very much—for including me as a member of the WTCAC Team! Now, I'm going fishing!

“Looking forward, I am confident we will see further growth for WTCAC resulting in support of Wisconsin Tribes” - AJ

Welcome Jeff Mears as the New Executive Director!



Jeff Mears started as the WTCAC Executive Director on June 15, 2020 and is an environmental professional with more than 25 years' experience in environmental, land, and natural resources program management. Jeff is a member of the Oneida Nation and most recently served as Deputy Director of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) for the Oneida Nation.

Jeff has a Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences with a minor in chemistry from Northern Illinois University, and a Master of Public Administration from UW-Oshkosh. He has worked with Tribal, State, and Federal governments and served on numerous committees such as the chair of the Oneida Land Commission, co-chair of the EPA Tribal Science Council, membership on the EPA Regional Tribal Operating Committee, and workgroup chair on the National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology.



Red Cliff Seasonal High Tunnel

AGRICULTURE SUB COMMITTEE AND UPCOMING TRAINING BY JERRY THOMPSON

The WTCAC Agriculture Sub-Committee got its “official” start at the beginning of this year 2020 with the acquisition of the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) grant for “EXPANDING AND DEVELOPING FOOD SYSTEMS FOR TRIBES IN WISCONSIN”. Sub-Committee Chairman Chad Abel got us going with the development of the Agriculture Sub-Committee Guidance Document (available by request) to help us plan how to meet the grant deliverables of outreach, trainings and technical assistance. Covid-19 has put a crimp in those initial plans so we are now needing to find new ways of providing these services.

The WTCAC Agriculture Sub-Committee held their first meeting of the year on April 24th via teleconference because of Covid-19. Sub-Committee attendees on this call were Chairman Chad Abel (RC) Dave Cronauer (FCPC), Dan Cornelius (IAC), Allissa Stutte (RC), Alan Johnson (WTCAC), Keith Sengbusch (WTCAC), Jerry Thompson (WTCAC), and Erin Hoffman (WTCAC). (Minutes available by request) The WTCAC Agriculture Sub-Committee welcomes new members to join us as we work to address the needs of our Tribal agriculture producers.

Below are some links to online webinar training opportunities available from some of our partners.

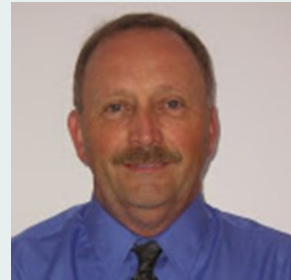
The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI) is offering a Produce Safety training online at no cost to Indian Country fruit and vegetable growers. The training will be held online on August 25 - 26, 2020, from 1-5pm CDT both days., and materials will be mailed directly to all attendees in advance at no cost. Space is limited! Register by Friday, July 31 at www.nativefoodsafety.org. For questions, please contact Josiah Griffin at jwgo12@uark.edu.

The Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) put on a fantastic Virtual Intertribal Food Summit in June that had 13 live sessions and almost 50 recorded workshops. The entire Virtual Food Summit is available online on the Intertribal Agriculture Council's E-Learning Platform on Mighty Networks. Check it out.

The Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) has just launched their “In Her Boots” women farmer project “Resilience Boot Camp,” an 8-week campaign to help you build capacity to manage the many curveballs of farming. It continues through Labor Day with Weekly Enews, Podcasts, webinars and an In Her Boots Facebook Group. Click on the link above to join.

MEET

JERRY THOMPSON



Jerry Thompson currently serves as WTCAC’s Outreach and Education Specialist. Jerry is a Vietnam Era Veteran and after his service attended UW River Falls on the GI Bill. Jerry graduated from UW River Falls with a BS Degree in Scientific Land Management, Wildlife Biology and Soil Science. Jerry had a 30-year career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service (NRCS) as a Wisconsin Soil Conservationist, Molokai, HI District Conservationist, Navajo Nation Tribal Liaison and Supervisory District Conservationist, Wisconsin Tribal Liaison and Oneida Nation District Conservationist, USDA NRCS National Tribal Liaison and concluded his career as the Northwest Area Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. Jerry then served as the WTCAC Executive Director for 5 years until retiring from that position in 2015.

MEET KEITH SENGBUSCH



Keith Sengbusch is WTCAC's engineer and has been working for the organization since 2011. He was born and raised in Northeast Wisconsin and is a graduate of West De Pere High School. Keith spent a majority of his youth on his Grandparents farm resulting in a great appreciation for agriculture and the outdoors. Much of his free time was spent hunting, fishing and exploring the back country of Wisconsin. His main goal was to become a trapper in the wilds of Alaska. However, following graduation from high school Keith made a detour into the US Marine Corps. This resulted in a 22 year career with numerous overseas deployments and occupational specialties such as combat engineer, demolition specialist and drill instructor. Keith retired as the First Sergeant of Golf Company 2nd BN 24th Marines.

Keith attended Fox Valley Technical College graduating with a degree in Conservation Technology. He was hired by the Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) and served in four county field offices and three area offices. He was promoted and assigned to the NRCS state engineer's staff and worked out of the Spooner, WI Field Office. His duties included statewide engineering assistance and responsibility for engineering assistance to the 11 Federal Tribes of WI. Keith provided the technical knowledge for the creation of the Tribal EQIP Cookbook and the Tribal conservation practices which are now part of the EQIP funded program.

TRIBAL AQUACULTURE – THE TRADITION CONTINUES BY KEITH SENGBUSCH



Lac Du Flambeau Fish Hatchery

Tribal aquaculture, as a sustainable practice can be traced back thousands of years. Here in Wisconsin, the Tribes have been rearing fish in similar systems as we see today, since the early 1900's.

Aquaculture has been a priority for the WTCAC board for the last 10 years. In that time, there has been a dramatic increase in Tribal hatchery renovations and expansions. WTCAC staff has collaborated extensively with NRCS engineering and program staff to create the engineering practices and standards necessary to implement the complex systems. WTCAC and Tribal staff have created the scenarios and cost structure for inclusion of aquaculture in the NRCS EQIP Tribal cookbook. The WTCAC Fisheries Subcommittee, comprised of WTCAC staff and Tribal natural resource professionals, has been a sounding board

for forwarding new ideas and initiatives as well as a forum for Tribes to share ideas.

This priority of working with NRCS; and other partnering agencies for funding cost-share, has resulted in the planning, design and construction of five state of the art aquaculture facilities. The facilities completed to date are located at St Croix, LDF, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and LCO.

The construction of the five aquaculture facilities has pumped approximately 12 million dollars into local communities through material purchases and construction contracts.

The lakes and streams of northern Wisconsin have received the largest benefit with hundreds of thousands of fry and extended growth fish released throughout the northland.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE—2020

In 2009, WTCAC established the Wisconsin Native American Student Summer Internship Program for students pursuing degrees in Natural Resources, Biological Sciences, Agriculture, Agricultural Business, Forestry, Civil Engineering and Animal Health and Husbandry. Since then, 57 students have participated in WTCAC Internships resulting in placements with Natural Resources Conservation Service, Forest Service (State and Private Forest), Forest Service (National Park and Forest Service) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (Veterinary Services and PPQ) Animal Health Inspection Service (Wildlife Services) Risk Management, as well as Tribal placements in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. Federally recognized Tribes are "Sovereign Nations" within the boundaries of the United States, with the Treaty authorities to establish laws, policies, ordinances, and regulations in safeguarding their natural resources, within the laws passed by the United States Congress.

WTCAC's projects and programs over time have proven that to have fully successful programs on Tribal Lands, it is imperative to have Native Americans working with Tribal Nations. Native Americans understand the customs, beliefs, and needs of the people, and incorporating this knowledge into their work/project helps ensure the fulfillment of work/project deliverables. WTCAC Native American Intern placement with USDA APHIS agencies will enable the provision of outreach and education projects to support and en-

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE 2020 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

hance efforts to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive species and pests to Native Americans on Tribal Lands. Education and being informed will increase the number of Native American volunteers on Tribal Lands recognizing and reporting invasive species. Enhanced knowledge and information will teach all how they can help.

This year's funding for the Native American Seasonal Worker (NASW) is through the APHIS PPQ PPA 7721 Farm Bill funding. We started advertising the positions the fall of 2019 and had four great candidates selected by February 2020. Then the COVID-19 Pandemic hit the United States. We were not sure what we should do. As it drew closer to summer, the likelihood of the seasonal workers being able to do any community outreach at events this summer was looking slim. Lacey asked if it would be okay to have the seasonal workers assist with this summer's pest surveys and work on digital media in the form of community flyers, this newsletter, and social media posts to educate the communities about survey efforts and pests of concern. The following articles are from the four NASW's that completed the program this summer.



“Ensuring a healthy future means investing in the generation who will carry that future” - Mal Fletcher

COOKING WITH INVASIVE SPECIES (GARLIC MUSTARD) BY: KEANU SIMPSON

There is nothing more annoying than having invasive plants in your garden or backyard, taking time out of your day to get rid of invasive plants is also annoying. But there is a fun factor to some invasive plant species, and that is cooking with them. Garlic Mustard is a very invasive plant in Wisconsin, but it has a history of being in the cook books. Garlic Mustard came from Europe back in the olden times, the people at that time thought they would bring Garlic Mustard with them to use in the New World. Just like in the name, Garlic Mustard does have a smell and has a taste of garlic. For that reason, people add this specific invasive species to their food. Check in your local area for Garlic Mustard, and want to try some Garlic Mustard in your food today? Here is a recipe you can try today! Have fun!

Garlic Mustard and Spinach Raviolis with Garlic Mustard Pesto

Raviolis:

- 4 shallots / 1 clove garlic
- 2 cups spinach
- 2 cups garlic mustard
- 4 oz. ricotta cheese
- 2 oz. Parmesan cheese

- 2 oz. chopped sundried tomatoes
- 6 sheets fresh pasta

Sauté shallots and garlic in 2 tbsp. of butter until tender. Add spinach and garlic mustard greens & wilt, season with salt and pepper. Remove from pan and cool slightly. Squeeze excess liquid from green and chop. Combine all ingredients and season to taste. Cut pasta sheets to desired size. Egg wash pasta and fill with garlic mustard and spinach mixture.

Pesto:

- 1 cup garlic mustard
- 1/2 cup basil
- 3 cloves garlic
- 2 oz. toasted pine-nuts
- 4 oz. olive oil
- Juice of 1 lemon

In food processor combine all ingredients except olive oil. Puree and add olive oil with processor running. Toss cooked raviolis with pesto.

Time required: 1 hr. Serves 10.



MEET TOM MELNARIK



Tom Melnarik was born and raised in Northeast Wisconsin and attended High School in Denmark. Agriculture played a big part in his upbringing, his father owning a 40 acre hobby farm; working on a neighboring dairy farm, and being part of FFA throughout high school. After high school, Tom attended Fox Valley Technical College and earned a degree in Natural Resources. Shortly thereafter, he was hired by the Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) in Eau Claire as a technician to help implement the 1985 Farm Bill initiative of conservation planning and practice installation on farmland.

After a brief time with Kewaunee County Land Conservation, Tom spent the next 14 years of his career with the Wisconsin Conservation Corps. He started out as Crewleader then became Regional Director for North Central Wisconsin.

In 2003, Tom started working for NRCS where he spent 16 years before recently retiring. While working for the NRCS, Tom was introduced to Tribal cultures, traditions and values, while assisting with putting many conservation practices on the land. Most notably, Tom was the lead designer and construction inspector for fish hatcheries in Mole Lake and Lac Du Flambeau, and also designed the Lac Courte Oreilles facility.

After retirement (this past May), Tom now works for WTCAC as a Civil Engineering Technician, and is looking forward to working with all of Wisconsin's Tribes. He also enjoys hunting, fishing, playing organized sports and travel to the National Parks.

Meet the Seasonal Workers!



My name is **Jonathan Pyatskowitz Jr.** I am 18 years old and just graduated high school this year. I will be attending Wisconsin Lutheran College for a program in optometry. I want to work for Indian Health Service to work at tribal health clinics. Something fun I did this summer was watch how fish biologists get fish counts from streams.

Jonathan has spent the summer working with the Menominee Nation under the supervision of Doug Cox. He hung up and routinely checked both Linden traps and purple prism traps for EAB and also developed signs to educate the community about these pest and trapping efforts. Over the summer he was able to learn a lot about invasive plant and insect pests. He was also able to help out in many different programs with Menominee Conservation. He chose to write his article about an invasive that the Menominee Nation has been battling for a number of years, Garlic Mustard.

THE GARLIC MUSTARD INVASION BY JONATHAN PYASKOWIT, JR.



Garlic Mustard is an invasive plant that grows in wooded areas. It is one of the first plants to come up in the spring which means it crowds out other plants. It is biennial so the first year plants create a covering of the forest floor where they grow which can inhibit other plants from growing. First year plants are one broad leaf. Second year plants grow up and have multiple leaves and white flowers. They have seed pods at the top that pop when ready and allow the seeds to fall out. Garlic mustard should be pulled or sprayed as soon as possible to prevent the seeds from spreading as it is highly invasive. Pulling should not be done if it is close to popping as this can pop if pulled. It is usually best to not put it in

landfills as it can withstand high heat, and will make the infestation even worse. One way to dispose of it is to burn it. This kills the whole plant without leaving seeds to overtake the area. One for sure way to identify garlic mustard is to crush up the leaves and smell them. They should smell like garlic when crushed where similar looking plants will not. This is best used on first year plants.



Meet the Seasonal Workers! Continued...



Keanu Simpson is a member of the Dine'/Navajo tribe in the southwest four corner's region of the United States, where he lives with his mom, dad, brother, and two sisters. In Dine' traditions Keanu belongs to four clans, and they are The Mexican Nomadic Clan, Red Face Cheek Clan, Cliff Dweller Clan, and Within His Cover Clan. He has kept his heart heavy on preserving his Dine'/Navajo culture and language. At the age 24 he goes to school at Navajo Technical Uni-

versity; from there he earned and graduated with his CERT. in Navajo Textile and Weaving and A.A.S. in Culinary Arts. Now he is earning and pursuing his B.A. in Dine' Culture, Language, and Leadership; a couple years down his journey he wants to get his M.A. and Ph. D in Dine' Culture, Language, and Leadership. Keanu wants to become a Dine' language/cultural arts instructor, so he can teach his Dine' people their language and culture. Last year in 2019, Keanu worked with Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (W.T.C.A.C.) on the Oneida reservation. There he learned what it meant to be an environmentalist, forester, and water specialist. This year in 2020, Keanu is back with W.T.C.A.C. to learn more, this time on the Bad River reservation. Keanu might in a different career path from an environmentalist, forester, and water specialist but he brings an open-mind set, creativity, and a Native persons perspective to the W.T.C.A.C. table. Keanu wants to encourage the younger generations to always have a tough mindset and work straight towards your goal in life.

Connect with Keanu:

keanu20simpson@gmail.com



“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.” - Unknown

The Bad River Tribe and White/Yellow Birch trees by: Keanu Simpson WTCAC 2019-2020 Intern

This year (2020) the Bad River tribe in Wisconsin was able to obtain and plant over 2,500 of both White and Yellow birch trees. Both species of these birch trees are considered and will hold a purpose to the Bad River tribe. To the Bad River tribe the White birch tree is a great tree for making canoes and is basket material for the tribe's basket. White birch is a cultural tree, with cultural purpose. The Emerald Ash Borer is becoming very invasive in United States, already being in the state of Wisconsin, as well as other states. The forestry department in Bad River has the idea to plant Yellow birch near Ash trees in Odanah. The purpose for this technique is the Yellow birch will replace the Ash trees that have dwindled by the Emerald Ash Borer. Any planted tree is beneficial for the earth, so it's good to help encourage your local environmentalist/forester with projects that benefit the earth.



MEET LACEY HILL KASTERN

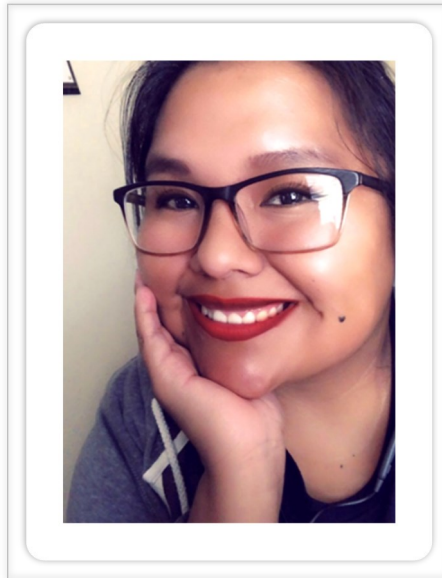


Lacey Hill Kastern started working for WTCAC as the Tribal Pest Survey Specialist (TPSS) in May of 2019. Her first experiences with WTCAC was as the Bad River Tribe's Primary WTCAC representative from 2011 to 2019. She served as the Wildlife Specialist for the Bad River Tribe for nine years. Prior to that she was the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). She also worked for US Forest Service (USFS) and the Wisconsin Department Natural Resources (WDNR) in limited term positions.

Lacey has an Associates of Science degree in Wildlife Management from Vermilion Community College in Ely, MN. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Wildlife Ecology: Research & Management with a minor in Conservation Biology from University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. She is currently working on a Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Norwich University. She has also served on other non-profit boards and as an elected municipal clerk bringing many diverse experiences to the team.

Through her role with WTCAC she has assisted in implementing Pest surveys on Tribal Lands in Wisconsin. She also supervises the Investing in Our Future Seasonal Worker Program and oversaw the newsletter efforts. Lacey enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with her two young children.

Meet the Seasonal Workers! Continued...



Murlana J. Nelson is a member of the Dine (Navajo) tribe of the southwest. She is the youngest in her family and enjoys photography on her free time. She is currently enrolled at Fort Lewis College in Durango Colorado in the English department. She is expected to graduate in the spring of 2021 with her bachelor's degree and plans on attending the University of Washington in Seattle for her graduate school. Upon obtaining her master's and Ph. D, Murlana plans on becoming an English high school teacher. Her goal is teaching her students not only the importance of literature but also the analysis of texts, the critical critiques of essays and literature readings. The literature aspect is forgotten when it comes to elementary education, especially within tribal schools. Murlana's goal is to bring into light not only the fascinating minds of Melville, Frost and Dickinson but incorporate the impact of Native writers such as Louise Erdrich, Cythnia Smith and Sherman Alexie within her classroom.

EMERALD ASH BORER BY MURLANA NELSON

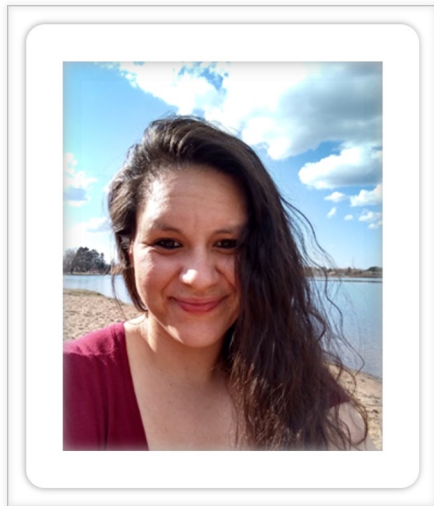


The Emerald Ash Borer or EAB as it is referred to is a beetle that migrated from Asia and was first detected in the early 2000's near Detroit Michigan. Since its discovery, the impact of EAB has spread to 35 states, resulting in the killing of millions of Ash trees throughout North America. However, the adult beetle is not the one to cause harm, instead it's offspring. Once laid below the bark and hatched, the larvae feed off the inner bark. Resulting in damages and stress upon the tree. Creating "S" like patterns, draining the tree of its nutrition, and causing the tree to seek growth for its leaves elsewhere. USDA advise that you do not cut the tree down, transport or turn into firewood if you are a homeowner and believe that the Ash Tree on your property may be infested with EAB. Instead they encourage that you call in and have your tree evaluated and taken care of in a professional manner. This is to slow the spread of EAB and conduct further studies. The USDA ask for public cooperation and ask that you pay attention to the signs of an infected Ash Tree. One way of detection is you notice Woodpecker birds consistently pecking at your Ash Tree or you notice the leaves start falling off when they are not supposed to.

Meet the Seasonal Workers! Continued...



Joey Billyboy learning trap deployment and data entry



My name is **Joey Billyboy** and I am Ojibwe women from the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe. In 2011, I graduated from Haskell Indian Nation University with an Associates of Science. During my time at Haskell I participated in my first internship, where I worked with the US Forestry in Big Fork Montana as a Teach Aide. In this internship I discovered a desire to make a difference in the world to help our mother earth to keep her beauty and natural resources. Currently attending Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College with my Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Degree. I will be graduating in August 2020.

While attending at LCO College I got the opportunity to do an internship for the Hayward DNR. All these opportunities allowed me to meet a bunch a great people that help me move forward with my career goal in life. As a Pest Surveyor for the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisor Council (WTCAC) I am helping to preserve our beautiful Northwoods by protecting our tress from these invasive spices. More importantly helping my tribe and communities by educating and raising awareness of these important matters facing our environment.

*Joey developed an Oak Wilt Scavenger Hunt located at the back of this newsletter for you and family to help us with detection and management.

MEET JONATHAN PRUITT



Hi, I'm **Jonathan Pruitt**, the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council's new Tribal Resource Conservationist. I grew up on the other side of the lake in Lansing, Michigan, graduating from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife management in 2010. In 2016, I became an AmeriCorps service member with the Ingham County Land Bank's Garden Program, offering technical service to many of the program's members. After completing my service year, I began my graduate studies at the University of Michigan, graduating with a master's in Sustainability and Environment in 2019. Shortly after graduation, I took a 6 month internship position with The Alliance for a Sustainable Amazon in Peru. Now I'm back stateside working with WTCAC. I look forward to working with the tribes on meeting their stewardship and conservation goals.

OAK WILT



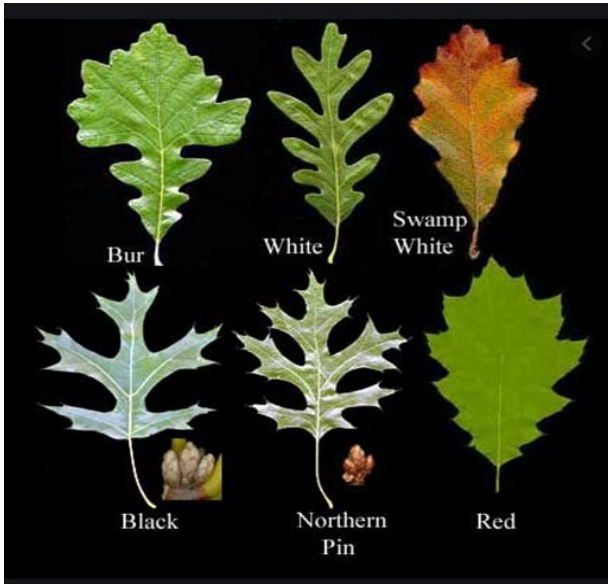
Report Findings to:

LCO CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT: 715-634-0102

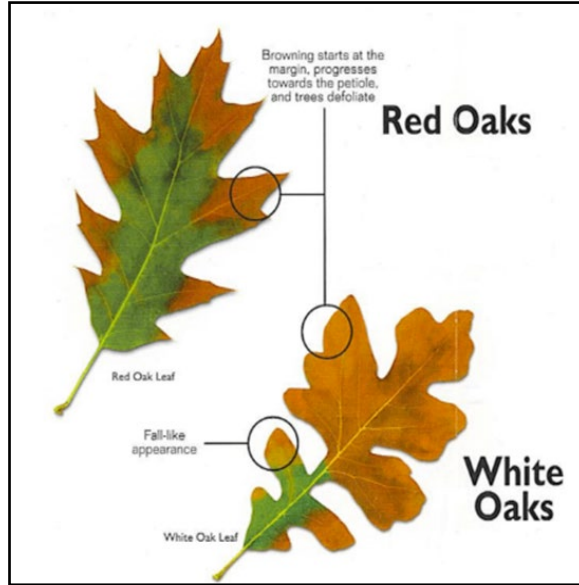
LACEY HILL KASTERN, WTCAC Tribal Pest Survey Specialist: 715-862-2797

This flyer was made through the 2020 WTCAC and APHIS-PPQ Investing In Our Future Seasonal Worker Program by Joey Billyboy

Healthy Oak Tree Leaves



Sick Leaves Oak Trees



Location:

Longitude:

Latitude:



May need help--ask an adult. Access the location with Google maps. Click on the blue dot of your map to get your Longitude and Latitude. (Draw your map above)

Interesting Facts!

The fungi makes the tree sick. I'm a Fun-Guy! No you're not!



It kills the tree inside the food and water can't go up and down the tree. The tree loses it leaves and can't make food... So Hungry! 😞



The bark turns yucky and starts to rot away! Oh NO!

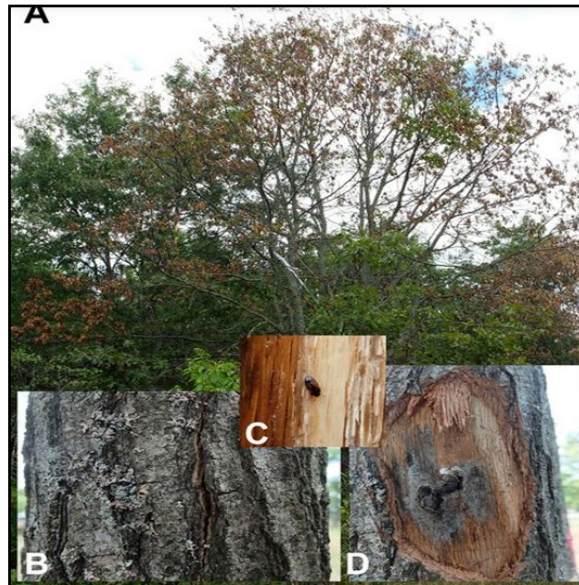


How to stop the spread. Don't hurt the trees! They have feelings too!!

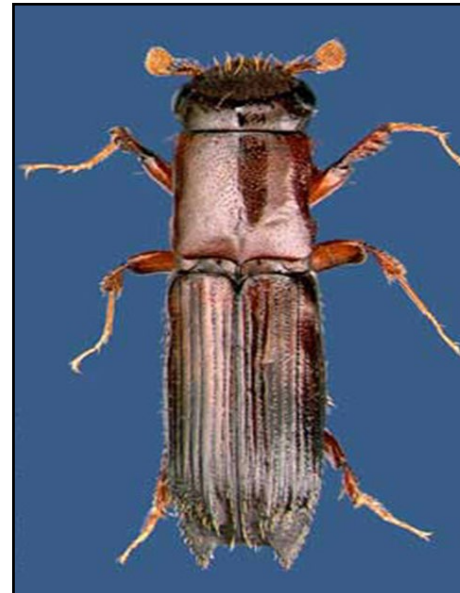
Don't bring firewood from other places. Buy locally!



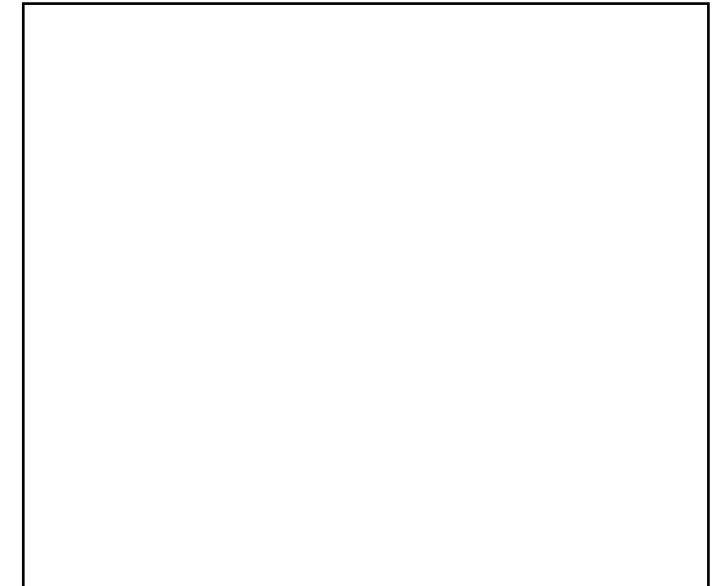
Symptoms of Infected Trees



Oak Ambrosia Beetle



Draw Your Beetle!





MEET ERIN HOFFMAN

Erin Hoffman, MSW has worked with WTCAC since 2014 providing financial management, contract expertise, program support, reporting, and evaluation services through her woman-owned company, Innovative Funding LLC. Ms. Hoffman has been honored to work with WTCAC and see the financial and organizational growth in the past 6 years. She has laid the ground work to prepare WTCAC to manage over \$500k in federal contracts and be in compliance with federal regulations and statutes. Ms. Hoffman also spearheads collaboration in the organization to plan for and prepare new projects involving all Tribes in Wisconsin. Ms. Hoffman is grateful to work with WTCAC and looking forward to being involved in the new chapter for the organization.

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

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CONCLUSION AND PEST SURVEY UPDATE BY LACEY HILL KASTERN

I hope you all enjoyed this first edition of WTCAC's newsletter. I am hoping that our organization can do this quarterly and have more updates about the great conservation work occurring on Tribal lands in Wisconsin. This newsletter's focus was more about getting to meet our new team and allowed this summer's seasonal workers to showcase their work since there were limited in-person outreach opportunities.

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, I am the Tribal Pest Survey Specialist for WTCAC. This position is brand-new and is a cooperative effort through the APHIS PPQ CAPS and PPA 7721 agreements. My job is to assist the Tribes with implementing pest surveys, education, outreach, response, mitigation, and any other duties the Tribes need assistance with when it comes to pest detection and response. This year was our first survey year, which was interesting, to say the least, during a global pandemic. There was a shortage of many of the supplies needed, survey plans needed adjusting due to furloughs, layoffs, etc., and we had to re-invent the seasonal worker program for the summer. We are currently in the middle of the survey season, and I will have more of an update on these seasons efforts hopefully for our next edition!

Stay safe, everyone!

Lacey

