Our Tribal College Extension Programs

St. Louis River River Watch

A youth-based water quality monitoring program that focuses on the St. Louis River watershed and the Lake Superior Basin. This program promotes and inspires stewardship of regional waterways.

Ojibwe Garden

The Ojibwe Garden preserves and promotes traditional Ojibwe cropping systems as well as educates the greater community about contemporary strategies for organic food and medicinal plant production.

Thirteen Moons

The Thirteen Moons program connects Fond du Lac Band members and surrounding community members to natural resources by increasing awareness of and knowledge about traditional and other resources.

Report Card

The Environmental Institute is the Tribal College Extension Program.

Mission Statement:
To promote the education and cultural growth of the community in natural resources and the environment. The Environmental Institute supports and coordinates education, research, and outreach that serve our greater community.

Future Directions
The EI will be a leader and catalyst for sustainable and culturally relevant use of natural resources. We will connect our students and greater community with empowering opportunities and partnerships through culturally relevant research and programming.
St. Louis River – River Watch

Participants
- 16 schools
- 400 students yearly
- 100 students & community members at River Watch Congress

Events:
- Annual Spring Sampling of 17 river sites
- Annual Fall sampling of 17 river Sites
- River Watch Congress

St. Louis River Watch Webpage with links to St. Louis River Facebook page and Newsletters http://www.fdltcc.edu/academics/department/special/stlouisriverwatch/

Student Posters presented at the 2013 River Watch Congress at FDLTCC.

St. Louis River – River Watch: Measuring the Health and Building Awareness of St. Louis River

Students from across the St. Louis River Watershed and southern Lake Superior basin measure the water quality of the streams and rivers. They test the chemistry, the physical characteristics, and the benthic critters that depend on the water for life.

The watershed health report above is a result of their work. Using nets the students sample the bottom dwelling fauna to record the abundance and diversity of critters that they find at their stream site. Using a calculation called a Biotic Index students are able to come with a water quality health rating of poor, fair, good, and excellent. Overall the water quality of our region is good but the stresses of development, industry, and other land uses start to degrade the water quality in the watershed the closer it gets to Lake Superior.
Bimaaji’idiwin
Ojibwe Garden Program

Translated from Ojibwe, Bimaaji’idiwin means “saving each others’ lives.” This is a heavy name to live up to, and the Ojibwe Garden Program attempts to do so through education, outreach, and preservation. The Ojibwe Garden Program aims to preserve and promote traditional Ojibwe agricultural techniques and crops by growing and sharing crop varieties historically grown by the Ojibwes, their relatives, and their neighbors, using methods employed by Ojibwe farmers for centuries. Contemporary strategies for organic food production are also employed in the demonstration garden, and appropriate non-native food crops are also grown for use by the community through the Fond du Lac Ojibwe School’s Farm to School program, the Cloquet Elderly Nutrition Program, and various community feasts. Free workshops are offered on various gardening topics throughout the year, with a special emphasis on native pollinator conservation.

Ojibwe Garden Weblog
The aim of Bimaaji’idiwin is to preserve and promote traditional Ojibwe cropping systems as well as educate the greater community. The weblog continues our commitment to public outreach. Learn more at

Projects & Partners

Workshops
- Pollinator Conservation
- Food Preservation – Canning
- Freezer Jam
- Growing Season Extension
- Garden to Table Feast

Projects
- Tribal Youth Mentorship Program
- Seed saving
- Weblog
- Demonstration Garden
- Community Supported Agriculture
- Garden Intern house calls
- Farmers Markets

Partners
- Junior Master Gardener
- Gitigaan
- Farm to School
- Thirteen Moons
- IAC Mobile Farmers Market
- Brookston Center
- Nahgahchiwanong Dibahjimowinnan
- Master Gardener
- University of MN-Extension

The Ojibwe Garden also provides to produce to the community.
- Elderly Nutrition Program
- Ojibwe School lunch program
- FDL Summer Lunch Program
- Age to Age camp
- Gitigaan Feast
Thirteen Moons taught the first Master Naturalist class in Minnesota that was taught with the Ojibwe culture as the focus of the lessons. June 2013 was the first graduating class.

Thirteen Moons

In the Ojibwe community, to speak of natural resources and the environment is to speak of plants and animals, but also of economic livelihood, identity, spirituality, and culture. This proposal addresses a need to establish and develop a Tribal Extension Program, organized around natural resources, as an essential step toward connecting individuals: To natural resources, by increasing awareness of and knowledge about traditional and other natural resources; To social knowledge networks, by providing opportunities for social interaction and education in the context of traditional and other natural resources; To Ojibwe culture, by highlighting the importance of natural resources in Ojibwe lives and livelihoods, and the skills that will allow these livelihood strategies to endure.

Workshops

- Drum and Dance held biweekly
- Seasonal Decorations Using Natural Resources
- Snowsnakes
- Netting and Spearing
- Tapping Birch Trees
- Manoomin (wild rice) Camp
- 13 Moons Pow Wow
- Master Naturalist
- Nibi Forum

Partnerships

- Brookston Community Center
- Ojibwe School
- Fond du Lac Headstart
- FDL Age to Age
- FDL Resources Management
- Bimaaj’idiwin Garden Program
- University of Minnesota
- Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission
- NRCS
- Manoomin Science Camp

Participants & Outreach

- Nearly 2000 community members served by 13 Moons programming
- Monthly pages in FDL Newspaper
- Fond du Lac Radio

Find the Thirteen Moons webpage and link to its Facebook page at: http://www.fdlrez.com/newnr/13moons.htm
The Environmental Institute is dedicated to providing the education, skills, and research that will help our communities connect with Ojibwe culture, our natural resources, and knowledge on living a sustainable lifestyle.

The Environmental Institute is determined to be a catalyst for positive change in our community. Our programming concentrates on:

- Sustainable Food
- Sustainable Natural Resources
- Encourage students interest in Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM)
- Connection with Ojibwe culture
- Community outreach

Upcoming Workshops

- River Watch Sampling
- Manoomin (wild rice) Camp
- Master Naturalist
- Seasonal Decorations Using Natural Resources
- Snowsnakes
- 13 Moons Pow Wow
- Netting and Spearing
- Tapping Birch Trees
- Nibi Forum

Contact Us!

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