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Toqaqiw (*It is Autumn*)
September 2012

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Susan Young - Editor

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A Fond Farewell

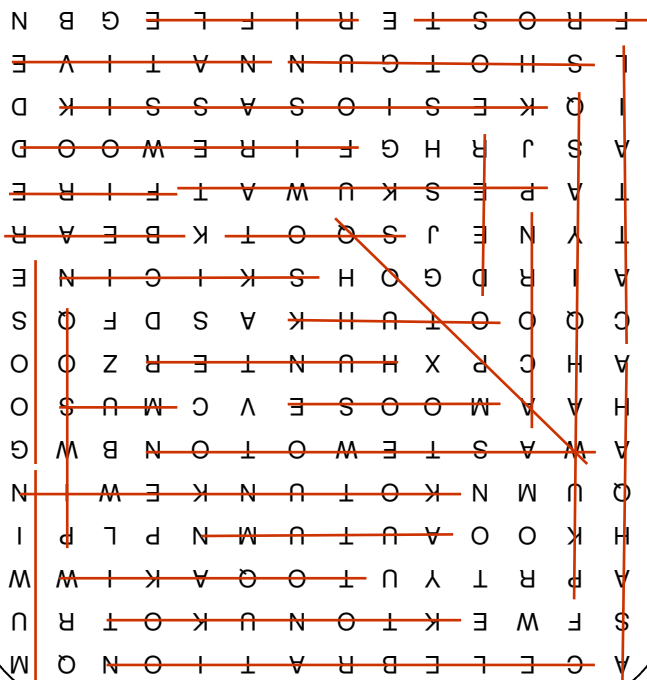
Every August as the summer begins to wind down, our department loses its summer techs. However, this year was a little bit different. Instead of just Sacha Turnbull and Jeremy Young leaving us at the end of the season, we found ourselves saying goodbye to Water Resources Technician I Rhonda Smart. After a number of years in the Water Program, Rhonda decided to return to college to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice.

We wish them all the best and hope they will come back to see us from time to time.



Apc oc!

Word Search Answers



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Skitkomiq Nutacomit Earth Speaker



There's a Nip in the Air . . .

And the subtle smell of wood smoke in the air. As temperatures begin to dip overnight, folks turn to their wood stoves to fight off the chill. Using wood stoves can be a safe and economical way to heat your as long as you follow some basic rules. The rules are not meant to keep you from enjoying this renewable resource, they're meant to help you burn wood safely, reduce pollution, and get more "bang for your buck". There are a few rules though, that need to be followed to protect your health and that of your loved ones.

Never burn household garbage or cardboard. Items such as plastics, foam, colored inks on boxes, magazines and wrappers release harmful chemicals when burned. They can also damage your wood stove or furnace.

Never burn coated, painted or pressure treated wood. These release toxic chemicals when burned.

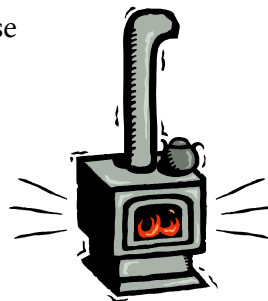
Never burn ocean driftwood, plywood, particle board or any wood with glue on it. Yep, you guessed it, they all release toxic chemicals when burned.

Never burn wet, rotted, moldy or diseased wood. Ditto.

Okay, by know you're probably saying just what can I burn then? That's easy, dry, well seasoned firewood. Not only does seasoned wood burn cleaner, it burns hotter and gives you more heat per log thereby saving you money. You don't have to spend a fortune on dry, seasoned wood. With a little planning you can create your own. EPA's Burnwise Program offers 4 easy steps to dry wood, details on page 2.

Dry seasoned wood is only half the equation. Once you have a properly installed wood burning appliance - how you build and burn your fires makes a difference too. Hardwoods are best since softwoods burn extremely hot and fast and are known to throw sparks from their hot resins. Dry kindling and clean newspaper are good fire starters. Be sure to burn hot fires, smoldering fires with reduced air flow don't offer much in the way of heat and they increase air pollution.

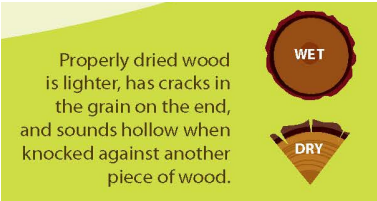
Be sure to clean ashes from your stove or furnace regularly. A build up of ashes can clog air vents and reduce efficiency.



When removing ashes store them in a covered metal container away from your home or garage, preferably on a concrete or brick slab. **Never store ashes in a box or a plastic bucket and never store them on a wooden porch or deck.** Many homes and garages have been damaged or destroyed from improper disposal of wood ashes, don't let this happen to you.



- Step 1 - Split
- * Start with the right sized wood
 - * Split wood dries much faster
 - * Split the wood in a range of sizes (no larger than 6" in diameter)
 - * Split small pieces for kindling
- Step 2 - Stack
- * Stack wood to allow air to circulate
 - * Build the stack away from buildings
 - * Keep wood off the ground
 - * Stack in a single row split side down
- Step 3 - Cover
- * Cover the top of the stack to protect it from rain and snow
 - * Make sure there is a space between the cover and the top of the wood
 - * Keep sides open so air can freely circulate through the stack
- Step 4 - Store
- * Allow enough time to dry
 - * Softwoods about 6 months
 - * Hardwoods about 12 months
 - * Cracked ends on the wood usually mean it's dry enough to burn



For more information
www.epa.gov/burnwise



Find the *English* and
Maliseet Words

- Acorn
- Autumn
- Bear
- Cattail
- Celebration
- Deer
- Fire
- Firewood
- Frost
- Goose
- Hunter
- Moose
- Native
- Rifle
- Shotgun
- Asahqaha
- Toqakiw
- Muwin
- Pkuwahqiyasq
- Ktonukot
- Otuhk
- Sqot
- Piwsoq
- Wastewoton
- Waptoq
- Kotunkewin
- Mus
- Skicin
- Peskuwat
- Kesi-osassik

A C E L E B R A T I O N Q M
S F W E K T O N U K O T R U
A P R T Y U T O Q A K I W W
H K O O A U T U M N P L P I
Q U M N K O T U N K E W I N
A W A S T E W O T O N B W G
H A A M O O S E V C M U S O
A H C P X H U N T E R Z O O
C Q O O T U H K A S D F Q S
A I R D G O H S K I C I N E
T Y N E J S Q O T K B E A R
T A P E S K U W A T F I R E
A S J R H G F I R E W O O D
I Q K E S I O S A S S I K D
L S H O T G U N N A T I V E
F R O S T E R I F L E G B N

Fall Foliage Facts

- Leaves of trees such as birches, tulip poplars, redbug & hickory are always yellow in the fall - never red.
- Leaves have just as much yellow pigment in July when they are green as they do in October when they are yellow. The darker green chlorophyll masks the yellow color.
- Unlike the bright colors of flowers that attract pollinators, the bright colors of fall foliage have no apparent biological function or significance.

From: *Fall Colors and Woodland Harvets*
Laurel Hill Press, Chapel Hill, NC
www.ncnatural.com/wildflwr/fall/fallfact.html



Insects on the Move



Hickory Tussock Caterpillar - photo by
Brookhaven National Laboratory, US
Dept. of Energy

If you've been out and about this summer there is a good chance you've seen the cute, fuzzy little caterpillar shown here. The Hickory Tussock caterpillar has been in Maine for some time and their numbers seem to be increasing. This could be due to changes in climate, predators, and human activities. The caterpillar gets its name from the hickory trees it feeds on farther south. In Maine, it feed mostly on beech and oak trees. While the caterpillar looks kinda cute with its black tufts on its back and black spikes, it can cause allergic reactions or rashes for some people who come into physical contact with the insect. Reactions range from mild to severe, similar to that of poison ivy. Hypersensitive individuals may also experience more severe symptoms that could include swelling and nausea. You should wear gloves and use caution when cleaning up leaf litter and other yard items as hairs left behind by the caterpillars could cause a reaction, Washing the infected area immediately with soap and water, taking antihistamines or using ammonia, calamine lotion or ice packs can help alleviate minor symptoms. However, if you experience a severe reaction you should seek medical assistance immediately.

Another insect on the move is the Emerald Ash Borer. You may remember it from previous newsletters. This beetle, originally from Asia is wreaking havoc in 19 states, with Massachusetts being the newest state to be invaded. According to Reuters News Source, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was accidentally introduced into North America back in the 1990's, possibly in wood packaging materials arriving from Asia. This tiny insect is only about ½ inch long and very difficult to detect. Once infected, trees cannot be saved and ultimately die. Across the nation a number of policies have been implemented including a quarantine to control movements of wood products in an attempt to stop this invasive species from spreading further. Ash has a number of commercial uses including snowshoes, baseball bats, hockey sticks and guitars. Black ash in particular plays an important role in Maliseet culture and the discovery of the EAB in neighboring Massachusetts is of concern. We are currently working with the Maine Forest Service to monitor ash stands on tribal lands for the presence of the ash borers. Purple EAB traps have been deployed throughout the state and on tribal lands in an attempt to monitor and catch any insects that may arrive. We're pleased to report that to date no beetles have been found in this area.



Left - Adult Emerald Ash
Borer (H. Russell - MSU)

Below: EAB trap on tribal
lands



Tribal Cemetery Update

Earlier this year the tribe submitted an ANA grant (Administration for Native Americans) application for the development of tribal cemetery ordinances, policies and procedures. We still do not know if our project has been funded, but in the meantime, we have begun soil testing and other site analysis on the site chosen for the cemetery. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) donated the use of ground penetrating radar (GPR) to determine soil depth and location of bedrock. This information will be very helpful in the development of the cemetery. We'll keep you posted as things progress.



(left) J. Doolittle NRCS
and Matthew Edberg
using GPR to study
proposed cemetery site
(below) GPR screen

