

HBMI Natural Resources Department

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
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Save the Date!

Plans are already underway for the 30th Annual Recognition Day Celebration.

Our theme **Wicik Maqiyahitimok - Gathering of the Clans.**

As part of our planning, we're asking all tribal members to dig through those old photo albums and share family photos with us. We'll happily scan the originals and return them safely to you.

If you have any questions about this year's Recognition Day or to submit photographs, please contact

Danya Boyce

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Wicik Maqiyahitimok

Gathering of the Clans

**Saturday
Sept 18, 2010**

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Nipon (Summer)
June 2010

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Susan Young - Editor

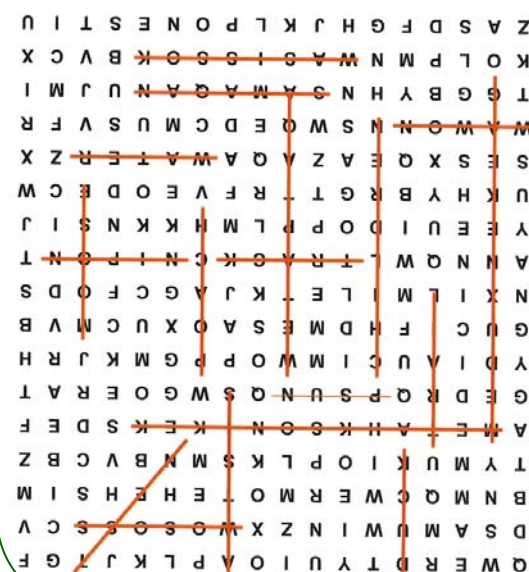
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Word Search Answers



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HBMI Natural Resources Department



Fun With Mammal Tracking

By: Matthew P. Edberg, Natural Resources Specialist

For the past two winters, the HBMI Natural Resources Department has been conducting a mammal track survey on tribal lands. This project is funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service under a Tribal Wildlife Grant.

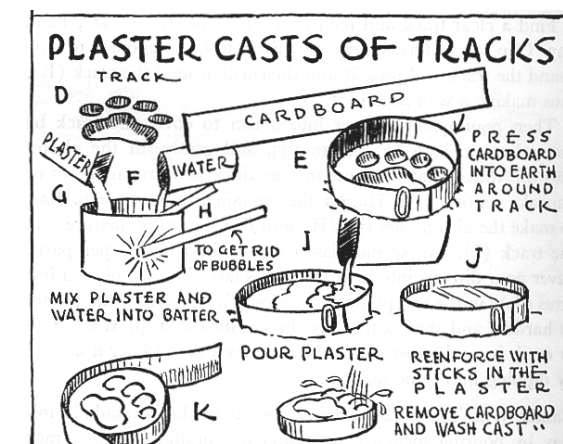
One of the fascinating ways to learn about mammals is to make plaster of Paris casts of their footprints. Casts of animal footprints can be made from tracks found in mud, snow or dust using various techniques.

Materials needed:

- ♦ **Plaster of Paris.** (available @ most hardware stores)
- ♦ **Cardboard** (to cut into a strip to make a well, for plaster of Paris, around track)
- ♦ **Paperclips** (to hold cardboard strip together)
- ♦ **Water** (to mix with plaster of Paris) (1 part water to 2 parts plaster of Paris.
- ♦ **Time** (after pouring plaster in track allow to dry 1 hour before removal, allow 24 hrs to cure)



Original bear track above -
Plaster cast shown at left



Graphic From: *Tracks and Trailcraft* by
Ellsworth Jaeger

Using these materials you can make very nice casts of animal tracks at any time of year. When making casts of tracks in snow in winter, be sure to use this technique:

1). If the snow is not too powdery, gently mist the track with water and allow to freeze. Be sure not to use too much water or you will melt the track. Do this a number of times while allowing each misting time to freeze. When you're done, there should be a thin coating of ice inside the track.

2). Add a mixture of snow and very cold water to the plaster of Paris to bring the temperature down closer to the surroundings, so it will not melt the track and will harden faster. Once hardened, remove the track from snow and allow to cure.

2010 Earth Day Water Festival: A Thirst for Conservation



The 4-H Youth Development of Aroostook County held an Earth Day Water Festival in Fort Kent on April 15, 2010. Sessions were held to educate the youth on the importance of Earth Day and what we can do to help prevent pollution in our rivers and streams.

The day’s activities were presented by women working in various natural resource fields dealing with environmental protection. The youth were from the St. John Valley, Madawaska, Van Buren, Frenchville and Fort Kent school systems. HBMI Water Resources Technician Rhonda Jewell-Smart (shown in middle of back row) educated the youth about aquifers and how important it is too keep our ground water safe from contamination .

Maliseet Word Search

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

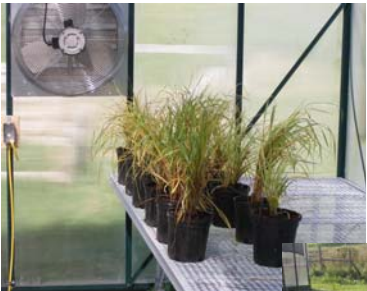
Find both the
English and Maliseet words
in the word puzzle at left

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| • Bear | Muwin |
| • Children | Wasissok |
| • Duck | Motehehsim |
| • Egg | Wawon |
| • Medicine | ‘Psun |
| • Meduxnekeag | Metahksonikek |
| • Moose | Mus |
| • Nest | Wososs |
| • Poach | Komuci-kotunke |
| • Summer | Nipon |
| • Track | Wetaptaq |
| • Trail | Awtsis |
| • Water | Samaqan |

Medicinal Plant Nursery By: Matthew P. Edberg, Natural Resources Specialist

In the summer of 2009 the HBMI Natural Resources Department began a project to develop a medicinal plant nursery as a source of medicinal plant species, of cultural and medicinal significance to the Maliseet people. Plants grown in the nursery will be eventually planted throughout Maliseet Tribal lands to establish, or as in some cases re-establish, these species for Band member use in the future.

The first species in the nursery was *Hierchloe odorata* (sweet grass), the scientific name of sweet grass means “sacred grass” = *Hierchloe*, “with an odor” = *odorata*. Sweet grass as a very pleasing odor similar to vanilla (another name for sweet grass is ‘vanilla grass’) the source of the smell is the chemical coumarin, the same chemical that gives cinnamon its distinctive odor. The global distribution of sweet grass is circumpolar, it is a species that has spiritual significance to both European and Native American peoples.



(clockwise) Sweetgrass in greenhouse, growing in planting bed, and being harvested by Merlon “Louis” Tomah last fall

In the spring of 2009 twelve sweet grass plants were acquired and planted in the HBMI greenhouse. Two to three months later an outdoor bed was prepared and the sweet grass patch was established, eventually natural patches of sweet grass will be established in the appropriate places on Tribal lands. To date the sweet grass patch is thriving, and is being harvested twice per season by our elders for ceremonial/spiritual use.



In the spring of 2010 the second species in the Medicinal Plant nursery was acquired; Muskrat root also known as sweet flag. The scientific name of muskrat root, *Acorus calamus* means *Aco(rus)*= “a cure or remedy” *calam(us)* = “a reed”. This plant is a wetland species sometimes found growing out of a few inches of standing water. A very large section of rhizome

(underground stem) was acquired and was divided into 20 separate plants and planted in the HBMI greenhouse. The new plants are thriving and one has even flowered. These plants will be transplanted to wetland sites on Tribal lands to establish natural populations.



(left) flowering muskrat root, muskrat root in pots (above)



Nikki Eastman, Isaac St. John

Meet the Summer Techs

The arrival of June means but one thing, in the Natural Resources Department, the Summer Techs Have arrived!!

This year we had a number of qualified applications submitted for these positions. Nikki Eastman was chosen for the Natural Resources tech position while Isaac St. John will be working with the Water Quality Program

Be sure to say hello when you see them out and about working with our department this summer.

Update from the Environmental Protection Program

Historic Watershed Map Project:

Many years in the making (the idea of creating this map first came up in 1998), we are the final stages of designing a colorful and informative watershed map to help educate ourselves and surrounding communities about the Meduxnekeag Watershed. We hope the map will advance an understanding of what a watershed is, how we are all connected by water, and how our history and cultures shape and are shaped by our environment.

A lot of people were involved in the process including members of our Natural Resources staff, the Meduxnekeag Watershed Coalition, archaeologist David Putnam, local historians Kay Bell and David Saunders, and in New Brunswick, the Meduxnekeag River Association. The artistic rendering has been created by Susan York, a local artist, who has also been involved in designing signs for Houlton's Riverfront Park. This project has been funded through a grant from the US EPA. Upon completion, copies of the map will be distributed free on a first come, first serve basis until stocks run out (future printings and availability are dependent on additional funding).

Energy Audit:

Also in the works is an energy audit of all HBMI governmental buildings. This Spring, we hired McCormick Facilities Management with EPA funds to evaluate the current energy use in our buildings, identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency, and undertake a cost-benefit analysis of these opportunities. Waiting in the wings is a grant from the US Department of Energy to implement some of these improvements. We'll keep you updated as things progress.



Hiding in Plain Sight

Special thanks go out to Valerie Polchies for sharing these great picks of a Mallard duck nest found in a local yard.

Mallards are believed to be the most common duck species on earth and are found in fresh waters, throughout Europe, Asia and North America.

They are known for nesting on the ground or in a protected cavity. They usually lay about a dozen eggs that incubate about a month before hatching. Mallards are known as dabblers, seldom diving for their food which consists of invertebrates, amphibians, fish and plants. While on land they feed on grains and assorted plants.

For more information on Mallards check out : www.animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/mallard-duck.html



Photos courtesy of Valerie Polchies and Rhonda Jewell-Smart

"Today's Youth Protecting Tomorrow's Environment"



Students in Kindergarten through grade 12 are encouraged to participate in EPA's President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA).

According to the official EPA Website: "The PEYA program promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement. Since 1971, the President of the United States has

joined with EPA to recognize young people across the U.S. for protecting our nation's air, water, land, and ecology. It is one of the most important ways EPA and the Administration demonstrate commitment to environmental stewardship efforts created and conducted by our nation's young people.

One outstanding project from each region is selected for national recognition. Projects are developed by young individuals, school classes (K-12), summer camps, and youth organizations to promote environmental stewardship. Thousands of young people from all 50 states and the U.S. territories have submitted projects to EPA for consideration. Winning projects in the past have covered a wide range of subject areas, including:

- environmental science projects
- recycling programs in schools and communities
- construction of nature preserves
- major tree planting programs
- videos, skits, and newsletters that focused on environmental issues

for more information on the PEYA program go to www.epa.gov/peya

Learn more about water: www.epa.gov/ow/kids.html

www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/

Learn more about trash: www.epa.gov/osw/kids

Learn more about saving species: www.epa.gov/espp/poster

Learn more about your health: www.epa.gov/sunwise/kids.html

www.epa.gov/children

Learn more about air: www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids

Join EPA's Kids Club: www.epa.gov/kids

Green Tips for Students

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.



Water Fact

Each time you brush your teeth you can waste a gallon of water.

Recycle Fact

Recycling 1 aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV set for 3 hours or light a 100-watt bulb for 20 hours.



Recycle your cans, glass, plastic, and paper.

Replace your lunch bags with multi-use containers.



Trash Fact

On average, each person in the U.S. generates about 4 pounds of trash every day.

Health Fact

Asthma triggers include dust mites, mold and mildew, pet dander, cockroaches, and smoke.



Help keep your home as clean as possible.

Plant a tree.



Air Fact

A tree can absorb 50 pounds of carbon dioxide a year, which slows climate change.

Inspire students to protect the environment!

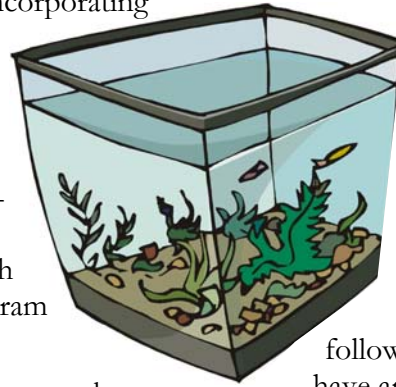
www.epa.gov/enviroed

Fish Friends by Cara O'Donnell

Fish Friends, a program of the Atlantic Salmon Federation. This program gives children the chance to explore the world of the wild Atlantic Salmon by raising the fry in a large fish tank, while incorporating curriculum at the same time to create a vivid learning experience.

The Natural Resources staff is hoping to incorporate this program into its activities together with the Maliseet Youth Program and youth of all ages.

Our department's goal is to work with tribal youth to set up a fish tank system to foster salmon eggs (provided by the Atlantic Salmon Federation) through the early stages of development before being released into our Meduxnekeag River. The Natural Resources staff will guide the Tribal Youth Group through learning activities of salmon and their environment.



The experience of raising wild salmon and seeing them returned to the wild creates a bond between the student and their environment, hopefully raising the consciousness of students and adults about the need to care for our natural world.

Can you help us with this project?

We are looking for donations of the following equipment. If you have any of these items to donate, it would greatly help our Fish Friends Project:

- 1 Hagen all-glass 33 US gallon (125 Litre) fish tank
- 1 Aquaclear 70 aquarium power filter
- 1 Aquaclear 70 amrid ammonia remover insert (to be replaced annually)

Poached Moose



No we're not talking recipes here. During their workday while out on tribal lands Matthew Edberg and his

summer technician Nikki Eastman discovered this poached moose on June 9, 2010.

Local game wardens are continuing to investigate this incident at the request of Chief Commander.



Please Leave Your Firewood Home!

The Maine Legislature has banned all out-of-state firewood. Out-of-state firewood can bring harmful insects [Asian Longhorned Beetle AND Emerald Ash Borer] and diseases that can **DESTROY** Maine forests.

For more information go to: www.maine.gov/firewood or call 207-287-2791

Congratulations Damon Reynolds!

Damon has just hit the lottery! Literally! In his first try at the moose lottery, young Damon was chosen to receive a bull permit for zone 6 during the September 2010 season.

Damon is following in the hunting footsteps of his parents April and Brian Reynolds. *Kuli kisebt ngqoss!*



Pollution Ramp Fun with Head Start by Rhonda Jewell-Smart Water Resources Technician

Pollution! You can't miss it, can you? It's everywhere... all over our planet. It makes people, animals and plants sick. The Maliseet Head Start children had fun learning about pollution with an activity called The Pollution Ramp.

Angie Reed from Penobscot Nation led the children through this activity to simulate what happens when rainwater flows overland to rivers and streams picking up pollutants when there are no buffers such as grasses and trees to control it.



Photos clockwise: Angie Reed and Cara O'Donnell explaining how to roll down the ramp

"Away We Roll"

Explaining water and pollution.

Children waiting to play.

Nature Trail Update



We're pleased to announce some new changes to our natural trail.

At the request of tribal members we've added some benches at various points along the trail. The benches, as shown above, will provide resting places along the trail as well as a

chance to sit and simply enjoy the surroundings. Hopefully, this will make walking the trail a more enjoyable experience. We've also updated all the trail signs with new information and pictures and will have them in place in early July.

If you'd like to learn more about HBMI's nature trail or would like to arrange for a guided tour please contact Matthew Edberg at 532-4273 ext. 220.

