American Indian Month

Bringing Minnesota Native Foods to France

BY HARVEY WINE

Diane Gorney grew up in Minneapolis, graduated from Central High School, attended college, became an art teacher, and in a later career, did human relations work for the State of Minnesota. While on a trip in the 1990’s, seeing American Indian wild rice in a grocery store in France prompted her to ask the vendor the origin of the rice. The answer being “from Indonesia” and a similarly shocking answer to a question about American Indian jewelry “from Sri Lanka” caused Diane to wonder why they couldn’t be buying authentic American Indian products from Native Americans in Minnesota.

Diane’s curiosity and fortitude didn’t include knowledge of marketing and international trade but that counsel she was able to get from Mike O’Dell, a neighbor, who also speaks French. She then introduced the marketing possibility and Mike to Clyde Bellecourt, who, along with other Board Members and Staff of the American Indian Movement Interpretive Center (AIM IC), worked on the initiative of marketing White Earth wild rice.

From May 4th to May 10th, Clyde Bellecourt, Norma Renville, Eric Byrd, Jack Swanson, Diane Gorney of the AIM IC along with Carl Fransen (White Earth Urban Office and AIM IC), Mike O’Dell (AIM IC), Sean Sherman (The Sioux Chef), and Howasta Means (Gatherings Cafe) will be at Foire de Tours, one of the largest Culinary and Arts Festivals in France, delighting over 300,000 visitors with White Earth wild rice and walleye and buffalo from other Minnesota Tribes.

They will introduce wild rice with samples and recipes in French at Foire de Tours and also at the International Cite’ of Gastronomy in Tours on May 11th.

World champion Midnight Express Drummers and Native Pride Dancers will also participate in the Foire de Tours. Two tipis will be built for display with paintings done by Wolf Bellecourt.

White Earth Enterprises has packaged the hand-processed rice with attractive graphics and appropriate certifications and the compelling story of their rice harvesting and its place in tradition, spirituality and culture.
Media

Events

First Person Radio May 3 @ 7 am
Our guest will be Kate Beane, she’ll be discussing the Dakota Truth Telling Omnicyve event, which begins on Saturday May 4, at Fort Snelling. To listen live, dial in 90.3 on your FM radio.

American Indian Wellness Fair May 3 @ 11 am - 3 pm
The American Indian Wellness Fair continues the goal to increase awareness of current health issues facing American Indian people by providing access to a variety of health screenings, education, information and community resources. For more information: Stephanie Graves (stephanie.graves@minneapolismn.gov)

Dakota Truth Telling Omnicyve May 4 @ 8 am / May 7 @ 5 pm
On May 4th of 1863, Dakhóta people who had been imprisoned at a concentration camp below Akíčhita Čhúŋkaške (Fort Snelling) at Bdóte were taken by steamboat and exiled to Mnísota Makhóčhe. To mark our return, invite all Očhéthi Šakówiŋ Oyáte to return to our homelands, unify in peace, and share community knowledge, teachings, and stories with one another. Historic Fort Snelling.

American Indian Cancer Foundation Powwow for Hope May 5 @ 1 - 7 pm
Powwow for Hope is a community fundraising event that honors loved ones who have battled cancer or are fighting cancer and provides an opportunity to learn more about cancer prevention and resources. Your help is needed to address the cancer burdens faced by many American Indian families throughout Indian Country. Teams raise funds in many different ways before, during and after Powwow for Hope.

American Indian Family & Children’s Services Open House May 9 @ 1 - 5:30 pm
Minneapolis American Indian Center Open House May 10 @ 11 am - 2 pm
American Indian OIC Founder’s Day Event May 11 @ 12 - 3 pm
walk in, grab lunch, and start interviewing. It’s that simple! There will also be drawings, giveaways, and entertainment! This is a community event, come celebrate with us.

Wamáȟkaška Ki Wážtíŋpi! (Animals Are Good!) May 11 @ 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Come visit us for our open house! Details

Power Grounds/NACDI/AICDC Open House May 12 @ 11 am - 2 pm
Come visit us for our open house! Details to follow!

South High All Nations 2017 Pow Wow May 12 @ 12 - 3 pm
Grand Entry at 12pm. Free. South High All Nations is hosting their annual Pow Wow. Senior Honoring Ceremony; Host drums are Hoka Hey and Midnight Express; Hand drum and potato dance contest with prizes! For questions, contact oskhi.ogichidaag@gmail.com.

Little Earth 18th Annual Mother’s Day Powwow May 13 @ 1 - 9 pm
Minnesota Chippewa Tribes Open House May 18 @ 2 - 4 pm
Featuring a dessert bar!

Native American Community Clinic Open House May 19 @ 12 - 3 pm
Join us as we celebrate Minnesota Indian Month 2017! Our theme will be centered on “Water Is Life” in which we will have spiritual advisors and many other culturally centered activities. We will be providing free health screenings, have fun activities for families, and will be serving a nutritious lunch! See you there!

Dream of Wild Health Sacred Medicines & Garden Beginning Workshop May 20 @ 10 am - 12 pm
RSVP Estella: estella@dreamofwildhealth.org

Takoda May Mulligan May 22 @ 10:30 am - 8 pm
In life, a mulligan is just par for the course. It’s a do-over after a missed shot. A fresh start. The choice to try again rather than give up. Students at Takoda Institute take every mulligan they are given and turn it into a victory as they enroll, learn and graduate with a promising career pathway in IT, healthcare, or business. Your support provides scholarships for students motivated to succeed, but lack the financial means to access high demand jobs that lead them on a pathway to the American dream. On Monday, May 22nd, help us turn mulligans into jobs with a day of food, fun and friendly competition. All golf packages include a round of golf, lunch, cocktail hour, and dinner. Don’t golf – no worries – join us over the cocktail hour and stay for dinner.

Ain Dah Yung Center Open House and Celebration May 31 @ 11 am - 2 pm
As usual we’ll be providing a wonderful feast with buffalo & chicken shish kabobs, wild rice salad and of course fry bread. There will once again be lots of opportunities to win one of our many Prize Baskets and other drawing gifts… and we will be honoring this year’s 2017 Prize Baskets and other drawing gifts… and we will be honoring this year’s 2017 Ally of the Year! Most importantly…it’s an opportunity to come together and celebrate our communities, our people and all that we are together! So mark your calendars now…more info to follow…

Migwetch!
The history of the Indians of Minnesota is linked intimately with France. French traders, hunters, explorers of rivers and lakes, and priests, made contact with Indians in the Seventeenth Century. They formed relationships with the First Nations of Canada, the tribes of the Great Lakes, of Minnesota, and of the Northern Plains. Many Ojibwa and Dakota people, including the founder of AIM - Clyde Bellecourt - and its Manager of Operations - Norma Renville - bear French surnames.

The parish of Minneapolis is named after Father Louis Hennepin. A school located on the banks of the Mississippi River is named after St Jean-Baptiste de La Salle. The French traded, trapped animals, and in many instances intermarried with Indian clans. The Interpretive Center is honored and happy to share knowledge with the visitors of the Foire de Tours. Merci! - Bosshoo! (Ojibwa greeting) – and Bonjour! The Interpretive Center of the American Indian Movement (AIM) possesses archives that document Indian struggles for civil rights and sovereignty in the United States. The Center maintains a gallery of historical photographs. We also exhibit the works of contemporary Indian artists, and collaborate with other galleries and museums in Minnesota. Our visitors range from infants to pensioners. The history of the Indians of Minnesota is linked intimately with France. French traders, hunters, explorers of rivers and lakes, and priests, made contact with Indians in the Seventeenth Century. They formed relationships with the First Nations of Canada, the tribes of the Great Lakes, of Minnesota, and of the Northern Plains. Many Ojibwa and Dakota people, including the founder of AIM - Clyde Bellecourt - and its Manager of Operations - Norma Renville - bear French surnames. The parish of Minneapolis is named after Father Louis Hennepin. A school located on the banks of the Mississippi River is named after St Jean-Baptiste de La Salle. The French traded, trapped animals, and in many instances intermarried with Indian clans. The Interpretive Center is honored and happy to share knowledge with the visitors of the Foire de Tours. Merci! - Bosshoo! (Ojibwa greeting) – and Bonjour! The Interpretive Center of the American Indian Movement (AIM) possesses archives that document Indian struggles for civil rights and sovereignty in the United States. The Center maintains a gallery of historical photographs. We also exhibit the works of contemporary Indian artists, and collaborate with other galleries and museums in Minnesota. Our visitors range from infants to pensioners. The history of the Indians of Minnesota is linked intimately with France. French traders, hunters, explorers of rivers and lakes, and priests, made contact with Indians in the Seventeenth Century. They formed relationships with the First Nations of Canada, the tribes of the Great Lakes, of Minnesota, and of the Northern Plains. Many Ojibwa and Dakota people, including the founder of AIM - Clyde Bellecourt - and its Manager of Operations - Norma Renville - bear French surnames.

White Earth Rice is grown without genetic alteration, cultivation, pesticides, or insecticides before being harvested by hand. Two people as in this photo can harvest as much as one ton of rice a day that may be worth as much as $3,000. It is then packaged for retail or bulk sales by the Tribe. The harvesting is seasonal and subject to growing and weather conditions.

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Two Tipis will be erected at the site of White Earth Enterprises Exhibit. One is pictured here on the floor of the AIM-IC Gallery having been painted by Wolf Bellecourt.
In Minnesota, there are seven Anishinaabe (Chippewa, Ojibwe) reservations and four Dakota (Sioux) communities.

**Bois Forte Band of Chippewa**
The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa is located in northern Minnesota, approximately sixty miles south and west of International Falls, MN.

**Fond Du Lac Reservation**
The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation lies in Northeastern Minnesota adjacent to the city of Cloquet, MN, approximately 20 miles west of Duluth, MN. The Fond du Lac Reservation, established by the LaPointe Treaty of 1854, is one of six Reservations inhabited by members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

**Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Indians**
The Grand Portage Reservation, located in Cook County at the extreme northeastern tip of Minnesota, encompasses a historic fur trade site with a spectacular North Woods-Lake Superior shoreline. The reservation extends about 18 miles along the lakeshore and from nine miles to a quarter mile inland.

**Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe**
The Leech Lake Reservation, located in the forests of north-central Minnesota, offers an oasis of natural beauty. Towering pines fringe the reservations many lakes, two of which are among the largest in the state.

**Lower Sioux Indian Community**
The Lower Sioux Indian Community is located on the south side of the Minnesota River at the site of the U.S. Indian Agency and the Bishop Whipple Mission, a part of the original reservation established in the 1851 Treaty. It is in Redwood County, two miles south of Morton and six miles east of Redwood Falls.

**Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe**
History, tribal government, educational material, links to casinos and museum.

**Prairie Island Indian Community**
Prairie Island Indian Community is located in southeast Minnesota, north of Red Wing, between Highway 61 and the Mississippi River. The people of Prairie Island are Mdewakanton Dakota and have lived on Prairie Island for countless generations.

**Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians**
Historical information, tribal planning, employment and training, Pow-wow pages, gaming, telephone directory and more.

**Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community**
The Shakopee-Mdewakanton Reservation is located entirely within the city limits of Prior Lake, in Scott County, Minnesota. The reservation was known as the Prior Lake Reservation until its reorganization under the Indian Reorganization Act on November 28, 1969. The tribal headquarters is in Prior Lake, MN.

**Upper Sioux Community**
The land called Pejuhutazzi Kapi (the place where they dig for yellow medicine) has been the homeland of the Dakota Oyate (Nation) for thousands of years. The Upper Sioux Community is located in Yellow Medicine County.

**White Earth Reservation**
The White Earth Reservation is located in the northwestern Minnesota counties of Mahnomen, Becker, and Clearwater. The reservation is located 68 miles from Fargo and 225 miles from Minneapolis/St. Paul. Tribal headquarters are in White Earth, MN.

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**Wild Rice Fact Sheet**

**WHITE EARTH**

Hand harvested by Native Americans and wood parched in the northlands of Minnesota, naturally organic.

Manoomin, the Ojibwe word for wild rice translates to “good berry.” White Earth Wild Rice is an all natural grain that grows wild in the cool clear waters of northern Minnesota and has been a staple food in the diets of Native Americans for generations. Wild rice, the state grain of Minnesota, is also only one of two cereal grains that are native to North America.

Our wild rice product is ONLY naturally organic wild rice in the world. Wild rice is high in protein, dietary fiber, amino acids, and low in fat. Wild Rice is filled with natural benefits like thiamine, phosphorus, iron, calcium, potassium, ribo avin, niacin, and lysine. Wild Rice is low in carbohydrates and gluten free. It is not to be mistaken with genetically altered cultivated wild rice which is now widely produced in North America with the use of pesticides, insecticides and other chemicals. To this day we continue to only hand harvest our rice with non-motorized canoes to preserve our wild rice habitats. We take pride in the fact that our product is naturally organic and will remain the same for generations.