

Anishinabe Biodiversity: All Our Brothers Living Harmoniously

Judy D. Pamp (Waabanoqua)

1. Creation Story- 10 minute video Keynote in morning then smudge
2. Afternoon Presentation: We are all connected!
The Anishinabe (Ojibwe/Chippewa, Ottawa & Pottawatomie) believe the plants, animals and elements (earth, wind/air, water and fire) were all here before man was placed on Turtle Island or the Earth. When Gitchi Manidoo or the Creator placed man upon Mother Earth, man struggled and perished. When the creator placed man a second time upon the earth, we are told our other brothers came forward and told the creator they would nourish us, mentor and guide us to help us survive as we were their youngest brothers.

We are thankful for our brothers help and in return we have promised to help watch over our brothers and to help sustain their place and the universe. Part of our Anishinabe culture is learning how all of creation is connected and also to learn about our responsibility to protect, nurture and help sustain all of creation. All of creation knows their purpose and carries out their work well. Mankind has been given the gifts of thought and freewill. Mankind is the only brother that often times loses its path and is not sure of what their purpose is in life. Mankind is often times challenged to live peacefully and responsibly with all of creation. This is man's challenge. We lived with these teachings and values in balance with nature for thousands of years.

U.S. Constitution often referred to the foundation of our Democracy laid some of the groundwork for future interactions of the American Indians. Indians are mentioned only three times in the Constitution. The Commerce Clause grants Congress plenary power to regulate commerce between the United States and three other forms of sovereign entities: the states, foreign nations, and the Indian tribes. The Commerce Clause, the Treaty Clause (Article II, Section 2, Clause 2), the Property Clause (Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2), and from the nature of the sovereign power of federal government in relation to the Indians. Article 14

As early as 1795 the Anishinabe have been building relationships with the United States Federal government through treaties and intergovernmental interactions. The foundation of 21st century relationships was laid out in the treaties between the Anishinabek and the United States Federal government. We were a sovereign nation before there was an America and continue to be a sovereign nation. All Americans are treaty people!



American Indians and their governments have inherent rights and a political relationship with the US government that does not derive from race or ethnicity. Tribal members are citizens of three sovereigns: their tribe, the United States, and the state in which they reside. Most treaties contained provisions for the guarantee of peace, a provision on land boundaries, hunting and fishing rights (often including lands outside the reservation boundaries), Tribal recognition of US authority and the US providing protection.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and the United States Federal government engaged in the treaties of 1795, 1807, 1815, 1819, 1855, and the 1864. We have reserved rights that are built into the treaties. The Treaty of 1819, in Article 5 states, “The stipulation contained in the treaty of Greenville, relative to the right of the Indians to hunt upon the land ceded, while it continues the property of the United States, shall apply to this treaty; and the Indians shall, for the same term, enjoy the privilege of making sugar upon the same land, committing no unnecessary waste upon the trees. We retained our rights to hunt and harvest on public lands.” Therefore we have to educate ourselves about the treaties and the obligations they hold us to plus the relationships and supported needed to maintain and carry out these obligations.

The Isabella Indian Reservation which belongs to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Nation, or Saginaw Ojibwe People. The reservation lands are made up of 138,240 acres (216 square miles), which covers about 6 townships. Today, there are approximately 1,800 acres of land that are in “trust” and owned by the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe. There are 700 acres of “allotted” lands that still belong to the heirs of the original descendants that those allotments were given to the lands in signing since part of those also belong to the Isabella Reservation. Also, it would be more accurate to say that the reservation was set aside by treaties of 1855 and 1864 for the Saginaw, Swan Creek, and Black River Bands, collectively (and officially) known as the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe.

- a. Treaties with Michigan Tribes: Federal Relationships
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/Treatiesagreements-FSC-CAR1_165073_7.pdf
 - b. Treaties with Michigan Tribes: State Relationships
 - c. Treaties with Michigan Tribes: Local Relationships/City Relationships
4. Sustaining Anishinabe Cultural Arts: **Wiisagaak** (Black Ash) (*Fraxinus nigra*)
- a. The Ash Family: We wait 50 years for a tree to grow before harvesting.
 1. White Ash-Used for handles and rims of baskets plus snow shoes. Easy to find and plentiful.
 2. Black Ash-
 - a. Wiisagaak Creation Story: Love for our people.
 - b. Used for ceremonial, utilitarian and tourist baskets for economic sustainability of Anishinabe families. 1/10th of all Black Ash tree are



good for basket making. Wiisagaak or Black Ash tree used for basketry is a rare find.

c. Harvesting Lessons-

- i. Identifying-Leaves, buds, bark difference between young and old,
- ii. Harvesting- Falling a tree with an axe.
- iii. Processing-Pounding, splitting, shaving and weaving.
- iv. Storage-Storing logs and storing splints.
- v. Weaving Traditions-Way of life connect to all of creation.
Lessons learned by growing up in the forest and weaving Black Ash Baskets.

3. Mountain or Green Ash-Used in New York, Vermont, and Maine for basketry.
4. Pumpkin Ash-rarest form for Ash in America. Found on Walpole Island in Canada. Nearly wiped out due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

d. Cultural sustainability with the help of our brothers while dealing with the challenges of climate change, man's needs, and invasive species.

- i. Emerald Ash Borer
- j. Planting Ash Trees
- k. Sustaining bogs or swamps

5. Sovereign Nations Caring for Mother Earth: Teamwork, collaborative efforts and room for growth.

b. The need for sustained economic growth is critically acute in most Native communities across the country.

1. 305 forested Tribal nations
2. 18 Million forested acres of land
3. Natural resource management

1. SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE OF MICHIGAN
2. ORDINANCE 11 ON-RESERVATION HUNTING, FISHING AND GATHERING

Amended by Resolution 17-158 and Approved September 6, 2017
<http://www.sagchip.org/tribalcourt/ordinance/2017/Ordinance%2011%20Hunting%20090617.pdf>

