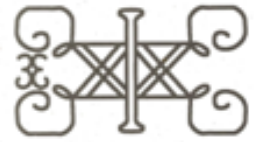
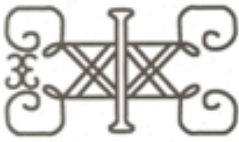


# WABANAKI YOUTH in SCIENCE (WaYS)

*Integrating Technology, Science and Traditional Culture*

## Newsletter Spring 2020



### **Upcoming Events: - Mark your calendars!**

*Spring Mini Camp May 15-17, 2020; Wilderness Pines, Monticello Maine*

*Earth Camp June 22- 26, 2020; Moosehead Lake, Rockwood Maine*

*Fall Mini camp October 16-18, 2020; Nibezun, Passadumkeag Maine*

*It has been a bit of time since WaYS has had a newsletter. We have been incredibly busy! Please keep in mind if you know of a Native youth that would be interested in the WaYS program or if you are a Native youth interested in becoming a part of the WaYS program, please contact John Neptune, tish carr or your tribal Education Director!*

### **Internships**

*We have a number of internships not listed here - please go to our WaYS website at <https://umaine.edu/nativeamericanprograms/wabanaki-youth-science-program/> for a complete listing of internships!*

#### **Bear Internship**

This internship is led by Ben Simpson, Penobscot Nation Wildlife Biologist. It involves a multitude of responsibilities related to bear ecology. Ideally, we are looking for two students to work for the summer with Mr. Simpson. If you have any interest in wildlife biology or ecology, this internship is for you!

#### **Gulf of Maine Oceanography (past and present)**

Do you like being on the ocean? Do you like playing in mud and fossils? If so, this is your internship! You will be a part of a research expedition in the Gulf of Maine (August 16-29) to collect seawater, plankton, and sediment samples. Prior to this, the student will have a choice of laboratory projects leading up to the cruise, starting as soon as school ends. In addition, you will be sharing what you learn with WaYS middle school students in an after-school program. This effort will be coordinated with a WaYS graduate to work with you.

This student will also work with a WaYS graduate as a part of this project. As an added bonus, the student that works on this internship will also be able to attend the American Indian Society of Science and Engineering (ASIES) fall 2020 in Spokane Washington.

#### **Fish Internship**

This internship will provide the opportunity for high school students (9-12 grade) to learn skills for collecting and processing fish samples from several Maine lakes and ponds. This internship also provides an opportunity to learn lab techniques, including the measurement of fish scales, tissues, and otoliths at PIN (Indian Island) and the University of Maine Campus (Orono). Students will be exposed to topics in freshwater biology that are at intersections of traditional cultural philosophies and the environmental science that provides a foundation for stewarding fish species that are also an integral part of Wabanaki heritage.

#### **Forest Inventory**

WaYS is looking for one to two students per Tribe to help inventory ash trees as a part of an invasive species project that will be happening this summer. You work directly with a WaYS college undergrad student for the summer. This project involves identifying ash trees and quality ash basket trees. You will also be working with Wabanaki students in graduate school to help ground truth their graduate projects. If you enjoy working in the woods, this is a perfect internship for you!

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Over the years, Wambli has become an important WaYS student leader for the WaYS program. He is passionate in all that he does as it relates to not only WaYS but his internship and his passion for dance. Home-schooled, Wambli has flexibility to participate in amazing experiences with the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. Two examples include work during the Spring and early Summer of 2018 Wambli worked with me on a series of wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) surveys in collaboration with Derek Yorks, reptile and amphibian biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MIF&W). Wambli explored tributaries of the Meduxnekeag River in Aroostook County, where no previous records of the species exist. The work involved wading, canoes, and the systematic search of riparian riverbanks in remote areas during the height of blackfly season. With Wambli's help researchers, recorded about two dozen new wood turtle observations that contributed to fill a geographic void in the MIF&W database for the species, which as listed as "of special concern".

Wambli travelled this past fall to Tennessee to speak at the United Eastern and Southern Tribal (USET) representing WaYS on a national level.

On a local level, Wambli was recognized by one of WaYS partner organizations, Maine Woods Forever, as the outstanding youth for his work with HBMI for 2019.

Congratulations Wambli!



### Cultural Corner—John Neptune

It is that time of year again for tapping trees and making Maple Syrup. The TEK program will be tapping trees and making syrup in March with the Penobscot Nation Youth Program. The youth will learn to identify the different Maple trees and learn how to tap them without damaging the trees. This will be a hands on approach with the youth from start to finish. We will also go over how it was traditionally done before all the modern tools we have today.

The students learned to identify the Black Ash tree at the Fall Mini-Camp with Gabe Frey and they pounded, split and gauged the ash so it could be used for making pack baskets. The WaYS students continued making pack baskets at the end February and will be finishing the baskets at the end of March. This was a partnership with the Penobscot Nation Youth Program. It was important that the students learned and participated in the whole process from start to finish.

We had a hide tanning workshop with a WaYS student and some of the WaYS staff at Nibezin. This was a workshop that was open to everyone and was funded by Wabanaki Public Health. They learned 3 ways to scrape a hide and how to brain tan. We started and finished two deer hides and smoked part of a hide for the WaYS student to use. Some of students made medicine bags and beaded on the finished deer hides. The workshop was very productive and fun for everyone. This is something we want to do at WaYS camp in the future.

We are looking for more funding opportunities, resources and partnerships to expand our Cultural teachings. The future is looking bright with the students that have been participating in the WaYS program.

Don't forget about WaYS internships!

Check out our website for a complete listing and descriptions of available opportunities.



For more pictures check out our facebook page and our website.

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/Wabanaki-Youth-in-Science-1681104032109048/>

WEBPAGE: <https://naps.umaine.edu/wabanaki-youth-science-program/>

To learn more about WaYS or the opportunities that are available please contact

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