

Wisconsin Tribal
Conservation
Advisory Council
(WTCAC)



December 17, 2020
Volume 1, Issue 2



WTCAC Fall Newsletter

Letter from the Executive Director – Jeffrey Mears

Welcome to the Fall 2020 WTCAC newsletter.

As this historic year draws to a close, the WTCAC staff wants to acknowledge the terrible losses our 11 tribal nation members have experienced. This has been a horrible year, from the loss of beloved family and community members to the economic losses and the reduction of services and staff.

The story of Native America is one of resilience and survival. All the tribal nations in Wisconsin have shown leadership in public health emergency declarations, closures, and innovative programming to protect their communities, which have exceeded state and federal efforts. And during a worldwide pandemic, the tribes in Wisconsin turned out in record numbers to participate in the most consequential presidential election in generations.

WTCAC staff have worked to adapt to this pandemic reality by providing a virtual experience for interns, conducting on-line fisheries training, holding parking lot meetings with tribal natural resources staff, taking advantage of on-line training, and improving our connection to our WTCAC member tribes and partners. Nearly all our staff attended the virtual, week-long Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, and we have increased communication with monthly WTCAC Board meetings and sub-committee meetings.

WTCAC staff have presented and participated in the UW- Madison Cultural Responsiveness in Working with WI Native Nations, the EPA Children's Health Lead Awareness in Indian Country, and the 2020 Fall Plant Pest Risk Meeting, and we are a member of the WI Academy Climate Critical Lands team.

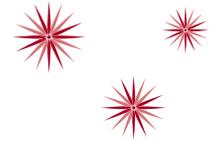
There is hope for 2021 with promising progress on a coronavirus vaccine, and WTCAC staff look forward to continuing our service to the eleven federally recognized tribal nations in Wisconsin. Starting on Thursday, January 21, 2021, we will be presenting a six-week Emerald Ash Borer web series, and we will be offering expanded opportunities in our 2021 Wisconsin native nations internship program. Interns will have opportunities to work with participating WTCAC tribal nations, USDA Forest Service Ottawa Visitor Center, Park Falls Engineering, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and WSB, a design and consulting firm specializing in engineering, community planning, environmental, and construction services.

We look forward to working with newly elected WTCAC President Tina Van Zile, and we extend our heartfelt wish to all our member tribal nations and partners to stay healthy and strong as we work through this pandemic together. We ask for your help and guidance to make the 2021 WTCAC internship program a success by encouraging your college students to apply and partner with us to provide interns with a place to learn and grow.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Keith Sengbusch Retires.....	2
New WTCAC President.....	2
Conservation Partner Spotlight: NRCS.....	3
EQIP Practice Spotlight: Tribal Fish Hatcheries.....	4
Pathways Program.....	5
Seasonal Worker Experience...5	
FY21 Internship Flyer.....	6
EAB Web Series.....	7
Great Lakes Stream Inventory.8	
Trees for Tomorrow Outreach.9	
Tribal Pest Survey Update.....	9
WTCAC Committees	10
EAB De-Regulation.....	10



TIME TO RETIRE BY KEITH SENGBUSCH



**PHOTO ABOVE IS OF KEITH AND HIS 2020 ELK HARVEST*

Meet the WTCAC 2020 Apprentices

In the WTCAC Newsletter's summer edition, we dove into details about the WTCAC internship/seasonal worker program. This newsletter was developed as an opportunity for our seasonal workers to share the education and outreach materials they developed during their summer as interns during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Internships are great opportunities for college students, but WTCAC also wanted to provide additional longer-termed options than the traditional summer internship. In 2020, WTCAC worked with the Tribal agriculture programs and WTCAC board members to develop an apprentice program for college-age students to gain even more on-the-job experiences. This newsletter's sidebars introduce you to four of this past year's apprentices and the experiences they gained from this opportunity. We also have one seasonal worker presently working assisting the Oneida nation with education and outreach about forest pests impacting the reservation. If you or anyone you know may be interested in one of these opportunities in the future, please reach out to WTCAC for more information.

The time has come to retire and focus my time and attention on family, especially my little grandsons. And maybe a little hunting and fishing. It's been a fantastic 20 plus years working with the professional Tribal staff and WTCAC Board of Directors.

I began working with Jean Buffalo in the early 1990's planning and designing the first Redcliff fish hatchery. This partnership created the aquaculture hatchery standards, design criteria, and cost scenarios, which we have implemented in constructing and funding five additional tribal hatcheries.

nicul standards and cost scenarios that have made the first in the nation Tribal EQIP Cookbook. The WTCAC Board, with the support of all eleven Tribal Nations in Wisconsin, has created an organization that is sought for advice and emulated throughout the United States.

I have no doubt the current WTCAC leadership and staff will take WTCAC to even more remarkable accomplishments. It's been my honor to be a member of the WTCAC team. Thank you for your support and friendship.

I wish you all the best in the future.

Our team has created numerous tech-

"It's been my honor to be a member of the WTCAC team. Thank you for your support and friendship" - Keith

Welcome Tina Van Zile as the New WTCAC President!



Boozhoo, Shounagishgok Indizhinkaaz, Bizhiw Indoodem, my name is Tina L. Van Zile, and I'm the newly elected President of the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC). This is a great honor, and it humbles me that my fellow Tribal colleagues have the confidence in me to lead our organization. I want to say Miigwech to Pat Pelky of the Oneida Nation for all his dedicated years of service to WTCAC. Over the years, I have learned a great deal from him, and I hope to lead in the same manner.

I am an enrolled member of the Sokaogon, Mole Lake Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and a descendant of the Forest County Potawatomi. Currently, I serve as Environmental Director for the Sokaogon, Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, and I have been with the department since 1994. I'm very passionate about our natural resources, and I will do my best to lead in a way that looks back at our ancestors who have sacrificed for us and manage in a way that thinks of our future generations.

Chi-Miigwech,

Tina L. Van Zile

CONSERVATION PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: - THE WTCAC & NRCS PARTNERSHIP BY CHRIS BORDEN



Trust Responsibilities

As an element of federal trust doctrine, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), as a federal agency, has fiduciary responsibilities to protect Tribal treaty rights, lands, assets, and resources. USDA Departmental Regulation 1350-02 all the USDA agencies "to engage with Tribal Nations in government-to-government consultation and coordination in policy development and program activities, thereby ensuring that tribal perspectives on the social, cultural, economic, and ecological aspects of agriculture, as well as tribal food and natural resource priorities and goals, are heard and fully considered in the decision-making processes of the Department and its agencies."

Tribal Commitment

The USDA is deeply appreciative of the eleven federally recognized Tribes' sustained commitment to devote staff resources to support the work of the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council. This commitment has led to significant progress in making USDA programs more meaningful on Tribal Lands. The Council makes it possible for seven USDA agencies to meet with WTCAC Board Members regularly so that Tribal priorities and goals can be heard and fully considered in USDA decision-making processes. The NRCS appreciates the Council's commitment to:

Providing information, analysis, and recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding criteria, recommended practices, and program payment percentages.

1. Identifying emerging natural resources concerns and program needs.
2. Recommending conservation practice standards and specifications.
3. Recommending state and national program policy based on resource data.
4. Assisting NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producer training needs.
5. Introducing USDA agency staff to Tribal partners like the IAC, GLIFWC, NAF&WS, and FNLI.

New Conservation Solutions

The expertise of the WTCAC members improves NRCS programs for Tribes and Tribal members. For example, over twenty-five conservation practices have been created or enhanced by Council members and staff. Recently, the forestry staff at the Stockbridge Munsee Community carried out a tree planting in the understory of a riparian black ash forest. The goal is to keep this area in a forested condition after the ash trees are lost to the emerald ash borer. Riparian forests help keep trout streams cool, which is increasingly important in light of climate change. The Stockbridge Munsee staff researched appropriate planting stock, browse protection, stocking rates, and planting methods. Staff provided data relevant to this demonstration to the WI NRCS staff. The NRCS staff subsequently developed a conservation practice scenario based on Stockbridge's data. Understory planting in riparian black ash is challenging. Thanks to the Stockbridge Munsee Community's work, there is a standard for others to follow and a financial incentive available in the NRCS EQIP program to offset the costs of planting non-ash species to keep these areas forested.

Chris Borden 12-9-20

LCO HATCHERY AP- PRENTICE— WILLIAM NEBEL III



This past Spring, I was offered an apprenticeship to work at my tribe's fish hatchery during the Spring through fall season of 2020. As you can expect, I accepted it immediately. By doing this, I would also learn some exciting factors about the life cycle of a fish, specifically walleye. I started near the end of April when the walleye eggs were almost ready to harvest. By the end of my apprenticeship, the importance of wildlife management was a lot clearer to me. The health of the lakes and surrounding ecosystems is vital in our everyday lives, even though not many people realize it. Taking care of nature has always been one of my lifetime hobbies, and now I know how to take it a step further. There has been no other summer like the one I had this year, and I thank this apprenticeship position for giving that to me. I'm not sure what the future will be like, but I know if I try hard enough, I can make it anything I want it to be. Thank you to everyone that made this happen.

**Image of William using a laser level during Tom Melnarik's demo at the Hatchery with LCO Fish Hatchery technician Joe Grover.*



*ONEIDA APPRENTICE
ELENA HILL*



When we were forced out of our dorms due to Covid-19, I was hesitant to return home. As a business major, I fully accepted that the next step was to find an internship with a big brand company. I needed to be back in the city within the epicenter of opportunity. As my semester ended and the summer grew closer, I searched for a job amid the pandemic. I knew how few job opportunities there were at the time, so my only requirement was to include an outdoor element. I was not searching for an entire life readjustment nor a passion, just a job.

My apprenticeship started with touring all the different aspects of the Oneida food system, beginning with Tsyunhéhkwa[^]. I learned about the two herds of beef cattle, the chicken processing unit, sunflower and white cornfields, chickens' flock, the greenhouse and hoop houses, and the community garden. I picked indigenous beans from the seed bank to reintroduce to the garden for the season. I compared the conventional cattle practices at Oneida Farm to the rotational pasture grazing at Tsyunhéhkwa[^] and learned the purposes each served for my community. The aquaponics system was especially intriguing. The system's potential outputs are incredible, and the role it already plays in our education and health system is even more so. I was also fortunate enough to meet the people who oversee the farmer's market, the cannery, and the market. This apprenticeship not only impacted my life but it also truly has changed the course of my future. This experience became a passion that I will explore and share throughout my life.

*EQIP PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT:
NEWEST ROUND OF WTCAC-SUPPORTED HATCHERIES
SHOW PROMISE - TOM MELNARJK*



Lac Du Flambeau Fish Hatchery

On September 25th, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Chippewas harvested one of their newly constructed ponds at the hatchery facility near New Post. While only a few thousand fall fingerlings were harvested, it was a successful day by all accounts. "If this initial run is any indication, the hatchery should produce millions of walleye for future generations, said Lac Courte Oreilles Environmental Specialist Brett McConnell. "The new way of harvesting the walleye using a collection kettle and gravity flow piping will save hours of work, and the extra capacity the new ponds provide will allow us to raise many more walleye each year."

Meanwhile, at the Red Cliff Chippewa Tribal Hatchery this fall, the staff completed the second season of production in their renovated ponds. According to Chase Meierotto, Division Administrator for Red Cliff Treaty Natural Resources, the Red Cliff ponds were also very successful. "Our first year of production was summer fingerlings, but this year we raised 8,742 fall fingerlings that went into the Eau Claire chain, a favorite among Tribal members for spring harvest," said Chase. "Chase also noted the Tribal partnering with the Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility and the Namakagan Lake Association, providing the demonstration facility with eggs that were hatched out and raised for stocking in the lake.

This success has been the experience of all the new Tribal hatcheries in the last ten years, starting with the St Croix hatchery in 2011; and the most recent renovations at Red Cliff and Lac Courte Oreilles. In the years between, Mole Lake and Lac Du Flambeau also built new facilities producing outstanding year classes ever since.

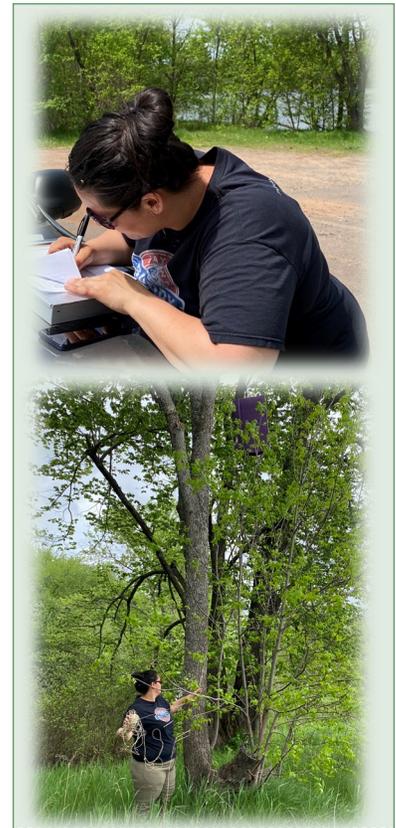
Each year, Tribal hatchery personnel determine their seasonal output by assessing local needs and their budget to raise fish. Walleye are stocked as fry, (newly hatched) summer fingerlings, or fall fingerlings. Recently, many of the Tribes have been raising some fish to fall fingerling size to give them a better chance of surviving once stocked.

While each new facility construction project drew from several funding sources besides in-kind dollars, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts were instrumental in seeing these projects through (See Agency Spotlight). Along with planning, design, and construction inspection assistance, NRCS provides cost-share for the installation of infrastructure. These funds have helped put many conservation projects on the land and have helped develop a strong working relationship with NRCS.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE INTERNSHIP: MY SUMMER PEST SURVEY EXPERIENCE BY JOEY BILLYBOY

This past summer, I had the opportunity to work with the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) as a Pest Surveyor. Applying the educational skills that I have learned at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College gave me a good understanding of how to perform the job. This opportunity was a great experience. I was able to explore new places as well as become aware of the various plant communities. By being a part of WTCAC, I got to make a difference in the world. I felt like I was the protector of the trees, to give them a voice, and to help them thrive again by educating people on how important it is to save our trees from Human Activity and Invasive Species that are having a significant impact on our environment.

The education & outreach component of this opportunity was an excellent experience for me too. I created awareness flyers for campers, encouraging them to buy local and burn local to stop invasive species' transportation. I made a scavenger hunt game for families to assist with oak wilt detection on tribal lands (found in the Fall 2020 WTCAC Newsletter). This work is vital because LCO is where my home is and has two confirmed cases in the area. Being a part of WTCAC gives me a chance to be a voice for the Native American community I belong to, provide information to the community, and collect the data for the issues we face on tribal lands.



“Ensuring a healthy future means investing in the generation who will carry that future” - Mal Fletcher

WTCAC/USDA PATHWAYS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

BY JERRY THOMPSON

WTCAC and the USDA APHIS Office of the National Tribal Liaison (ONTL) is developing a USDA Pathways Internship Training and Online Application program with the College of Menominee Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, and the UW Madison New Beginnings for Tribal Students initiative. The purpose is to get Tribal students educationally qualified to get into the NRCS, FSA, RMA, FS, RD, and APHIS internship positions and subsequently into full-time USDA jobs.

In October and November alone, the USDA Agencies advertised over 1,150 USDA Pathways Internship positions nationwide for the summer of 2021. In Wisconsin, there were fifteen NRCS positions advertised (twelve Soil Conservationist and three engineering positions), fifteen Forest Service positions

(five Admin & Office Support, five Engineering and Architecture and five Biological Science positions), one Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services position as well as various positions with the Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency.

Additional USDA Pathways Internship positions will tentatively be advertised starting in March 2021. These positions will only be advertised for five to fourteen days before closing, so any student interested in such internships need to have their USAJobs.gov profile established and resumes prepared ahead of time. For USDA Pathways assistance and more information about the various USDA positions, contact Jerry Thompson at jthompson@wtcac.org

Forest County Potawatomi's Agriculture Apprenticeship—Owen Shepard

My name is Owen Shepard, a member of the Forest County Potawatomi tribe. I currently attend Nicolet Technical College. I am undecided in the exact career, but I am confident I want a future in agriculture. I enjoy the outdoors. I love working with plants and animals.





2021 INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Are you a Wisconsin Native American Student looking for future natural resources and conservation career opportunities?

Opportunities available working with:

- USDA Forest Service Ottawa Visitor Center and Park Falls or Rhinelander Engineering
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Rhinelander, WI
- WSB Engineering & Planning Corporation
- Wisconsin Tribal Nations



Potential Housing Stipends Available plus flexible placement options

\$13.00 - \$15.50/hour

Resumé and USDA Pathways training and assistance

Networking and valuable career experience!

Accepting applications through February 15th, 2021

Interested candidates email cover letter of interest to hillkastern@wtcac.org

www.wtcac.org

Internships are ten to twelve weeks June through August

*Applicants need to be currently enrolled in a college program and in good academic standing (*Minimum 2.5 GPA*).

SAVE THE DATES WTCAC Forestry Committee 2021 Emerald Ash Borer Web Series



Weekly Headlines

1. January 21st - EAB 101 – *What is EAB and why should I care?*
2. January 28th - Regulations and Planning – *Regulation and deregulation, GLIFWC risk assessment, what this means for management in Wisconsin*
3. February 4th - Preparedness Planning – *Integrated management and climate adaptation strategies*
4. February 11th - Preparedness Silviculture – *Silviculture guidelines, underplantings, financial and technical assistance*
5. February 18th - Infestation! Now What? – *Silviculture techniques and biocontrol*
6. February 25th - Working Together to Preserve History

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation
Advisory Council – Forestry
Committee

*Virtual Emerald Ash Borer
Web Series*

When: January 21st to
February 25th Thursdays 1-3
PM

Tentative Speakers from
**Tribal Foresters, GLIFWC, US
Forest Service, APHIS PPQ,
WDNR, and many more**

How to Register: [Click Here](#)

Or contact LHillKastern@wtcac.org for
more information.

FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI AGRICULTURE APPRENTICE—
HOLLY DANIELS



My name is Holly Daniels, and I am 23 years old bullhead clan and a first-generation descendent of the Forest County Potawatomi tribe. I carry my paternal great-great grandmother's name, abteghishok, meaning Half Day or Half Sky Woman. To date, I have an Associate Degree in Human Services, a Bachelor's Degree in First Nations Studies, and ongoing coursework and training in the field of traditional birth work. The Potawatomi culture, language, and way of life are at the forefront of my many passions. Connection to and relationship with the land is equally important, and I have recently begun my journey in seed keeping and growing and harvesting food. My goal is to learn as much as I can about all of these aspects to pass these teachings down to the next seven generations, beginning with my ten nieces and nephews.



**Image to the right is of a Forest County Potawatomi stream crossing project.*

NEW TOOL FOR TAKING INVENTORY OF ROAD-STREAM CROSSINGS ON TRIBAL LANDS

By: [Jonathan Pruitt](#)

Driving over a road with a culvert passing a stream isn't something that typically invites much thought. For those who make their living as engineers, biologists, or hydrologists, these points in the environment where waterways and roadways intersect offer the opportunity to ponder many essential questions. How is the road affecting the flow of water, both upstream and downstream? Is the culvert designed well enough or in good repair sufficient to prevent the road from being washed out during a flood event? How difficult does this culvert make it for fish and other aquatic animals to move between stream reaches?

A person can find these answers utilizing the Great Lakes Stream Crossing Inventory (GLSCI). Developed in collaboration between the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Forest Service (USFS), the Michigan and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources (DNR), and Trout Unlimited (TU), the most recent iteration of the GLSCI is an excellent tool to gather and analyze field data to evaluate the quality of a stream crossing from both an engineering and environmental standpoint.

The GLSCI is designed for a two-person team to quickly and easily measure and record information about a stream crossing. Measurements are recorded with a GPS enabled app called Survey123. After downloading the app onto a phone or tablet, Survey123 records and even calculates field measurements from multiple sites, with recordings and

calculations linked to their GPS coordinates.

Once all relevant data is recorded, the app automatically calculates a score for the stream crossing reflecting its prioritization status for replacement across three criteria: risk of failure, consequences of failure, and current impacts. The higher the given score, the higher the need to replace the culvert. Knowing the location and condition of stream crossings throughout a given area could be incredibly useful to tribal nations. "It is helping road managers get the biggest bang for their buck with their limited road maintenance funds," says Chris Ester, a US Forest Service Hydrologist who helped design the GLSCI. "It's helping resource managers find which crossings are impacting resources like water quality or fish habitat connectivity, which helps them apply for grants and leverage cost-share programs for stream crossing replacement. It's helping emergency management staff know which crossings are at the highest risk of failure."

There's a lot to be gained from the information collected and analyzed using the GLSCI. Knowing where and when to best allocate resources for replacing ineffective culverts will benefit the roads' structural integrity and the ecological health of streams within tribal reservations. WTCAC plans to coordinate with the USFS to host more field training sessions on using the GLSCI in 2021. Hopefully, as more tribal natural resources staff become familiar with the survey, a case can be made for utilizing the GLSCI throughout Wisconsin's Indian Country.



Trees For Tomorrow Outreach by Tom Melnarik



On August 4th, Tom Melnarik from the WTCAC Conservation Collaboration Team out of Rhinelander was a trainer for high school age students at Trees for Tomorrow; a natural resources training facility near Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Each year, students interested in natural resources as a career choice, attend this workshop for a week. The majority are from Wisconsin, a few from neighboring states. During that week, students are introduced to a variety of natural resources professionals

and are offered hands-on training; to get a feel for what it is they do.

Tom took the time to show the students a little about surveying techniques and put them through a field exercise regarding pacing. "My goal is not to inundate them with too much technical knowledge as it is to make them more aware of their surroundings," said Tom. "The brief survey training helps them understand elevation differences on the landscape and what that might mean for designing conservation practices; while the pacing exercise helps put lineal distance in perspective."

Another group of NRCS soil scientists, just down the way, demonstrated how to dig a soil test pit, examining soil characteristics and explaining what that means for soil fertility and engineering.

Along with the hands-on training, the students were taught about what WTCAC is; about the federally recognized Tribes within the state, and the job opportunities available within Tribal government. Most were not aware of the large role Tribes play in maintaining our states' natural resources.



Oneida Forest Pest Education and Outreach Intern—Elyza Jordan

Recap of 2020 and Plans for 2021 – Pest Survey and Seasonal Workers by: Lacey Hill Kastern

This past summer was the first year of survey efforts for the Tribal Pest Survey program. We had a goal of deploying seventy purple prism traps for emerald ash borer, twenty-one multi funnel traps for Oak Ambrosia Beetle, twenty-one traps for European hardwood ambrosia beetle, and on-site visual inspections for Japanese oak wilt on twenty-one sites. We also had planned to hire six seasonal workers that would assist with the survey efforts and education and outreach. Then along came the COVID-19 Pandemic that has rippled through everyone's lives in 2020. We were unable to fill all of the positions, tribal offices were shut down, staff furloughed, warehouses shut down, etc. We redesigned the seasonal worker program to allow for remote and socially distanced work. We were unable to survey for the European Hardwood Ambrosia Beetle and had a late start to the survey season due to supply shipment delays. We were still able to deploy twenty-seven multi

funnel traps and seventy-one purple prism traps and complete ninety-seven on-site visual inspections, exceeding our goal. We submitted one-hundred-thirty-one samples for identification.

We plan to continue these survey efforts in 2021 and add milk carton traps to survey for Asian defoliators. WTCAC will be hiring four seasonal workers (announcement in this newsletter) to assist with the survey and education and outreach efforts associated with these efforts. For more information, please contact Lacey Hill Kastern at lhillkastern@wtcac.org.



Greetings!

My name is Elyza Jordan, and I am the WTCAC/Oneida Tribal Pest Intern for the fall of 2020. I currently attend the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as an undergraduate majoring in Environmental Science. I am very passionate about the environment and spend most of my days participating in outdoor activities. During this internship, I hope to provide more outreach regarding invasive pests that affect our community. I am very excited to be a part of this team and look forward to meeting all of you!

APHIS Deregulating Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

On December 14th, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) had a press release announcing that the Agency plans to publish a final rule removing the domestic quarantine regulations on EAB. APHIS indicated that the domestic quarantine protocols in place have not been effective in stopping the spread. Eliminating the regulations would end APHIS activities, including issuing permits, certificates, and compliance agreements, making site visits, and conducting investigations of suspected violations. The final rule and the response to the comments we received will publish in the Federal Register on December 15th, 2020, and the rule will be effective on January 14th, 2021. Documents may be viewed online at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=APHIS-2017-0056> upon publication. APHIS is working with the National Plant Board on effective strategies to manage firewood movement, which is one way the EAB spreads. APHIS's goal is still to maintain ash in the North American landscape. APHIS National Policy Manager, Herb Bolton, will present what all of this means during the WTCAC EAB Web Series on January 28th, 2021.



Wisconsin Tribal Conservation
Advisory Council (WTCAC)
Jeff Mears, Executive Director
607 Green Bay Ave
Oconto Falls, WI 54154-1564

Phone: 920-639-7457
E-mail: jmears@WTCAC.org



THE WTCAC COMMITTEES BY LACEY HILL KASTER

WTCAC currently has six standing technical committees: Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Invasive Species, Wetlands, and Wildlife. Fisheries and Forestry are the longest standing committees, followed by Wetlands, and Agriculture. Invasive Species and Wildlife are new committees. Each committee has a chair, and some have a co-chair. The committee consists of technical staff from all of the federally recognized Tribes in Wisconsin. These committees are designed to create a forum for sharing information, networking, and consolidation of knowledge. Historically they held quarterly meetings and often had in-person training associated with them. During the Pandemic, some committees have been taking the opportunity to meet monthly.

The forestry committee has had a planning committee that meets monthly to plan a web series about the Emerald Ash Borer (see Save the Date in this issue). This web series is intended for tribal technical staff but is open for all to attend (at least until we hit our attendance limit). Each session will be recorded, and recording links will be posted on the WTCAC Facebook page when available. If you are interested in learning more about these committees or the upcoming web series, please contact Lacey at lhillkastern@wtcac.org.



Photo from 2018 Forestry Committee meeting learning about habitat typing from John Kotar.



Photo of LCO Harvest Crew on September 25th.