



BAY MILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY

BIOLOGICAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

ISSUE 15



Photo by US Coast Guard, June 9 2022

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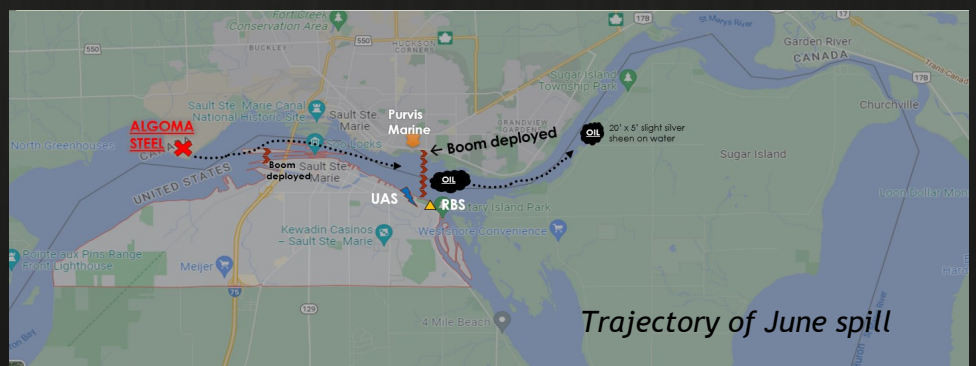
News: June 9th Oil Spill at Algoma Steel

The US Coast Guard and Canadian agencies responded to an oil spill that originated from Algoma Steel in Sault Sainte Marie, Ontario on June 9, 2022. Initial reports stated 5,000 gallons of gear oil was released. However, final numbers estimate that closer to 300 gallons reached the St. Mary's River. The oil spill caused a sheen that spread from Algoma Steel to the channel north of Sugar Island. Within three days the oil had dissolved or dispersed to the point that it was no longer visible.

Algoma Steel has hired 3rd party contractors to conduct an analysis of what caused the spill, determine and install additional preventative systems, improve training and response to spills and continued monitoring.

Anyone with information or reports of oil sheens or oiled wildlife can contact the Coast Guard Sector Sault Sainte Marie at (906) 635-3233 or the National Response Center at 800-424-8802.

**For questions about fishing/
hunting licenses, current
regulations, or if you wish to
report poaching, please
contact Conservation
Officers at 906-248-8640.**



COMMUNITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Miigwetch to our partners!



SUPERIOR WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP: Great Lakes Climate Corps

Big shout out and chi-miigwetch to our partner, the Superior Watershed Partnership and their Great Lakes Climate Corps who contributed their time and resources to help complete lots of great work for Bay Mills. The Great Lakes Climate Corps (GLCC) focused on the Spectacle Lake Recreation Area, the Gumshoes Recreation Area, the Spirit Stone Trail, and other parks. Together with Bay Mills Biological Services Department, the GLCC was able to trim up trails, removed sunken docks and boats, pick up trash and debris, plant hundreds of trees, cut new trail segments, and place new boardwalk to gently access a wetland site without damaging the ecosystem. They have also assisted with a special electric/gas energy audit study of government buildings and a waste audit for Bay Mills Resort and Casino; part of a larger effort to increase energy efficiency and lighten our ecological footprint.



Photos by Biological Services and Great Lakes Climate Corps



MICHIGAN UNITED CONSERVATION CLUBS

Big shout out and chi-miigwetch to our partner, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs who contributed their time and resources to help complete lots of great work for Bay Mills.

Over the past few years, even through a pandemic, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) worked with Bay Mills Biological Services Department to coordinate multiple clean-up events focused on Bay Mills' streams and wetlands. Each event took many months of planning. Together, with the help of dozens of motivated, local volunteers over 7000 lbs of garbage has collectively been removed.

Contact Biological Services for more information on future volunteer clean-up events.

VOLUNTEERS CLEANUP BAY MILLS' WETLANDS

On August 6, 2022, thirty-five people came together to clean up dump sites in Bay Mills' wetlands. Old furniture, stoves, broken glass and other debris filled a large dumpster. In just two hours, 2000 pounds of trash was removed and properly disposed of. The event was organized in partnership between Michigan United Conservation Clubs, LSSU's Center for Freshwater Research & Education and Bay Mills Biological Services department. Chi-Miigwetch to the volunteers who came out on a hot, humid day to clean up Bay Mills lands!

35 Volunteers

22 Acres cleaned

2000 lbs of trash removed

Photos by Biological Services and Michigan United Conservation Club



GET TO KNOW A WETLAND: FUDD'S MARSH WETLAND PRESERVE

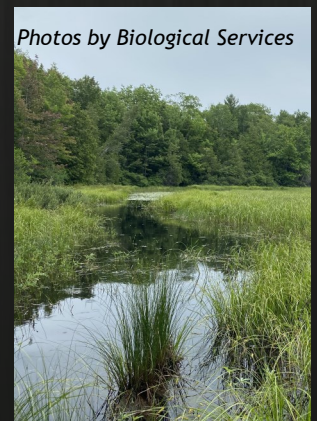
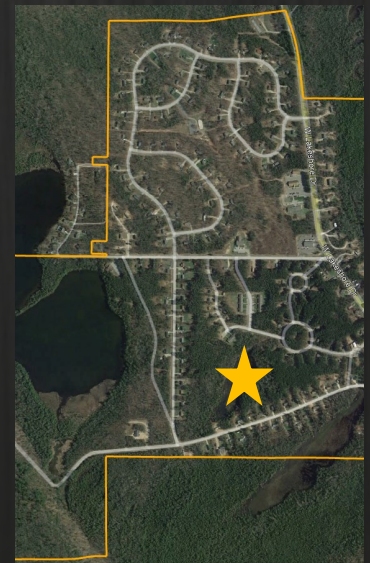
THE BIOLOGY CREW INVENTORIES BAY MILLS WETLANDS

Throughout the summers of 2019 - 2022 Bay Mills Indian Community Biological Services has been taking inventory of the natural community present in local wetlands on reservation land. Thirty-six (36) sites have been surveyed to gather baseline information on the natural condition of the wetlands and to monitor them for changes due to climate change and/or pollution. Well-known wetlands at Bay Mills include Spectacle Lake bog, South Pond, the Wetland Preserve, Long Marsh, North Pond, and Fudd's Marsh. In the spring of 2022, Bay Mills Executive Council designated Fudd's Marsh as a protected wetland.

Fudd's Marsh was surveyed for water quality, plants, and aquatic macroinvertebrates each summer. Fudd's Marsh is nestled within the middle of Jingwak Odén (Red Pine Village). White cedar, paper birch, red oak, and Michigan holly surround the marsh. The open-water portion is filled with emerging three-way sedge, leatherleaf, and floating white water lily. The abundant dragonfly and damselfly presence provides balance in the ecosystem by preying on the macroinvertebrate community, while being hunted by bitterns and waterfowl. Beavers leave trails through the water and on land as they build their lodges. The table below includes many, though not all, of the species found in Fudd's Marsh.

For more information about this project, contact Brian Wesolek bwesolek@baymills.org

Plant Species	Animal Species	Macroinvertebrates
Blue-flag iris	American bittern	Backswimmer
Common bladderwort	Beaver	Caddisfly
Eastern white cedar	Green frog	Clam shrimp
Leatherleaf	Great blue heron	Damselfly
Marsh cinquefoil	Eastern newt	Dragonfly
Paper birch	Raccoon	Fingernail clam
Three-way sedge	Salamander	Phantom midge
Water parsnip	Snapping turtle	Predaceous diving beetle
White water lily	Waterfowl	Water scorpion
Wire sedge		



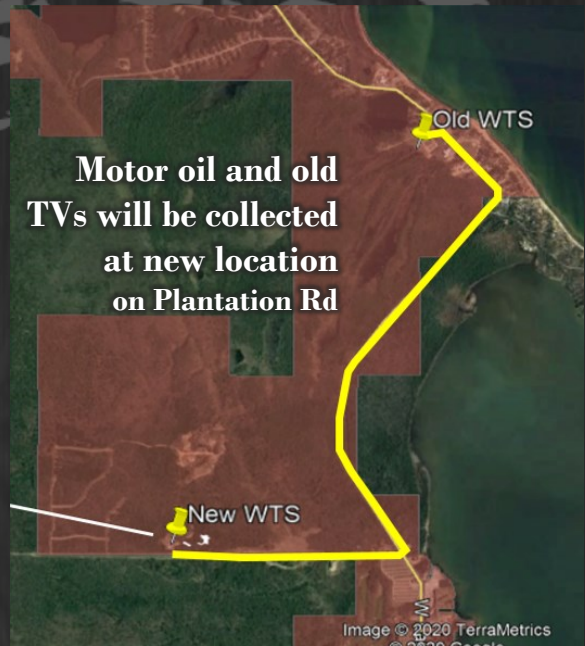
Photos by Biological Services

SPECIAL SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING EVENTS

The Waste Transfer Station, recycling trailers, and trash compactor are located on Plantation Rd. The following waste disposal services are offered:

- ◇ Trash disposal
- ◇ Recycling (paper, cans, plastics, glass, cardboard)
- ◇ Old TVs & electronic waste
- ◇ Old tires (summer-Oct 15)
- ◇ Household hazardous waste, batteries, waste oil collection occur on designated days during clean up weeks. (special event)

Information may also be found on the website, <http://www.baymills.org/solid-waste-management-1>



ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION NOW AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND

Electronic waste is one of the fastest growing waste streams on the planet and includes many harmful elements that can end up in our soil, water and air. The Maintenance Department is now collecting electronic waste all year long. Please drop off items Tuesday through Friday, 10am–4pm at the new waste transfer station location at 5414 S Nbiish Road, Brimley MI (top of Plantation hill, near the water tower). This service is free to Tribal members with a Tribal ID shown at the time of drop off.

	<p>Acceptable Items</p> <p>Cables & Cords Camera Cell phones Clocks Coffee Makers Printers Desktop & Laptop Computers</p> <p>DVD Players Monitors TV's Microwaves Radios Stereos Toasters Gaming Consoles</p> <p><i>Batteries must be removed from devices and placed in separate receptacle.</i></p>	<p>Not Accepted</p> <p>Large Appliances/ White Goods Ink Cartridges Liquids Medical Equipment Vape Pens Gas Cylinders</p>	

INLAND WILDLIFE PROGRAM UPDATE: Amphibian and Small Mammal

Trapping

Learning About the Health of Our Ecosystem

In an effort to better understand the health of our lands, the BMC Biological Services staff have begun a study on amphibians and small mammals. The animals are humanely captured, marked, released, and sometimes recaptured. Small animals such as these are very sensitive to small changes in the air and water. This means that they can be an early warning system (the “canary in the coal mine”) of negative impacts taking place.

To do this, Biological Services staff have been trapping at various locations around the BMC lands beginning last year. Animals are ear tagged and released after several measurements are taken. Species captured in the survey are listed in the table below.

For more information on the project, contact Gael Sanchez (gsanchez@baymills.org).



White footed mouse



Northern flying squirrels

	
Amphibian Species	Small Mammal Species
Fowler’s Toad	White-Footed Mice
Wood Frog	Deer Mice
Eastern American Toad	Meadow Jumping Mice
Northern Leopard Frog	Eastern Meadow Vole
Blue-spotted Salamander	Common Shrew
Spotted Salamander	Water Shrew
	Northern Flying Squirrel
	Red Squirrel
	Eastern Chipmunk



Blue-spotted salamanders



Northern leopard frogs



Eastern American toads

Photos courtesy of >>>>>>>>>

Bird Flu in Michigan

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Avian influenza (bird flu) is caused by an influenza type A virus which can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and wild birds (especially waterfowl). Bird flu can spread through direct contact with nasal or respiratory secretions, contamination of food or water, direct contact with infected bird feces, or contact with contaminated equipment. Symptoms in birds include sudden death, coughing or sneezing, swelling around the head or neck, decrease in egg production, misshapen eggs, or purple discoloration of the legs, comb, or wattle.

And it's not just for birds! Bird flu has even caused illness in wildlife such as red foxes, skunks, and raccoons. Bird flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with bird flu viruses have occurred. Human infections with bird flu viruses have occurred most often after unprotected contact with infected birds or surfaces contaminated with bird flu viruses.

Symptoms in wild animals should be reported to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Rachel Pierce

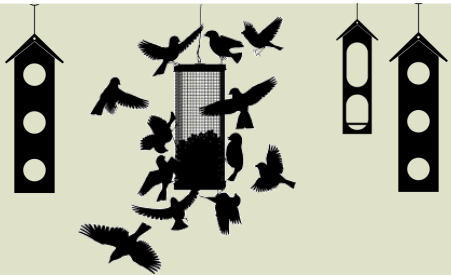
Rachael_Pierce@fws.gov

(517) 351-5219

Symptoms of Sick Birds

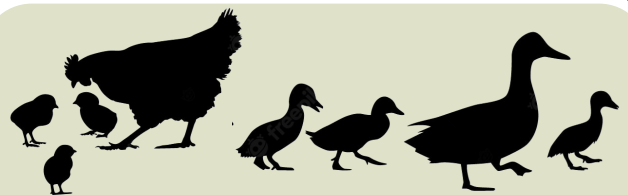
- Loss of appetite and coordination
- Swelling around the eyelids
- Purple discoloration on various body parts
- Sudden death

What can you do to prevent bird flu?



Bird Feeder Hygiene

- ◇ Wash bird feeders weekly with hot soapy water or bleach solution.
- ◇ Rinse thoroughly and let dry.
- ◇ Clean ground below feeders including any bird baths nearby.



Captive Bird Safety

- ◇ Keep captive birds away from wild birds and their droppings.
- ◇ User bird proof cage or enclosure with a solid roof.
- ◇ Quarantine new birds away from existing one for 21 days to monitor for signs of illness.

STAFF CHANGES in BIOLOGICAL SERVICES

James is from West Bloomfield, MI in the lower peninsula. James graduated from LSSU with a Bachelor's degree in Conservation Biology. This summer he is assisting the inland fisheries and wildlife program with small mammal surveys.

Cameron is from Buffalo, NY. He recently graduated from LSSU with a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management. Eventually Cameron hopes to pursue a career in wildlife management and habitat restoration. This summer he is assisting the inland fisheries and wildlife program.

Cyle is from Sault Ste Marie. He is considering a career in natural resources. This summer he is providing outreach at the BMIC boat washing station. Cyle also is surveying aquatic life and monitoring water quality in local streams.

Charlotte is from Clinton township in the lower peninsula. Charlotte graduated from LSSU with a Bachelor's degree in Conservation Biology. This summer she is inventorying aquatic life in the wetlands and monitoring water quality in local streams.

Carmen is from Sandusky, MI. She is currently a senior at LSSU studying Environmental Science. She intends to pursuing a career in public environmental health. This summer Carmen is providing outreach at the BMIC boat washing station. She is also working on a special energy efficiency study of government buildings.



From left to right: James, Cameron, Cyle, Charlotte, Carmen



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