

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS): HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND

Submitted by Bill Borgeld, District Conservationist from NRCS Petoskey

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles introducing LTBB Tribal Citizens to the Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS) and the programs it offers. In the first article that appeared in the May issue of Odawa Trails, you were introduced to NRCS. In this second article, you are introduced to three of the programs NRCS offers.

These programs are all included in a five-year Farmbill.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): In this program, the land must be considered agricultural. This includes private, non-industrial forestland. A minimum one-year contract and up to 10 years is possible. *There is a long list of eligible practices including Animal Waste Storage Systems, Agricultural Handling Facilities, Erosion Control Practices, Windbreaks, Prescribed Grazing Systems, Closure of Waste Impoundments, Livestock Stream Crossings, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Well Decommissioning* and many others. Cost-share is provided at the rate of 50%, and limited resource and beginning farmers receive a rate 15% higher. To be eligible, there must be a resource concern identified and possible other criteria. Under the new 2008 Farmbill, there may be some funding for developing forest stew-



ardship plans and fish and wildlife habitat plans.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP): Nearly all private land is eligible, and the landowner must agree to a five to 10-year contract. Approximately 75% of the cost to install the practices is cost-shared (paid by NRCS). This program has the main focus of developing and improving critical wildlife habitats using native plant species. There are several practices which can be included in a contract such as *Wildlife Corridor Development, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Native Grass Seedings, Streambank Habitat Restoration* and others including addressing invasive species.

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP): This program focuses on creating buffers such as *filter strips, field windbreaks and riparian corridors*. The land must meet the cropping criteria or contain marginal pastureland in order to meet eligibility requirements. There are cost-share incentives as well as an annual rental payment made to the participant who must install and maintain these practices.

NRCS Contact Information
NRCS Petoskey 231-347-5255 or www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov (Michigan website)

Emmet Conservation District 231-439-8996, 231-439-8977 or www.emmetcd.org

Charlevoix Conservation District 231-582-6193 or www.charlevoixcounty.org

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Courtesy graphic.

NORTHERN SHORES LOAN FUND, INC. HOSTS ITS FIRST ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION ON APRIL 18, 2009

Submitted by Lisa McComb, Northern Shores Loan Fund, Inc. Executive Director

Northern Shores Loan Fund, Inc.'s (NSLF) First Annual Founder's Day Celebration held on April 18, 2009 was a huge success recognizing all those individuals who contributed in some way, shape or form to the success of NSLF's first year of operation.

The event included festivities showcasing NSLF's mission, services and client funding success stories.

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) officials, staff as well as volunteers, NSLF Board and Committee members and NSLF staff came together at the LTBB Gov-

ernmental Center in Harbor Springs, MI, to highlight the milestones in the eight-year journey since the idea to develop a community development financial institution was explored.

The event drew interest from tribal and local entrepreneurs who attended seeking information about the technical and funding opportunities available to them through Northern Shores Loan Fund, Inc.

Overall, the success of the event was a testament to the need for Northern Shores Loan Fund, Inc.'s services, and recognition Northern Shores Loan Fund, Inc. is having a positive impact in the livelihood of local businesses throughout northern Michigan.

ODAWA CASINO RESORT EXECUTIVES VISIT LTBB ELDERS

Odawa Trails staff report

On May 7 at the Elders Luncheon held at the LTBB Governmental Center in Harbor Springs, MI, Odawa Casino Resort General Manager Sean Barnard and several casino executives visited and ate lunch with the elders.

Barnard gave a brief first quarter report, spoke about things to look for in the near future and answered questions.

Pictured from left to right in the back row are Director of Hospitality Mike Bodjiak, Director of Finance Scott Cannaday, Director of Table Games Susan Foster and Director of



Player Development Mark Aiello. Pictured from left to right in the front row are General Manager Sean Barnard, Director of Human Resources Denise White, Director of Marketing Phil Gonzales and Director of Property Operations Barry Laughlin.

Photo by Communications Coordinator Annette VanDeCar.

MTIGWAAB MIINWA BGWAAK, THE LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS ARCHERY CLUB, ESTABLISHED TO INTRODUCE AND RE-INTRODUCE ARCHERY TO LTBB TRIBAL COMMUNITY

Submitted by Roger Willis, LTBB Conservation Officer

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Archery Club, Mtigwaab Miinwa Bgwaak, held another shoot on April 30, 2009.

The club was established to introduce and re-introduce archery to tribal citizens and the tribal community.

The club has purchased recurve bows, compound bows and a long bow along with targets, arrows and safety gear for members, both young and old, to use.

The club is currently gearing up to get members ready for the 22nd Annual Michigan Indian Family Olympics (MIFO) to be held July 24, 2009 in Mt. Pleasant, MI. Archery first appeared as an event at MIFO

last year.

We will also be offering an archery hunting class for those who want to pick up the old stick and



string and head into the woods this fall and try and harvest a deer and/or a turkey. The class announcement will be posted at the LTBB Governmental Center in Harbor Springs, MI, well

prior to the start date.

This past shoot, Youth Services Coordinator Joe Lucier brought approximately 15 tribal youth down to the LTBB Pow Wow grounds to work with the club. The kids seemed to be very interested in archery and had a great time shooting. We received a lot of good feedback and are looking forward to doing another shoot soon.

The club has been and still is working closely with the LTBB Natural Resource Department along with the LTBB Health Department to try and get people outside to enjoy the out of doors.

If you want to join the club, please feel free to contact LTBB Conservation Officer Roger Willis at 231-242-1674.

The photo appears courtesy of Theresa Keshick.



DAY CARE ASSISTANCE

Applications for the 2008-2009 Day Care Assistance Program are now available.

If you live in Emmet, Charlevoix, or Cheboygan County and would like more information, please stop in at Human Services, 915 Emmet Street, Petoskey, MI, or call 231-242-1620 for an application. You may also call 1-866-652-5822 and ask for Human Services.

This is an income based program.



Available Scholarships

The Michigan Indian Elders Association is offering higher education scholarships. Students can find the application online at: <http://www.michiganindianelders.org/MIEA%20students.htm>.

The deadline to submit this application to the MIEA Scholarship Committee is June 22, 2009.



For more information, please call: Melissa Colby at 231-242-1492 or Alice Liebgott at 231-526-2219.

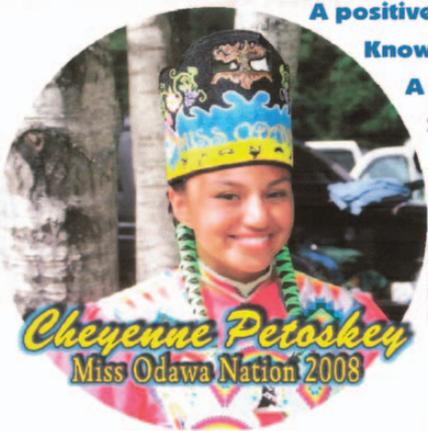
Live the Legacy...

2009 Miss Odawa Nation Contest

Since 1939, a crown has been worn by young Odawa women who demonstrate the finest qualities.

To be considered for this high honor, you must be...

- Between the ages of 13 and 20.
- A positive role model for all youth.
- Knowledgeable in Odawa culture.
- A young lady with Odawa lineage.
- Single with no dependents.
- A confident public speaker.
- A powwow dancer.



Held at the
Odawa Homecoming Pow Wow
Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009

Application materials available on-line at: www.ltbbodawa-nsn.gov (click Announcements) or contact Winnay Wemigwase at 231-242-1453.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS PROGRAM

The Grants and Donations Program has implemented a new application process. Small grants are available for tribal citizens and tribal community groups for events. Donations are available for native or non-native organizations. The deadline for submitting an application is August 31, 2009. If you would like an application, please contact Melissa Wiatrolik at 231-242-1420.