



## A celebration of recreation trails and historic preservation on the Chequamegon-Nicolet NF

*A trailside kiosk tells the story of 4,000 years of Native American settlement and history at this scenic area.*



Contributed by Mark Bruhy, Chequamegon-Nicolet NF

Top Photo: A view of Hidden Lakes Trail

Bottom Photo: Interpretive team members, from left, Rainey Kreis, giwe Martin, and Theresa Ford



The Butternut-Franklin lakes area, located east of Eagle River in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, is distinguished by its scenic beauty and ecological diversity. Increasingly, hikers have been drawn to the area and to accommodate access, the Hidden Lakes Trail was developed in the 1990's. The 13 mile trail encircles the Butternut-Franklin lakes area and passes through numerous scenic vistas. Though largely unknown to trail users, it also crosses through or nearby 20 archaeological sites that represent a 4,000 year continuum of Native American settlement and history.

A concentration of inter-related and undisturbed archaeological resources of this nature is rare, and consequently, its importance was recently recognized through designation as the Butternut-Franklin Lakes Area National Register of Historic Places Archaeological District. The numerous investigations that led to this designation were conducted over a 30 year period and a variety of partners participated. They include Nicolet College, Northland College, Beloit College, Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center, University of Wisconsin-

Waukesha, Butternut-Franklin Lakes Foundation, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, and the Wisconsin Historical Society. Further, hundreds of individuals were recruited to participate in these investigations through the Forest Service's Passport in Time volunteer program.

While the success of the archaeological research was based on collaboration, so too was the Hidden Lakes Trail born of a broad spectrum of partnerships. Those who helped build the trail include Wheaton College's Honey Rock Camp, who provided student labor in trail construction. Inmates from McNaughton Correctional Center, assigned to community service projects, were important contributors. The Wisconsin Conservation Corps also lent a hand as did members of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club. Today volunteers from the Butternut-Franklin lakes area continue to help maintain the trail.

With the trail established and well-used, and the District's historic significance affirmed, there was an obvious need to bring the remarkable story of Native settlement to the attention of trail users. To do so the Forest Service turned to yet another partner, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP), for help with the development of interpretative media. UWSP Department of Environmental Education and Interpretation faculty enthusiastically accepted our request for help and handed the task to two graduate students. To ensure the Native perspective was accurately and respectfully reflected in the interpretive media, the Forest Service approached Ms. giiwegiizhigookway Martin, Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and she graciously agreed to serve as project consultant.

With Ms. Martin's advice and suggestions, students Theresa Ford and Rainey Kreis completed an interpretive plan in 2007. And, with funding provided by the Butternut-Franklin Lakes Foundation and the Eastern National Forest Interpretive Association, three interpretive panels were recently fabricated and have been placed in a trailside kiosk. Trail users will continue to enjoy the scenic beauty of this remarkable area, and they will now also better understand how Native peoples call this area their home for thousands of years.




To celebrate the popularity of the trail as well as the establishment of the National Register District, a ceremony and celebration is scheduled to take place on June 7th, National Trails Day. It will be hosted by the Butternut-Franklin Lake Foundation and the Forest Service.

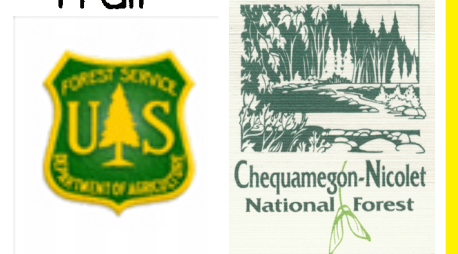
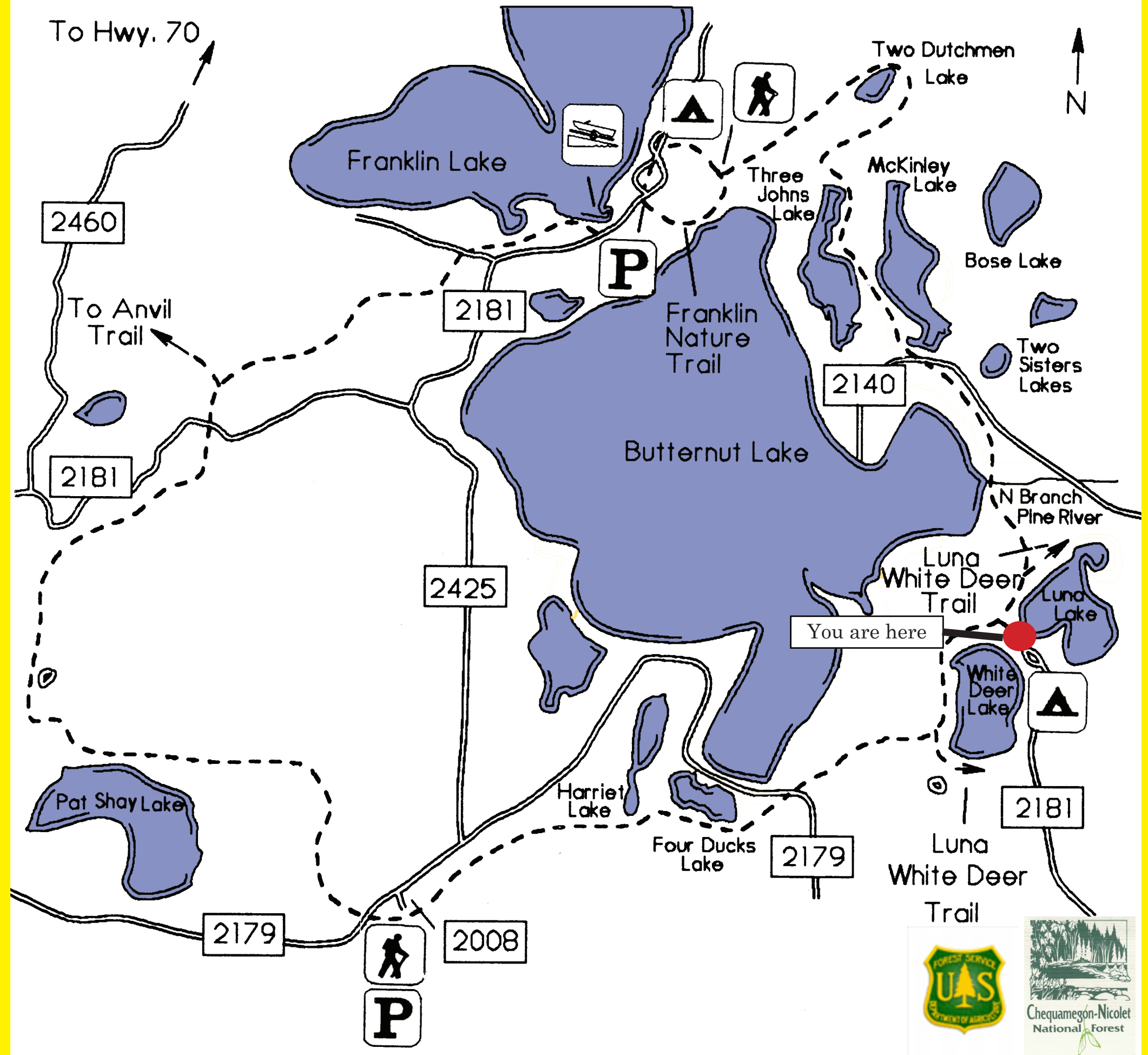
# Hidden Lakes Trail

Trail Length: Approximately 13 miles

Difficulty: Moderate, mostly level, some rolling terrain, one bridge crossing

## Legend

- |   |           |   |         |
|---|-----------|---|---------|
|  | Trail     |  | Road    |
|  | Parking   |  | Hiking  |
|  | Boat Ramp |  | Camping |



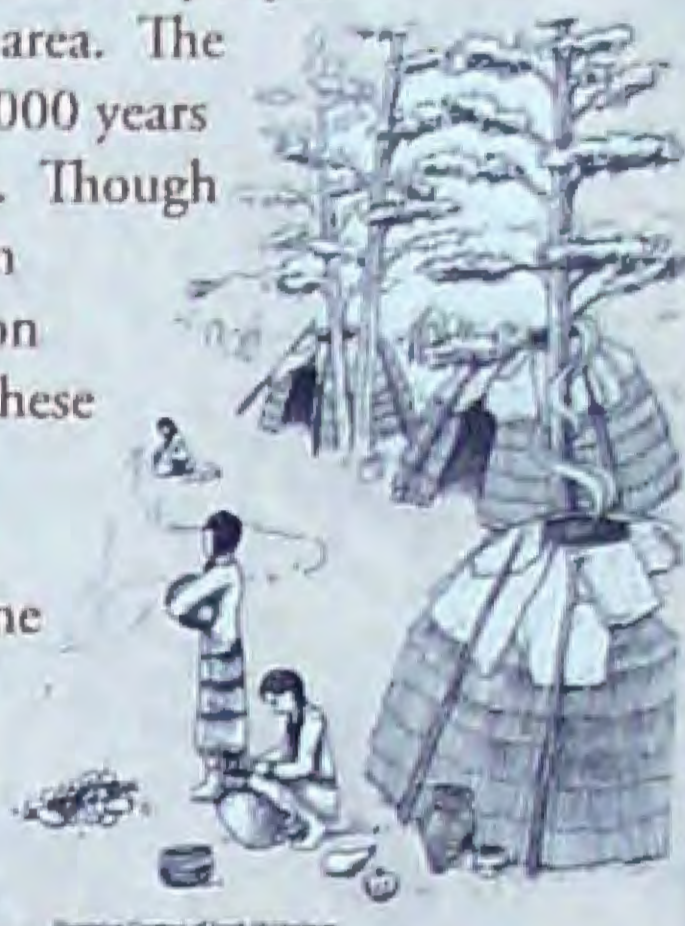
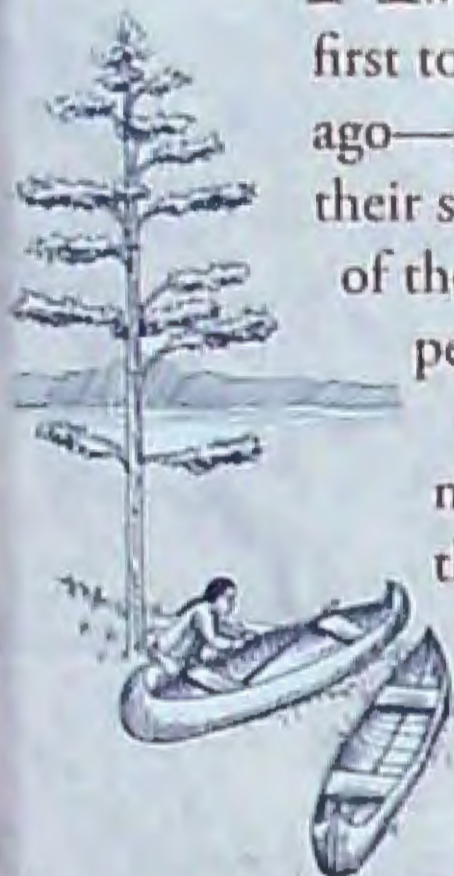




# HIDDEN LAKES HIDDEN LIVES

## A Trail to the Past

As you travel the Hidden Lakes Trail, you walk in the footprints of people who lived on this land long before Europeans entered the area. The first to occupy this area took up permanent residence about 4,000 years ago—archaeologists refer to them as Archaic Tradition peoples. Though their story is still imperfectly understood, much more is known of their descendants who are referred to as Woodland Tradition peoples. The settlements of Woodland Indians surround these lakes, some dating as early as 2,000 years ago. Though much has been learned through scientific investigations, the artifacts they left behind tell an incomplete story. Time has caused much of what was used and valued by these people to decompose and return to the earth. Their descendants, however, have carried on many of their traditions, and archaeologists attempt to provide additional details to this ancient story.



### Enjoy But Don't Destroy

The archaeological sites of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest are laboratories for the study of 10,000 years of human history. The knowledge it can yield belongs to us all.

Image Courtesy of USDA Forest Service

#### Don't be a Thief of the Past....

The remains of prehistoric and historic cultures are part of our heritage. When artifacts are stolen and archaeological sites are destroyed, we lose important clues about the past, forever. Strict laws protect artifacts and sites on state, federal and Indian lands.

#### Be a Steward of the Past...

- Treat remains of past cultures with respect.
- Tread lightly when visiting heritage sites.
- Leave artifacts where you find them and report them to the forest archaeologist.
- Help preserve the past by volunteering your time and talents.



Written and designed by UW-Stevens Point students in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Historic Preservation Office.



Butternut-Franklin Lakes Foundation, Inc.





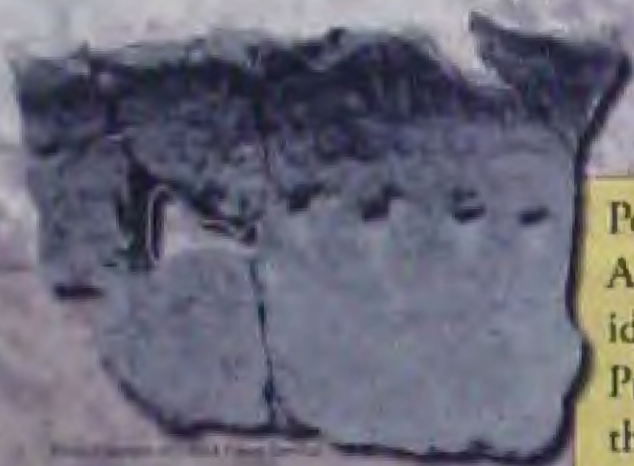
# HIDDEN LAKES HIDDEN LIVES

## A History Written in the Ground



Photo Courtesy of USGS Forest Service

Archaeologists have been investigating the Butternut-Franklin Lakes area for more than 30 years. Under the direction of professional archaeologists, students and volunteers have discovered the location of numerous Woodland camps and villages throughout the area. While the earliest dates to the first century B.C., the most recent settlements were occupied as late as the 17th century A.D. Remnant domestic features include house floors, storage pits, earthen ovens and other food preparation areas. Artifacts include stone tools, earthenware pottery, plant and animal remains. Every piece of information, from stone chips to fruit seeds, provides a clearer picture of who Woodland people were and how they lived. Mysteries, however, remain. For example, conspicuously absent from the most recent of these sites are European trade goods.



Pottery shards are common in this area. Archaeologists use the rim decorations to identify which culture made the artifact. Punctate impressions on its surface identify the shard on the left as Woodland Tradition pot. The design you see was created by pressing a cord wrapped stick into the drying clay.



Photo Courtesy of Wisconsin DNR Museum of Natural History

1650 A.D.

Woodland People were very skilled at making copper tools. This harpoon point was made from copper—probably imported from Michigan's Upper Peninsula and shaped using a stone mallet and anvil. Craftsmen also made beveled knives and jewelry from copper.



Photo Courtesy of USGS Forest Service

Woodland peoples relied heavily on aquatic resources including fish. Stone weights, like this one, were attached to nets that were cast along the shores to catch spawning fish.



Photo Courtesy of Wisconsin DNR Museum of Natural History



Photo Courtesy of USGS Forest Service

800 A.D.



Photo Courtesy of USGS Forest Service

A basalt hammer stone, like this one, was part of a tool kit used to fabricate stone projectile points, knives, scrapers and drills.



Photo Courtesy of USGS Forest Service



Photo Courtesy of USGS Forest Service

400 A.D.



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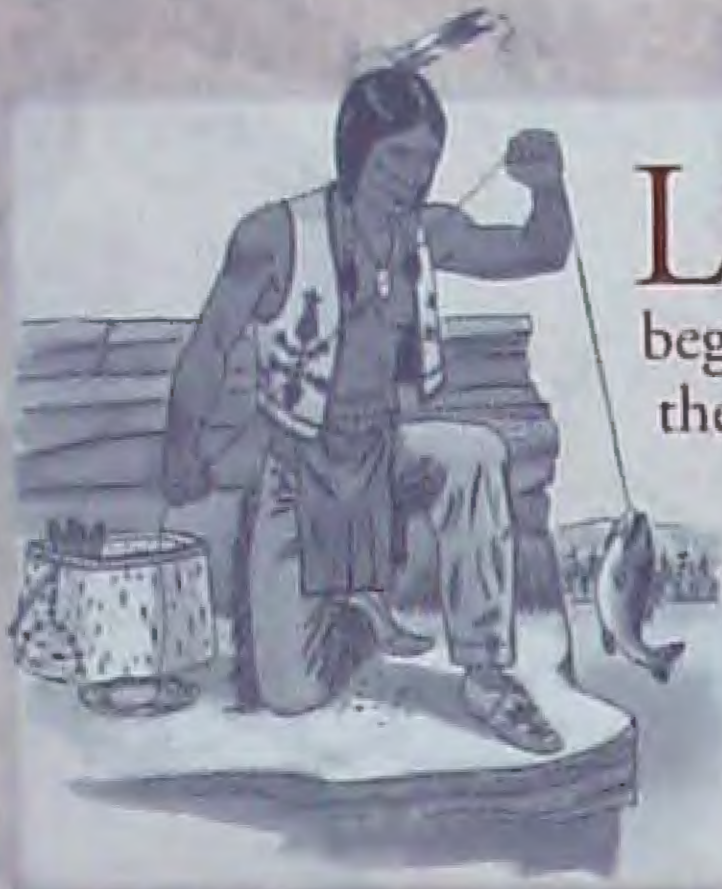
1 A.D.





# HIDDEN LAKES HIDDEN LIVES

## Connected to the Land



Life for the Woodland people was guided by a belief that all things were connected in a never-ending circle. Each life ended at the beginning of the circle and was connected to all other lives, from the ancestors of the past to the descendants yet to be born. Living within this circle of life, they moved with the seasons, taking only what they needed, honoring those that had come before, and leaving the rest behind for those that were to come. The living descendants of the Woodland people include the Annishinabe (Ojibwe), Menominee, Potawatomi and others.

In winter, when resources were scarce, the Woodland people moved their camps inland and the men left for the winter hunt. Deer, moose, and fox, along with smaller animals, provided the Woodland people with the fresh food they needed to survive through the winter, along with warm pelts for clothing, bedding, and insulation.



Illustration Courtesy of The Great Lakes Historical Society of Toronto

Fall was a time for ricing. Wild rice was traditionally harvested by canoe. The harvester would bend the reeds of the rice down into the canoe and hit them with a wooden rod, releasing the ripe grain. Descendants of the Woodland people continue to harvest wild rice in this same manner, providing sustenance while honoring their cultural heritage.



Illustration Courtesy of The Anishinabe Heritage, Culture, and Tourism

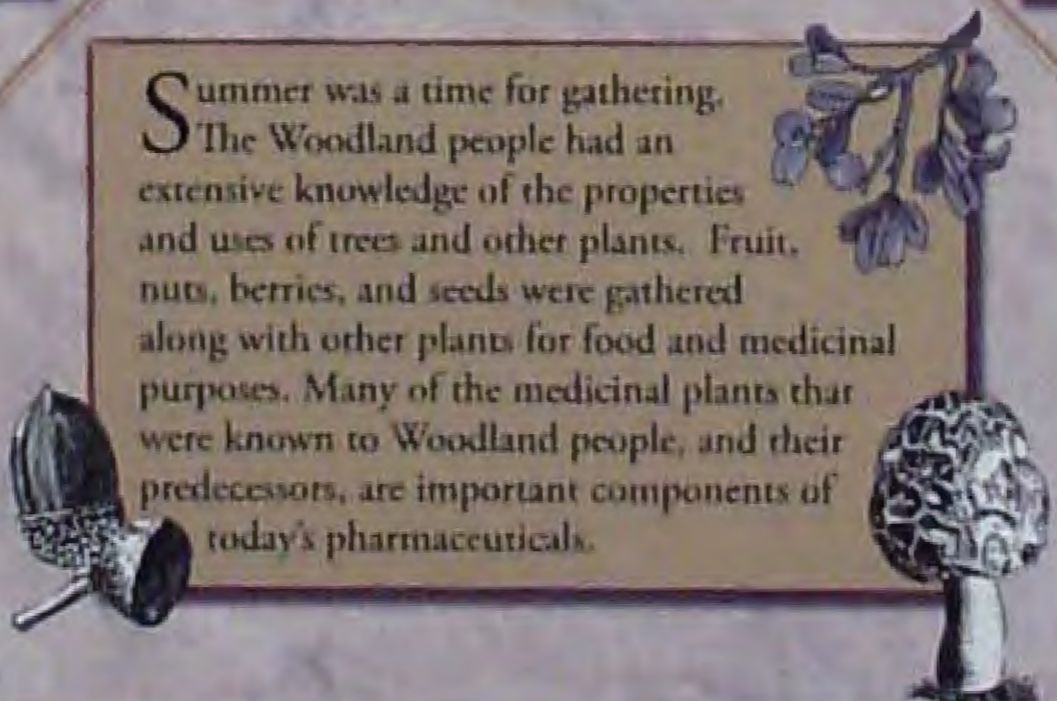


In spring Woodland people returned to the shores of the Butternut-Franklin lakes and may have tapped the maple and birch for sap and sugar. As the ice receded, they gathered along the lake shore to fish for smallmouth bass, white sucker, and northern pike. All along the shores of Butternut Lake are the remnants of fish processing sites, where they would skin and gut these fish in preparation for cooking and smoking.



Illustration Courtesy of Wisconsin Historical Society, 87-9823

Summer was a time for gathering. The Woodland people had an extensive knowledge of the properties and uses of trees and other plants. Fruit, nuts, berries, and seeds were gathered along with other plants for food and medicinal purposes. Many of the medicinal plants that were known to Woodland people, and their predecessors, are important components of today's pharmaceuticals.



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