

Manoomin: Native Wild Rice in Michigan



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Endangered Species Consulting
Native Wild Rice Coalition

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Native Wild Rice Coalition

Manoomin – the good seed



Anishinaabek Migration Story







Photo by Barb Barton

Species in Michigan

- Northern Wild Rice (*Zizania palustris*)
- Southern Wild Rice (*Zizania aquatica*)



Photo by Heatherlee



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Zizania palustris

- Muck soils
- Flowing water
- Depth .5 – 3 feet
- Stable water levels

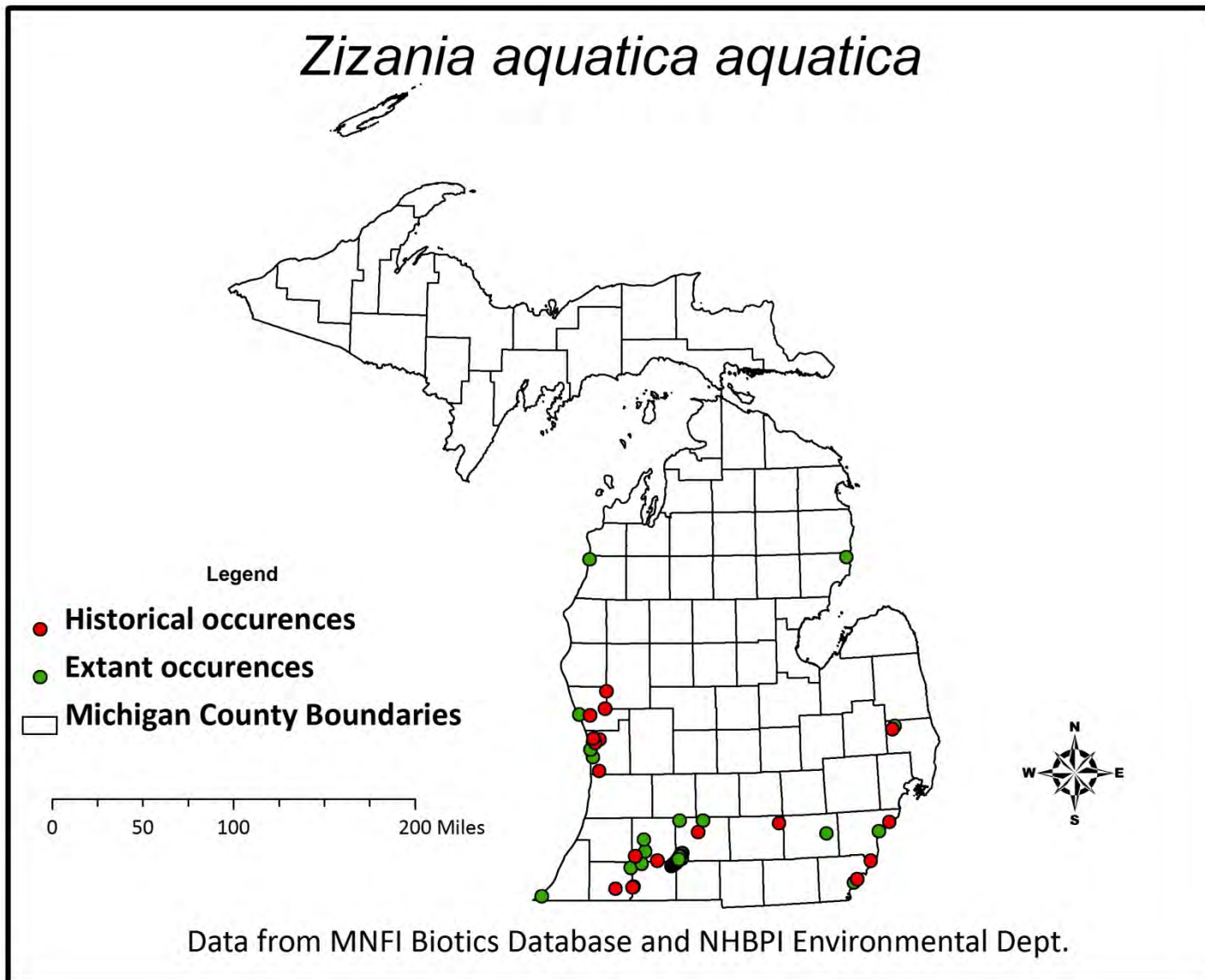


Zizania aquatica

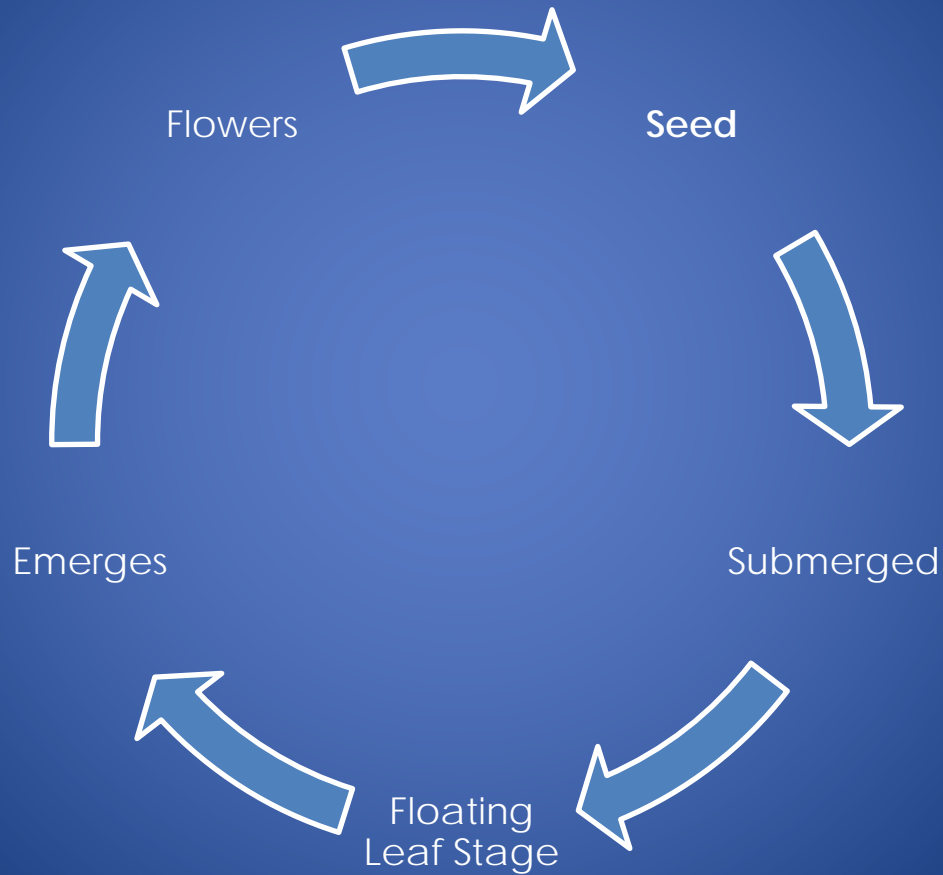
- Slow current, muck or silt bottom
- Shallow water two feet deep
- Most successful when no competition from other plants



Zizania aquatica aquatica



General life cycle



Floating leaf stage



Photo by 1854 Treaty Authority

Emergent



Photo by Barb Barton

Flowering August



Photo by Dennis Albert





Harvest time

Late August – early September



Photo by Barb Barton

Ecological Values

- Cover and brood rearing habitat for ducks
- Food source
- Nursery areas for young fish and amphibians
- Important migratory area
- Natural communities have 35+ T&E species (MNFI)



Photo by Scott Herron

Cultural Values



Photos by Barb Barton

Wild Rice Camps



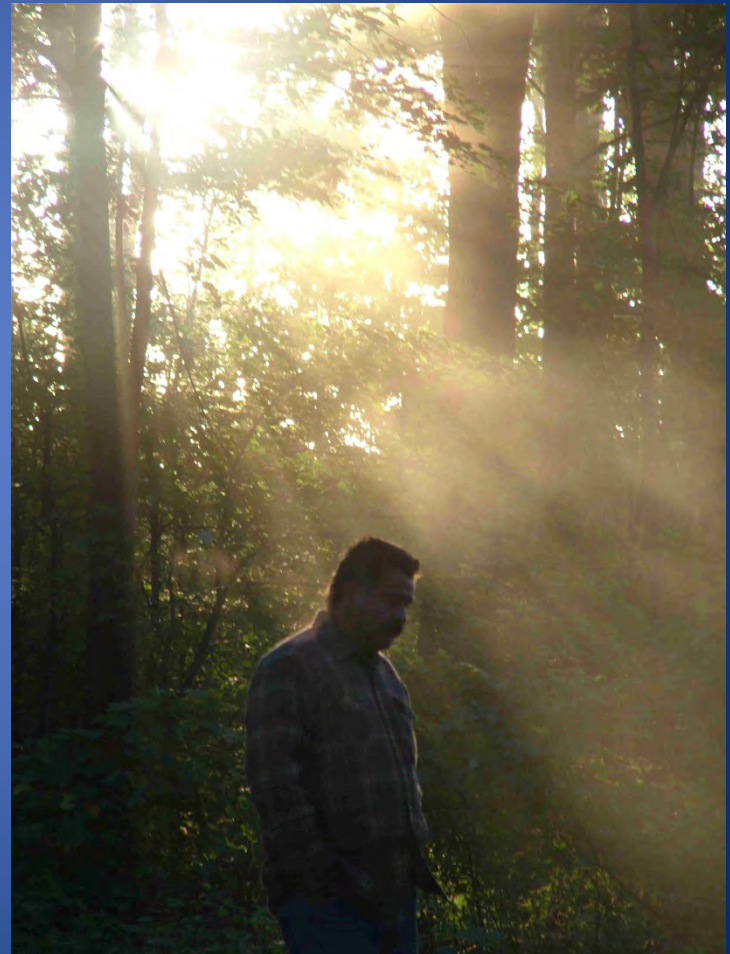
Photo by Barb Barton



Photo by Barb Barton

Sacred Character of Manoomin

- Prayer ceremonies
- Harvesting
- Prayers when planting
- Served during special feasts & funerals
- Death rituals



Photos by Barb Barton

Social Values

- Rice Camps – create a sense of community
- Manoomin – Ojibwe tradition
- Economic



Threats to Manoomin

- Changes to hydrology
- Pollution, herbicides, heavy boat traffic
- Mute swans, carp, Asian milfoil, *Typha*
- Fungus, pests

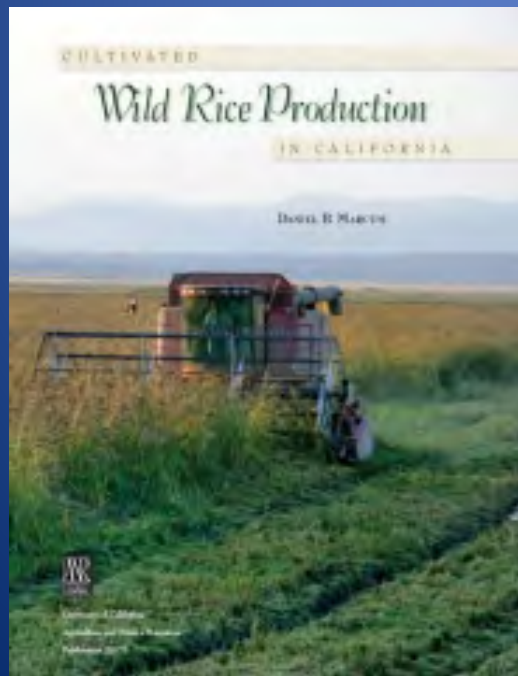


Photo by GLIFWC

Genetic Engineering Threat

- GMOs marketed as authentic “wild rice.”
- Cross pollination
- May undermine the survivability of true wild rice





Conservation and Research Needs



Photo by GLIFWC

Historical Plantings

1918 Rice Planting Program

- 27 individuals and organizations
- 4200 lbs of wild rice
- Only 2 of 27 sites successful

Miscellaneous Plantings

- 50 projects plus 26 in Hiawatha National Forest
- 29,875 lbs seed
- 74% failed

Michigan Conservation Magazine 1943

"The need for wild rice is questionable in Michigan...The establishment of rice beds in many places conflicts with other recreational interests...at Lake St. Helen a court injunction was issued to stop the planting of rice because additional beds were a hindrance to other recreational interests..."



2010 Michigan Strategic Framework GLRI

"...Project will award up to approximately \$3 million for up to 25 grants to protect and restore culturally significant native species such as wild rice and their habitats..."



Photo by Barb Barton

Conservation

- Education
- Restoration
- Protection
- Wild Rice Mgmt. Plan



Photo by Barb Barton



Photo by GLIFWC

Education - Traditional Wild Rice Camps

Lac Vieux Desert
2007-2012

Tubbs Lake
2009-2010



Photo by Barb Barton



Photos by Barb Barton

Restoration – Lac Vieux Desert

Rice Bay 2003



Rice Bay 2010



Photos by GLIFWC

Participate in Conservation and Restoration

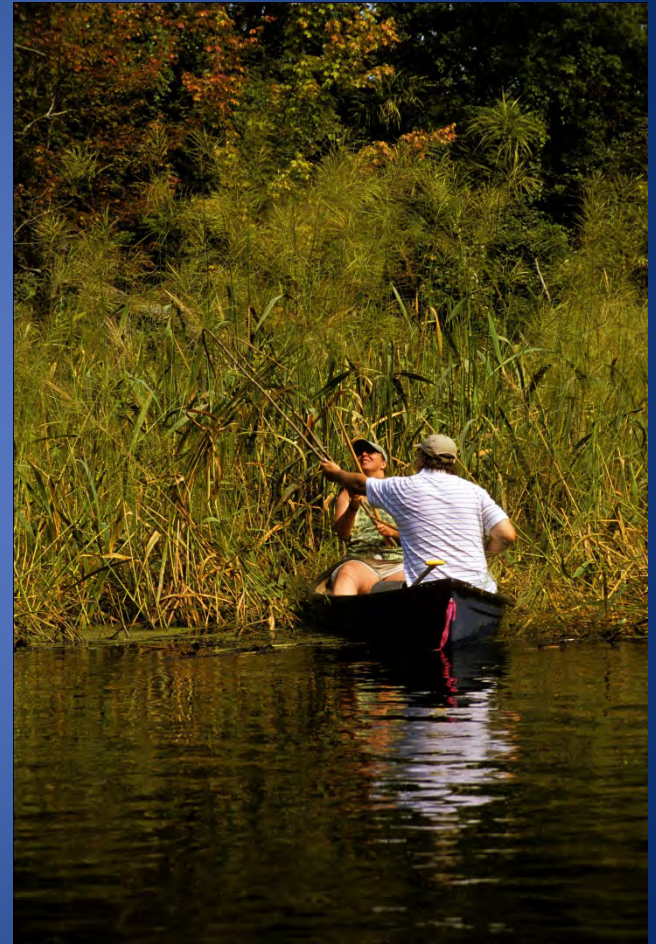
- Incorporate wild rice plantings in wetland restoration when appropriate
- Educate
- Attend Rice Camp
- Join the Native Wild Rice Coalition



Photo by Barb Barton

Research Needs

- Status of wild rice beds and threats assessment
- Species distribution
- Effects of climate change
- Best restoration methods



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The Gifts of Manoomin

- Ecological
- Food
- Cultural
- Spiritual
- Connection to Place



Manoomin Talking Circle



*Pipe and Water
Ceremonies start at 5:15
Centennial Room*

*5:45 Talking Circle
Riverside Room, Garden
Level*

Miigwetch - Thank You!

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