



# NAWO NEWS



## NAWO'S WILD BERRY PROJECT update

NAWO staff had the honor to meet with the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's Health Services Director, Paula Schaeffbauer and Andy Schmidt, Agriculture Coordinator.

This meeting last June 13th was to tour the Grand Portage Band's wild berry installation that was funded with a grant from NAWO and Minnesota Environmental Fund.

The funding for this project became available through a million dollar settlement award via the Federal Courts fining of a German Corporation, MST Mineralien Schiffahrt for dumping oily polluted bilge water from their freighter the Cornelia into Lake Superior waters.

A portion of the total fine was earmarked for restoration and enhancement in the Lake Superior watershed.

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MST Mineralien Schiffahrt failed to keep and maintain accurate ship records and presented falsified records to the U.S. Coast Guard. The shipping magnate has an historical record of dumping polluted bilge water on more than one occasion, and they are not the only shipping magnate that engages in this deplorable behavior.

NAWO was able to take a tour of the fruit tree orchard, berry bushes and berry plants that were installed last year. The winter was long and hard, but only one fruit tree casualty resulted lauding the expertise of Andy Schmidt.

The fruit tree plantings used soil recovered from siting the Band's waste water treatment facilities along the shoreline of the bay. The utilization of this soil enabled a rich medium for the orchard planted on the granite bedrock.

The fruit trees were also integrated throughout the Band's housing district and the strawberry patch was located in the school gardens. The fruit grown will be used for a bilingual school curricula, school lunches, elder meals, ceremonial feasts and routine use.

Andy described the added job diversity benefit of the Berry Project and the augmentation of their existing food sovereignty programs.



Andy Schmidt Agriculture Coordinator  
Grand Portage Band



Ojibwemowin/English language curricula



Grand Portage Berry Project volunteers included the Boy Scouts pictured here, as well as, Augusta Lutheran Church, Grand Portage School, and Grand Portage Fire Crew.

Links for more information

<https://worldmaritimenews.com/archives/191616/german-shipping-firm-charged-for-dumping-oily-waste/>

<http://www.heavyliftnews.com/news/german-firm-fined-usd-1-mn-for-covering-up-oil-dumping>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/profiles/companies/6263919Z:GR-mst-mineralien-schiffahrt-spedition-und-transport-gmbh>

<http://www.aicho.org>

<https://www.nawo.org> <https://www.nawo.org/berry-project/>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/597cc86fb8a79b2cf8491410/t/59a1b6eff5e231745bb1a638/1503770375864/NAWO+NEWS%3A2017.pdf>



American Indian Community Housing Organization in Duluth

NAWO's Environmental Justice Director toured the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) compound in Duluth while in town for a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Environmental Justice Advisory Group meeting this past May.

Talk about solar powered resistance!

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North American Water Office

PO Box 174

Lake Elmo, MN 55042



[www.nawo.org](http://www.nawo.org)



WATER FOR LIFE