



NIAWO NEWS

Berry Project Update

What do you do during a global pandemic, you ask? With a grant from the Patagonia Foundation, we chose to do something that put smiles on faces, even though our Funder gave us authority to use the grant for general support.

NAWO partnered with Red Lake, White Earth, and Leech Lake Nations via the University of Minnesota Extension's Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Educator, Shirley Nordrum, for the next installment of our Berry Project.

We want to acknowledge the Hill's Country Greenhouse in Bemidji for helping supply our project's trees and berry bushes, and especially for putting a hold on the beautiful sugar maple trees we needed for the project.

While COVID-19 changed what choices were available to us and the timing of their availability, we were also able to install black current, jostaberry, chokecherry and Nanking cherry bushes.



Andreas Nordrum

Four different types of blueberry bushes were installed, including Northsky, Northernblue, St Cloud, and North Country.

Andreas Nordrum was our primary staff consultant for tree and berry bush installation. Additional families that assisted were Ann Cloud, Wallis Humphery and Julie Pinada.

Planting is a family effort and as you can see, the kids wanted to help.

Sharon Nordrum assisted us with her photographic skills, and is the artist taking all photos, thank you Sharon!



"Thank you for the opportunity to plant these beautiful trees on the reservations. It was a pleasure as always working with my community and seeing the smiling faces of the children."

Andreas Nordrum





"This was such a fun project I loved that we were able to have children around and have them help plant."

Sharon Nordrum

Previous NAWO Berry Projects have been completed at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and Grand Portage Chippewa Nation with funding for these two installations provided by a settlement agreement to the Minnesota Environmental Fund for restitution and restoration of damages caused by a German oil tanker discharging oily bilge water into Lake Superior. NAWO's Berry Project was awarded a portion of this funding.

Berry Project installations for Dream of Wild Health, and Indigenous Environmental Network were funded by the University of Minnesota Health Food Equals Healthy Lives Institute.





NAWO will keep fundraising to gift more fruit trees, berry bushes and other culturally significant trees and plants.

Placement was challenging because there were many requests for the available trees and plants.

The #10 sugar maple trees were \$250.00 each. These will provide a natural source of sweetener to make maple syrup for years to come in a close by location for easy access.

COVID makes it more challenging with reduced availability of trees and plants and ability of people to participate in the installations, but not impossible. One family at a time assisted with the plants in each of the Reservations.





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