

**Plants Have So Much to Give Us, All We Have to Do Is Ask: Anishinaabe Botanical Teachings.** Mary Siisip Geniusz (edited by Wendy Makoons Geniusz, illustrated by Annmarie Geniusz). 2015. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. 372 pages. \$80.50 (cloth); \$22.95 (paperback). ISBN: 978-0-8166-9676-5.

*Plants Have So Much to Give Us, All We Have to Do Is Ask* offers a new look at Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) ethnobotany as told through traditional stories. Botanical teachings through stories are a way to pass down traditional knowledge from generation to generation. For example, Anishinaabe knowledge on plants was written and recorded in communities willing to share their knowledge with early scholars, such as Albert B. Reagan (1928), Huron H. Smith (1932), and Melvin R. Gilmore (1933). Each of these scholars spent time with an Anishinaabe community to learn about plants and primarily to provide written descriptions of plants as food and medicine. Ethnobotany by Mary Siisip Geniusz and her daughter, Wendy Makoons Geniusz, is different than those early efforts because they both rely heavily on stories, language, and culture in describing plants from an Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) perspective. The traditional knowledge in this book was obtained over a long period of time (actually generations beyond the author and her teacher, Keewaydinoquay) and was written to be shared with others so that they also could learn. The type of learning that this text portrays is a Master-Teacher apprenticeship, whereby knowledge of plant teachings was exchanged during the time that Mary Geniusz and the late Keewaydinoquay spent together. Keewaydinoquay was a well-known Anishinaabe medicine woman from the Leelanau Peninsula in Michigan; she was a teacher to many, including Mary Geniusz, and she was known by many more, including K. Kindscher, the second author of this review. This text provides ethnobotany from an Indigenous perspective and the book is appropriately subtitled as *Anishinaabe Botanical Teachings*.

The book includes an insightful introduction into “Traditional Anishinaabe Teachings,” as well as an account of how the book came to be. Stories such as “Naanabozho” place the plants in cultural context that readers will understand, and showcase the acceptance of plants as being similar to human beings. Covering a wide range of plants, the book is divided into sections (or actually groups) of stories of tree relatives (as human and trees are related beings), conifers, food plants, other traditional plants, and medicinal plants (e.g., dandelion, eupatoriums, kinnikinnick, mints, roses, violets, and yarrow). Both native and non-native plant species are discussed and used in the tradition. In addition to these descriptions, the author explains how we all can work with plants in everyday uses of food and medicine. In contrast to most ethnobotany books, the book includes a very nice recipe section and a glossary of Ojibwe words and plant names. Nice line drawings by Annmarie Geniusz are included throughout the book. The book makes this botanical information useful to all readers, educators, and botanists. *Plants Have So Much to Give Us, All We Have to Do Is Ask* is an interesting read and will be beneficial for those interested in plant uses, especially in the Great Lakes Bioregion.—*Natasha Myhal*<sup>1</sup> and *Kelly Kindscher*<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Graduate Student, Indigenous Studies, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, USA; <sup>2</sup>Professor/Senior Scientist, Environmental Studies Program/Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, USA.

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