

Northland College Presents:

Sharon Day

Waterwalker and Waterkeeper

Thursday, March 1 and Friday, March 2

**Alvord Theater in the Craig Ponzio Student Center
Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin**



The William P. Van Evera Endowed Lectureship at Northland College is pleased to host Sharon Day, an acclaimed waterkeeper and waterwalker, as part of the 2011–2012 lecture series on freshwater issues. Ms. Day will share her knowledge during two public events called “Anishinaabe Women and the Value of Water” at Northland College. Both presentations are free and open to the public without need to pre-register.

Her community presentation called *Healing Waters*, on Thursday, March 1, 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Alvord Theater, will focus on the sacred nature of freshwater and the importance of the waterkeeping role for women in Native American culture. Ms. Day will also describe her role in organizing the southern route of the 2011 Mother Earth Water Walk, which began in April at the Gulf of Mexico and ended in June in Odanah, Wisconsin. This trek was part of an indigenous women’s walk that included hundreds of waterkeepers carrying buckets of water from all four directions across North America to draw attention to the global water crisis. Lyz Jaakula, Fond du Lac, will play traditional music and sing beginning at 7 p.m.

On Friday, March 2, Sharon Day will join a panel of three regional water walkers to talk about the sacredness of water and the need to protect it. This community presentation starts at 6 p.m. in the Alvord Theater and is followed by an open reception. Local waterwalkers and waterkeepers who will participate in the panel included Penny Charette, Carolyn Gouge, and Esie Leoso–Corbine, all from the Red Cliff tribe, Bayfield.

These events are part of a month-long celebration of Anishinaabe culture in March (called Ziigwan in Ojibwa) at Northland College called “Indigenous Cultures Awareness Month.” Events are cosponsored by the college’s Native American Studies Program, Native American Student Association, Superior Connections students and faculty, and the Multicultural Center. All events are free and open to the public without need to pre-register.

For a full calendar of March events, go to www.superiorforum.org or www.northland.edu/soei

Biography

Sharon Day is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, in Minnesota in the Marten Clan.

Ms. Day holds a 2nd degree designation as a M'dewiwin water keeper for her tribe. In the summer of 2011, Ms. Day joined hundreds of Native American grandmothers in the [Mother Earth Water Walk](#) to “raise people’s awareness of the current state of our waters and our need for sources of clean water for us and for the future generations”.

These women, elders, and young people carried buckets of water from Hudson's Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and walked the buckets across North America to the Bad River reservation. Ms. Day organized all walkers [coming from the south](#), who started in Gulfport, Mississippi, in April and ended in Odanah in June to call attention to the need to protect the earth’s water resources. [Watch this video](#) to hear about her experience.

Ms. Day is one of the founders of the [Indigenous Peoples Task Force](#) and has served as its executive director since 1990. This group’s mission is to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous Peoples. Ms. Day is also an artist, composer, and writer who has received awards for her art; her writings have been published in several anthologies. She is one of the editors of Sing, Whisper, Shout, Pray! Feminist Voices for a Just World. She has sung with the Neeconis Women Singers since 1997.

Ms. Day also participated in the 1987 March on Washington and coordinated the first International 2 Spirit Gathering in Minneapolis in 1988. She received an award from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in 2010 for her work with people living with HIV. And she is happy to say she “makes some pretty good hand drums.”