

## Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Gun Lake Tribe

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Information was obtained from an interview with John Shagonaby, Executive Director. Information was also gathered from the website of Gun Lake Tribe [www.mbpi.org](http://www.mbpi.org), the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi "A Brief History " brochure, and the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Gun Lake Tribe booklet.

**Translation:** Match-e (very powerful, feared, dangerous); be-nash-she (bird); wish (he is still being).

**Present chairperson:** David K. Sprague. (Also known as D.K.)

**Natural Resource Director or Environmental person is:** John Shagonaby, the Executive Director is currently overseeing Natural Resources. The Tribe is planning on hiring an environmental director by October 1, 2002.

**NRCS Tribal contact is:**

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**Location:** The main location is in Allegan County. The Tribal service area covers five counties: Kalamazoo, Allegan, Barry, Kent, and Ottawa.

**When federally recognized:** August of 1999.

**Numbers of Tribal members:** 290

**Size of the reservation:** zero

**Property owned by the tribe:** 300 acres. Property owned in land contract and some owned in fee. Other tribal lands owned by tribal members in Allegan County, about 15 – 20 acres.

## **History:**

1707 – 1795: As the Ottawas moved south during the winter to the Grand River, historical records reference the band of Pottawatomi associated with the Ottawa of Northern Michigan. During this time, they had villages located on the Grand, Thornapple and Kalamazoo Rivers.

1795: The first chief of the Band known to have extensive contact with non-Indians, Chief Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish, signs the Treaty of Greenville on behalf of the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Pottawatomi Tribes.

1820: The Band's primary village is located (Treaty of Chicago), the first land cession to directly affect the Band. Under this treaty, the Band retained a three-mile square reservation located in what is presently downtown Kalamazoo, Michigan.

1827: Chief Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish signs the Treaty of St. Joseph. The significance of this treaty is that it was specifically between the United States and the Pottawatomi Tribes; also, several reserves retained by the Bands under the Treaty of 1821 were allegedly "ceded."

1833: The "Treaty of Chicago" between the United States and the United Nations of Chippewas, Ottawa and Pottawatomi allegedly cedes approximately 5,000,000 acres of land in exchange for \$100,000.00. The Treaty of Chicago is also known as the "Removal Treaty" under which many band of Chippewa, Ottawa and Pottawatomi were forcibly removed west of the Mississippi River.

1838: Indian agent Henry Schoolcraft concludes a "compact" with Grand River Ottawa Indian leaders. This agreement led to the Band being attached to the Grand River Ottawa for annuity payment purposes – with the result that for the approximately next 150 years, the Band was "administratively mixed up" with the Grand River Ottawa.

1839: The Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band was named by the U.S. as the "The Gun Lake Band." President Van Buren granted the Tribe a 360 acre land base at Bradley, Michigan in Wayland Township and established an Indian Mission under Treaty stipulations to educate the young, teach the Indians farming skills and provide moral and religious instruction to Match-e-be-nash-she-wish's warriors.

1840: The Band avoids removal by moving north of the Kalamazoo River to place themselves under the protection of an Episcopalian mission located in Allegan County, Michigan which was funded by the provisions of the 1836 Ottawa-Chippewa Treaty. The mission was later to be known as the Griswold or Bradley Colony.

1855: A new treaty is signed by Chief Shau-be-quo-ung (Moses Foster) as Chief of the Grand River Band, allegedly granting the members land in Oceana County, Michigan. Many of the band's ancestors moved north.

1869: Several families of the Band moved back to the Bradley Colony from Oceana County after the federal government neglected to implement the provisions of the Treaty of 1855.

1870: The Band transfers its religious allegiance from Episcopalian to Methodist.

1880: The Federal census of Allegan County, Michigan refer to the Griswold Mission as an "Indian Colony"

1883-1884: The former Griswold Reserve lands were allotted among the families, generating extensive court records, which identified the tribe and its members

1885: The Bands Indian cemetery at Bradley is established.

1890: Moses Foster (Shau-be-quo-ung) and his brother D.K. Foster join with the Huron-Pottawatomi and Pokagon Pottawatomi groups and file claims against the United States for unpaid treaty annuities.

1894: The Bradley Colony is "dissolved" by the Church; the land is divided and deeded to 19 descendants of Chief Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish. Most land was lost due to tax liens.

1900: The Federal census enumerated the Allegan County settlement on the special Indian Population schedules.

1903: Moses and D.K. Foster die.

## **History cont.:**

1904: The "Taggart Roll" is prepared by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) special agents as a result of the claims filed by the Huron-Pottawatomi and Pokagon groups to distribute the awarded annuities and this respectively listed ancestors of the Tribe.

1906: A fund drive is established to build a new church at Bradley; this is approximately the time that an indigenous pastorate started at Bradley.

1908: The "Durant Roll" is compiled by the BIA special agents to settle claims of Michigan's Pottawatomi and Ottawa Indians, respectively listed ancestors of the Tribe.

1910: The Federal census again enumerated the Allegan County settlement on the special Indian Population schedules.

1911: Charles Foster is elected Chief of the Band.

1920's: This decade marked a temporary hiatus of the indigenous pastorate at the church and the establishment of a non-Indian pastorate.

1939: The Bureau of Indian Affairs prepares the "Holst Report" in response to requests from the Band and other Michigan tribes to become organized under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act. The Bureau of Indian Affairs declines the request.

1940's: Many of the Band's members serve in the United States military.

1950's: The indigenous ministry returns. Many members leave the settlement area to find employment in the cities. Revival of claims activity pursuant to the Indian Claims Commission Act. Jacob Sprague of the Band is elected head of the Northern Michigan Ottawa Claims Organization.

1959: Indian Claims Commission rules that Pottawatomis were to be paid separately from the Grand River Ottawa in all Indian Claims Commission proceedings; claims are organized to pursue compensation for the three miles square Kalamazoo reservation land.

1962: Jacob Sprague dies.

1960's - 1970's: Colonel Willard Bush kills a deer out of season and is charged with poaching. This court case raises the awareness of tribal hunting and fishing rights, secured by treaties, throughout Michigan.

1980's: The Tribe and other Southern Michigan tribes begin to consider filing for federal acknowledgement.

1992: The Bradley Settlement Elders Council is formed, thus changing the leadership from secular to a modern tribal government. The tribal community made a decision to pursue Federal Acknowledgment. The tribe decided to use their well-documented history and petition the Branch of Acknowledgment and Research (BAR) in the BIA for acknowledgment instead of pursuing a bill in the United States Congress.

1993: Draft Constitution and preliminary membership lists drafted.

1994: Petition for federal acknowledgment submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

1999: The petition for federal recognition is successful, culmination in the recognition as a federally acknowledged Indian tribe through the BAR process.

2000: Tribal Constitution is ratified by a vote of the Tribal Membership. Tribal Council elections are held under the new constitution.

2001: The Tribe opens the enrollment and doubles the size of the membership.

*More in depth history can be found in the brochure: A Brief History*

## **Treaty boundary area:**

From the Rice maps, 1795 treaty area. John wasn't too sure. Also, look at the Greenville treaty.

**What types of jobs and economics exist on the reservation?** Nothing really. Some jobs available doing tribal administration: 8 full time and a few part time. The Tribe does have a mini-mall. These jobs are off the reservation.

**Gaming enterprises owned by tribe:** none

## **OTHER ITEMS TO COVER:**

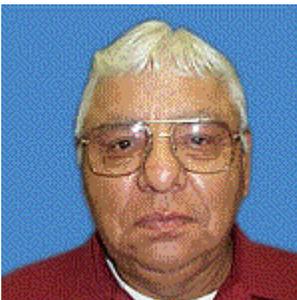
**Amount of allotted lands and trust lands?** none

**Council members and the government process:** Seven members on the Tribal Council. Three voting districts: Bradley, Salem, and Michigan at large. The next election is August 23, 2002. The Tribal Council meetings are every two weeks on Thursday at 4 or 5 PM. They are open to members but if a non-member would like to come to a meeting they can be asked to be put on the agenda.



[D.K. Sprague](#)

David Sprague (D.K.) has served in the capacity of Tribal Chairman since the Tribe began the federal acknowledgment process in spring 1992. He is a veteran of the US Army and served six years of active duty and one tour in Vietnam. David had been employed at CSX railroad for 24 years as a conductor. Our chairman has volunteered his services to the Red Cross to assist in eight disasters worldwide. Since March 2000 he has been on leave to attend to tribal business. He is skilled in construction and mason tending. David has been active in the Native American community for many years and is looked upon with admiration and respect. His leadership was instrumental in achieving Federal acknowledgement status. Chairman Sprague represents the Michigan at-large voting District and is a graduate of Hopkins High School.



[Dick Sprague](#)

Richard Sprague is the Vice-Chairman; he has held this position since 1992. He is a skilled tradesman, father of four and a U.S Army Veteran. Richard's commitment to acknowledging people for a job well done is a quality to be respected. His willingness is most evident in all the small tasks Richard is willing to take on for the betterment of the Tribe. Richard represents the Bradley voting district and is a graduate of Wayland High School.



### [Ardis Badger](#)

Ardis Badger is the Council secretary and has served on the Council since 1999. Ardis retired from Spectrum Health (formerly Butterworth) after 30 years as a surgical technologist. She is now employed in the Tribal office as the Enrollment Clerk. Her knowledge of Tribal history has proved her to be a valuable asset. Ardis represents the Bradley voting district and graduated from Martin High School.



### [Ed Pigeon](#)

Ed Pigeon is a Council Member and has served since 1999. He is currently attending Grand Valley State University while working for the Haworth Corporation. Being the youngest member of the Tribal Council, Ed brings a different perspective to the Council. Ed's family is very involved in keeping the tradition of black ash basketry alive for many generations to come. Ed represents the Salem voting district and graduated from Hopkins High School.



### [Luella Collins](#)

Luella Collins is a Council member with a great deal of administrative capabilities. She worked for the Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council for many years. The membership and staff admire her willingness to listen to questions and concerns and to address them with other Council Members. Luella is also the daughter of the late Chief Jacob Sprague, who fought for recognition for many years. Luella represents the Michigan at-large voting district and graduated from Wayland High School.



### R. John Bush

R. John Bush is a Council member who has held his position since 1992. Using his knowledge of tradition, culture and being a natural orator, John regularly speaks to organizations all over the state. John has a lifetime of knowledge and appreciation for the traditional way of life taught to him by his father, the late Frank Bush, Jr., a well respected spiritual leader. John represents the Salem voting district and graduated from Wayland High School.



### John Shagonaby

John L. Shagonaby is currently serving as Treasurer and has been on the Tribal Council since 1997. He graduated from Western Michigan University in 1997 with a Bachelors of Business Administration with a major in Management. John brings youth to the tribal council along with a working knowledge of tribal governments and Indian law. He likes to sing with his drum group, Rush Lake Singers, in which he helped form, with friends from college, in 1996. John represents the Salem voting district and is a graduate of Allegan High School.

**Natural Resources Staff:** John Shagonaby, the Executive Director is currently overseeing Natural Resources. The Tribe is planning on hiring an environmental director by October 1, 2002.

**Does this tribe pay per capita?** No

**What are the major business ventures?** Nothing right now. Trying to establish a casino.

**Educational situation: does the tribe have a school, college, etc.:** The Tribe does not have a school or college. They do have an Educational Committee. Leah Foder is the staff person for this committee. They do receive some BIA funds.

**Has tribe used USDA technical and financial programs?** The Tribe hasn't used USDA technical or financial programs. They have received information regarding some USDA agencies such as NRCS and RD. S:\NRCS\FOTG\Published\Section I\General Resource References\Reference Material\American Indian, Tribal\Overview for Gun Lake Tribe1.doc

## **Departments in the tribal organization:**

### Enrollment

**ARDIS BADGER:** Enrollment Clerk

E-Mail: [ambadger@mbpi.org](mailto:ambadger@mbpi.org)

Ardis Badger works 20 hours a week for the Tribe as the Enrollment Clerk. She also serves on the Tribal Council, representing the Bradley District. Ardis is active with the elders and is called upon often for her knowledge and wisdom.

### Finance

**DAWN KRAUSS:** Finance Coordinator

E-Mail: [ddkrauss@mbpi.org](mailto:ddkrauss@mbpi.org)

Dawn was one of the first employees of the Tribe. She has been working for the Tribe for over 6 years. Dawn is responsible for all financial issues for the Tribe. She maintains all of the Tribe's accounts and grants. Her duties also include preparing periodic financial reports and keeping accurate records and documentation of how the Tribe spends its money. Presently, she is working to implement a new accounting system that should assist her greatly in her duties. She works closely with the Tribal Council and all departments in the Tribal Administration.

### Health Services

**PHYLLIS DAVIS:** Health Director

Phyllis Davis has been working as the Tribe's Health Director for 3 years.

E-Mail: [padavis@mbpi.org](mailto:padavis@mbpi.org)

### Member Services

**LEAH FODOR:** Member Services Coordinator

E-Mail: [lsfodor@mbpi.org](mailto:lsfodor@mbpi.org)

Leah Fodor has been an employee of the Gun Lake Tribe for 6+ years. Currently, she serves as the Member Services Coordinator which includes elders, recreation, higher education, Johnson O'Malley, enrollment, and is the editor of the Tribe's monthly newsletter. Leah also is a notary public and offers this service free to all tribal members.

## **ENROLLMENT**

The enrollment department just finished a 9-month open enrollment process, which more than doubled our membership. Leah maintains the enrollment software, which includes maintaining the mailing list, producing ID cards for members and entering new member files. Leah also serves as the supervisor to the enrollment clerk.

## **EDUCATION**

The Tribe offers many scholarship opportunities for members. Leah certifies Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver applications. Leah is also the staff support person for the education committee. This committee is playing a vital role in the future of higher education for the Gun Lake Tribe. This 3-member committee is responsible for developing the policies and procedures for the 638 higher education scholarship fund, which will be taking the place of the current tribe-funded program. It is the intention of the committee to have this program ready for the 2002-2003 school year. This committee will also develop policies and standards for the Johnson O'Malley program which covers students age 3 through 12th grade. Leah also belongs to the Michigan Tribal Education Directors Consortium. Should you have any questions regarding higher education, please contact Leah!

## **ELDERS**

Leah serves as the staff person to the elders of the Tribe. She escorts them to various meetings around the state and keeps them informed of meetings of the Michigan Indian Elders Association. The Elder's Committee will be hosting their first meeting since enrollment doubled during the month of April. The Tribe

recognizes an elder as someone who is 50+, the Michigan Indian Elder's Association recognizes an elder as someone 55+.

### **MEMBER SERVICES**

Leah also represents the Tribe in meetings where services available to the Tribe are discussed.

### **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

Leah serves as the Editor for the Tribe's monthly newsletter. The newsletter is sent out on the last day of the previous month. Any submissions for the newsletter must be copy ready and sent to Leah's attention. If you have a date you would like added to the calendar, call or e-mail Leah.

#### Housing

**MELISSA BROWN:** Housing Coordinator

Melissa Brown has been the Housing Coordinator for the Gun Lake Tribe since 2001.

E-Mail: [mgbrown@mbpi.org](mailto:mgbrown@mbpi.org)

### **THE MISSION OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

To serve the Gun Lake Tribe with Housing opportunities that will promote and honor the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish culture, safety, & self sufficiency in the families that we service.

### **HOUSING COMMITTEE**

A three-person committee appointed by the Tribal Council makes all decisions regarding participation. The term of Housing Committee is a minimum two-year commitment. The Housing Coordinator and Committee participate in training sessions as available. The committee does not have regularly scheduled meeting times, but rather meets as necessary.

### **AVAILABLE SERVICES**

The Housing Department is able to offer Home Improvement to members who own their home, rental assistance for full time college students, and homebuyer education classes to first time homebuyers.

#### Social Services

**CAROLYN BUSH, BSW/RSW:** Social Services Coordinator

E-Mail: [clbush@mbpi.org](mailto:clbush@mbpi.org)

Carolyn Bush, BSW/RSW joined the Tribe as the Social Services Director in 2001.

### **Programs currently available through the Social Services Department**

#### **Indian Child Welfare**

- Monitoring of children and families of the Gun Lake Tribe involved with State Protective services and Foster care programs.
- Indian Child Welfare Committee

#### **Case Management:**

- Assistance in family functioning
- Assistance with interpersonal relationships

#### **Confidential referrals to appropriate services for Individuals and Families:**

- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Elder's Services
- Women and Children's Services

#### **Food Commodities**

The Gun Lake Tribe will be working with the Pokagon Band to provide commodities to members of both tribes. Members of either tribe can stop by this office to complete an application and learn more about the program and how it will work in our area.

#### **Protective Services**

- Coordination with other community services and agencies
- Identifying and assisting individuals and families in using services
- Participating in multi-disciplinary teams
- Working with the Courts

### **Other Services Include**

- Money Management
- Parent/Child group
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Al-Anon

- ❑ Election Board
- ❑ Natural Resources Committee starting soon.

\* In the process of re-doing the organization. Culture Committee possible for the future.

### **Natural Resources concerns:** Types of programs tribe has tried, will be trying or should be trying.

- The Tribe did a study regarding if MDOT was going to impact wetlands.
- John Shagonaby said that he didn't know of any natural resource concerns.
- They do lease out some of their ground to farmers.
- John Shagonaby mentioned that the Tribe has access to a few lakes. They may be interested in improving access by putting in a dock or clearing the area of some vegetation.
- Linking natural resources with culture has not been tried yet.
- The Tribe has not tried programs for natural resources but they would be interested and willing to try some.
- The Tribe is trying for a Solid Waste Grant in which recycling could be part of.

### **Natural resource issues:** (example people are moving back to rez so fast demand for housing is impacting the natural resources due to houses, roads and buildings)

There is potential for natural resources issues with people moving back to the community.

### **Notes about local tribal agriculture:**

- ❑ Tribe has tried to raise: The Tribe has not tried to raise anything but they do lease out some areas to local farmers who have raised corn.
- ❑ There are orchard sites in area: The Tribe once owned an area where an orchard was present but have since sold it.
- ❑ Is the Tribe interested in Plant materials? The Tribe is interested in Plant Materials. John said he will talk to the membership and hopefully someone will step up.
- ❑ Is there interest in traditional American Indian Farming Operations? John was not sure about this.
- ❑ There is much interest in the food coupon program when it ran in 2001: John wasn't sure what the food coupon program was about. The Tribe does participate in the food commodity program, which targets to rural areas with 15,000 people or less. This is income based.
- ❑ Is there a potential for a small farm market to exist, if gardening were promoted here? Yes, there is potential for a small farm market to exist. There aren't any local farm markets in the area that John knows of.
- ❑ Is commercial fishing done by tribal members? Commercial fishing is NOT done by tribal members.
- ❑ Is there an annual Powwow held? The Tribe doesn't have their own Pow Wow but participates with the Grand Rapids area Pow Wow.