



Gathering the *Sqigwts* "Water Potatoes" 1998 – 2011. On the shores of Chatcolet Lake.

As Indigenous knowledge is place-bound knowledge, consider expanding the walls of your campus classroom with the addition of field trips to the "classrooms of the elders." Such trips could involve visits and guided tours to a tribal fish hatchery, a museum, a health care facility, tribal council chambers, and a tribal school. As I have done for the last many years, I have my students participate in the gathering of a traditional root food the Schitsu'umsh gather each fall, the *sqigwts*, "water potatoes." Side-by-



Photos: Frey 2005, 2011

side with the students from the tribal elementary school and under the guidance of elders, my college students spend some considerable time and effort in the gathering of the root, and then learn the important lesson of sharing with those in need. On several occasions, after cleaning up the roots and bagging them, my students would then have the opportunity to give these "hard-earned gifts" to a group of elders assembled at the local community center. The delight on the faces of the "grandmothers," in seeing one of their traditional foods shared with them in the fashion, is worth it all and well remembered by the students.



Presenting the water potatoes to the elders. Photo: Frey 2010

