

Kickapoo Sustainable Post

Newsletter of the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative

2006: A Good Year for KWC

President's Report to Members December, 2006

In my Spring 2006 report to members, I discussed the increasing demand for forestry services, and our planning to accommodate the growth. Just as we speak of "sustainable forestry" as a laudable goal in our woodlands, I believe your board is doing a good job of creating sustainable growth of your cooperative.

Our forestry services are mainly provided by our Co-op Coordinator, Paul Bader. To increase the time he has available to work in our member's woods, we focused on relieving Paul of various clerical duties and responsibility for tool sales.

In July we contracted with Fran Campbell

to assume many of the clerical and administrative duties. We also are assigning a bookkeeping role to Fran so that the Board can obtain timely reports on our financial progress and status. Fran has many years of administrative experience. Her work history includes management of the Viola Food Cooperative, work for Wild Cat Mountain State Park, and she is currently Executive Assistant at the Kickapoo Reserve. We are pleased to have Fran's assistance.

Then, in October, we contracted with Brian Graham to take responsibility for our tool sales program on a commission basis. Brian is a practicing forester with first hand knowledge of tools and equipment and has actively participated in the work of your cooperative.

Both of these steps will free Paul Bader to provide more forestry services to members. In addition, we have discussed the possibility of contracting with Southwest Badger RC & D, for some of Stewardship Forester Patrick Dayton's time next summer. We are also looking for Foresters who understand the importance of sustainable forestry to work with the cooperative.

On another front, the Board initiated a Marketing Committee this year, to complement the very active Education Committee. Dan Arnold has chaired the Marketing Committee and spearheaded development of a new brochure, a focus on our newsletter and tool sales, and a subcommittee to work on development of the Co-op's web site.

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At a tour of Hawkeye Forest Products in June, 2006, with kilns on one side and stickered stacks of lumber on the other, the tour group observes the storage tower for planer shavings that are used as fuel to heat the kilns.

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The Forestry Store

Quality tools and safety equipment for work in the woodlands.

Contact Brian Graham, brian.donna.graham@gmail.com or 608-872-2285

Item for Sale	Retail Price
Fiskars Splitting Axe, 28" x 4 1/4 lb	\$66.63
Peltor Hard Hat System w/Visor, ear protection	45.68
Chain Sharp, Chainsaw sharpening system	18.57
Stump Vise, for holding chainsaw	7.47
Chaps, chainsaw, Pro w/calf protection, UL	67.32
Wedge, 7 1/4"	3.89
Wedge, 12"	6.53
Loggers Tape, 50'	39.23
Tree Measuring Stick and Log Scale	15.00
6 pt. ratchet suspension for hard hat	7.50
5-foot Tree tubes w/staje and bird net	4.88 each

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Your Board was able to take these steps with confidence as a result of a focus on strategic planning last Spring, and adoption of the first Co-op annual budget this summer. While we have been successful with "seat of the pants" operation until now, the Board recognizes the need for careful planning if we are to assure the sustainability of your cooperative. I'm sure you will agree that we are making progress to grow our cooperative for the benefit of you, the members.

Yours in cooperation,
George C. Wilbur
Co-op President

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Management Report

KWC members have been taking full advantage of management services this season. My work has been concentrated on Timber Sale Administration and Patrick Dayton has a full schedule writing management plans. Most of the harvests that were marked and inventoried last season have now been successfully completed. There are a few that have been contracted but not yet harvested. This year I have been very busy and we are looking to add some more woods help marking and inventorying MFL mandatory harvests. There are currently 20 members who will be doing harvests and other practices over the next year and I have a small backlog of inventories for completion next year. The next harvest season looks like it will be a banner year for the Co-op's management business. I do have a substantial backlog of new member "woods walks" (assessments). and hope to clean the list before summer. I can schedule them almost any time before the woods closes in the hot weather.

Patrick's employer, Southwest Badger Resource Conservation and Development Council, has funding for him through the end of June 07' and is looking for more funding to continue his work writing Stewardship plans for Co-op members. The Co-op has inquired about contracting for Pat's services writing MFL plans, Stewardship plans and other management work. The discussions are progressing well. We hope to keep Pat busy doing his excellent work for a long time to come.

All things considered I feel as though the Co-op has progressed to the point that it is a viable model for woodland owner organizations and that our original business plan has matured into reality. We have 182 members as of today and they have been using our services to actually accomplish the needed work to improve the region's forest resource. The board of director's vision is to grow the Co-op so that it has a significant positive

impact on the community's sustainable future. Members who want the Co-op's help with management tasks are encouraged to let me know what they need so that we can get you on the schedule.

Paul Bader
 KWC Forestry management Coordinator
 608-625-2515 domehome@mwt.net

Become a member and enjoy:

- Free woods walk to evaluate your forest
- Information, support and education.

Thank You!

I want to join the Kickapoo Woods Co-op.

- Enclosed is \$100. for
- Voting Membership
 - Associate membership

In addition, I would like to:

- Make a donation of \$ _____
- Work on a committee
- Offer a skill to support the co-op's work:

Please print.

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Total acres _____ Forested acres _____

County _____

Township _____ Section _____

Do you have a management plan?

Yes: MFL__ Stewardship__ Other__

No: I need one__ What is it? _____

It's Your Co-op

Wanted: a trailer for our Forestry Store, to bring to events. Please contact any board member.

Events Coming Up

These events are in the planning stages for the months ahead. Watch for more information in the local papers or from our email list.

January 20 - Using Forestry Tools. Hands-on workshop for hand tools, demonstrations of larger equipment.

February 17 - Woods Walk: Managing Your Woodlands.

March 24 - Timber Stand Improvement.

April - Chainsaw Safety.

April 21 - Shiitake mushroom and maple syrup production.

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The mission of the Kickapoo Wood Cooperative is to provide sustainable forestry education, management and marketing services to residents of the Kickapoo Valley and neighboring watersheds.

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