

Kickapoo Sustainable Post

Newsletter of the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative

Tree Tubes Improve Survival

Why invest all that effort in planting trees and not give them the best start possible?

Tree Survival

Survival is number one in the tree planter's hierarchy of goals. However, some planters still think keeping planting costs as low as possible is more important. Many have since learned through costly replanting efforts that keeping trees alive and thriving is the most important goal.

The Early Years

The first two to five years after a tree is planted are the riskiest and most difficult. Newly planted trees are vulnerable to whatever unfavorable condition Nature (and man, too, unwittingly) dishes out. Most deer damage (foraging, deer rub) takes place during this time. It therefore makes good sense to understand how and where newly planted trees are vulnerable and what to do to help them.

Vertical Growth

Research shows that in the first two years tree protectors and shelters can increase tree height up to 600 percent over trees grown without the benefit of protectors.

Tree tubes shorter than five feet will not prevent deer from browsing on you tree investment.

Kickapoo Woods Cooperative has 5 foot tall tree tubes for sale at the special price of \$4 each including hardwood stake and Bluebird bonnet. Contact Paul Bader (608) 625-2515



These green ash trees are thriving with the help of 5-foot-tall tree tubes.

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President's Letter to KWC Membership

Dear Friends:

Your cooperative is blessed with a very involved and aware board. It is a pleasure to work with others who share a vision for our direction and future. When I was elected Board president, I asked the Board to make long range planning a topic on every agenda. This focus on our future has provoked excellent discussion. I am writing this letter to ask you the members to provide us with your evaluations and comments.

We are seeing our membership steadily increase as more people realize the value of joining together as a cooperative to learn and practice sustainable forestry management. The rapid rise in property taxes on woodland is also increasing our membership as many people enroll their woodland in the State's Managed Forestry Program. Faced with a choice as to how to manage their woodland, they have sought the assistance of our cooperative.

This means an increased demand for advice and assistance in forest management. We continue to pursue an active education program and are expanding the availability of field staff to provide assistance with all aspects of good forestry practices. We are also continually screening contractors who we can trust to provide services that adhere to our standards of sustainability.

Paul Bader, as co-op coordinator, heads up field services and does an excellent job from marking timber for harvest per the land owner's objectives to providing oversight for contracted services including harvesting, marketing

and timber stand improvement (TSI). Paul also supervises the Co-op work of Patrick Dayton, our forester made available to us from Southwest Badger RC & D, who is busy helping Paul and writing Stewardship and MFL plans.

Lila Marmel has been the backbone of our very successful educational services which includes our newsletter. We currently receive a grant from the Nuzum Fund to assist us with this important program.

We intend to grow our forestry services to meet member needs. Towards that end, the Board has decided to hire a part time administrator to free up more of Paul's time. Paul has handled most administrative tasks, but his time is more valuable providing forestry related services. Our tool and book sales is another area we are considering delegating to someone else.

The Board has also discussed a physical facility for the co-op, to house a co-op store of forestry tools and publications and the tool rental business that has been somewhat successful out of Paul's basement/garage. In addition, we will eventually need administrative office space. Our budget is not yet at this point, but it is a likely goal.

Kickapoo Woods Cooperative has always operated with careful fiscal planning to slowly expand as we more successfully deliver services to members. The board is confident that this strategy is working.

Yours in Cooperation,
George C. Wilbur

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Collective Website is Building

KWC are participating in the Sustainable Woods Network, a web-based project that is linking landowner groups like ours across the country with consumers and landowners seeking to support sustainable forestry practices.

Our participation means that members interested will be able to easily list products or services on the site. This can include character wood such as that offered there now by Board Member Ben Hansen. But it can also include artisan work, timber sales, non-wood forest products or your landowner services.

“The site is meant to make it easier for interested consumers to find and support products from sustainably managed woodlands, and for landowner groups like Kickapoo to reach these consumers,” said Warren Gaskill, a KWC member who is developing the project.

You can take a tour today at www.sustainablewoods.net

The project formally got underway over a year ago when the US Department of Agriculture agreed to transfer a grant from the former Sustainable Woods Co-op to the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative. The grant funds have allowed the development to move ahead, including design of the website, market testing and development of the database that makes it work.

The Kickapoo Sustainable Post is produced on an occasional basis approximately 4 times per year. Subscriptions are free to members. Kickapoo Wood Cooperative, PO Box 71, La Farge WI 54639; Forestry Management Coordinator is Paul Bader, domehome@mwt.net or 608-625-2515. Editing design, and layout by Lila Marmel, sunmoon@mwt.net; 14150 State Hwy 131, Soldiers Grove WI 54655; 608-624-5269.

The site has been set up so it is easy for a member participant to enter and update words, pictures and product listings. All this work was mostly completed late last year, and now the focus is being placed on expanding participation across the country. Once there is a critical mass of participants, there will be a focus on marketing awareness of it. Already, though, it is easy to find through the internet search sites.

The USDA grant is funding costs of development and operating the site now, and these funds are expected to last at least through this year. Then the operation of it will have to be self-supported to cover ongoing marketing, technological updates and support. That funding structure will be determined as more is learned about the Network’s usefulness to the participants.

Ben Hansen is coordinating KWC’s use of the site for the co-op. If interested, you can contact him at by phone at 608-689-2585 or e-mail ben@mwt.net. Of if you have other questions, contact Warren at 608 767-2906 or e-mail at wgaskill@sustainablewoods.net.

Become a member and enjoy:

- Free woods walk to evaluate your forest (\$50 value)
- Information, support and education.

Thank You!

I want to join the Kickapoo Woods Co-op.

Enclosed is my gift of:

_____ \$100. Founding Associate

_____ \$_____ Other donation

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone/email _____

Total Acres _____ Forested acres _____

County _____ Township _____

Section _____

Thank You!

Calendar

June 2, 9:00 am - Log to Lumber demonstration and tour of Whitehall Mill, Trempeleau, WI. We will see this modern, high-production sawmill facility in operation and tour the yard and dry kiln.

July 8 - KWC Annual Meeting and picnic, La Farge Community Park. Each member will receive information at least a month before the meeting. If you would consider becoming a candidate to serve on our Board, please contact Paul Bader, 608-625-2515.

Help Wanted: Independent contractor to do bookkeeping and administrative work from home with computer. 10-20 hours per month to start. Pay commensurate with experience. Send resume and letter to Kickapoo Woods Cooperative, PO Box 71, La Farge WI 54639.

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.

Kickapoo Woods Cooperative
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