



Kickapoo Sustainable Post

Newsletter of the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative

KWC Services: Good For You, Good For Your Woods

Forestry Management Services from the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative provide excellent value and support the landowner's goals and ecosystem health.

The mainstay of the Woods Cooperative's management services has been timber sale administration. Included in the service are marking and inventorying the harvest according to the management plan prescription, producing a "cutting notice" and obtaining approval for Managed Forest Law (MFL) harvests, developing a prospectus, soliciting bids, and writing and supervising the harvest contract. In recent years we have relied heavily on contracted foresters to do the field work and the cutting notices while the Co-op has carried out the marketing, contract writing and harvest supervision. We have helped over 75 of our members conduct their timber sales and have marketed timber to all of the major commercial saw mills in the area and some as far as central Iowa and northern Wisconsin.

The Cooperative's compensation for timber sale management services has always been by the hour for forester and technician time plus material expense and mileage. That way the compensation is based on the time spent following the instructions in the management plan or modification made by the owner and plan authorities. Over the years we have developed a good idea of how many hours a certain job will take based on the plan prescription and terrain so that we are able to give the landowner a fairly precise estimate of the time required. We strive to be as efficient as possible and encourage the member's help where needed, further reducing the billed time. This also provides the landowner the opportunity to be directly involved in the management of their woodlands.

Some consultants charge by the acre and some

charge a commission on the sale. Some sawmills employ foresters and will not charge for the marking and estimating the tree volumes of variable value. However, you are pretty much obligated to sell them the timber once they have provided the free inventory. We know that the Co-op's hourly rate for members is lower than most consultants. We charge just enough to pay our contractors and the Co-op's overhead plus a small profit for financial stability.

To provide other professional forestry services we have used referral to known vendors for our member's needs. We do not currently have on staff graduate foresters with the proper credentials for plan writing. Timber Stand Improvement work and tree planting are some of the other referrals that we make.

The basic aim of our forestry management services is to help the landowner fulfill their goals for their woodlands, while also fulfilling their contract obligations in the case of MFL enrollments. We also place a high value on ecosystem health, and carefully choose contractors for referral for their ability to meet these standards. KWC has become a trusted source for forestry management.

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Aldo Leopold Center

Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets, but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how. To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet; one need only own a shovel. By virtue of this curious loophole in the rules, any clodhopper may say: Let there be a tree—and there will be one.

*Aldo Leopold, Pines above the Snow,
Sand County Almanac, 1949*

Aldo Leopold is one of our nation's most beloved naturalists and authors. His book *A Sand County Almanac*, published in 1949, has since then sold over two million copies and been translated into 10 languages—truly a classic in nature writing. Many regard Leopold's thinking still among our most influential in conservation, despite being penned over 50 years ago. His legacy continues to inform and inspire us to see the natural world "as a community to which we belong."

The Aldo Leopold Foundation (ALF) was founded in 1982 by the children of Aldo Leopold—Starker, Luna, Nina, Carl, and Estella—a 501(c)(3) public charity that fosters the land ethic through the legacy of Aldo Leopold. ALF works to weave a land ethic into the fabric of our society; to advance the understanding, stewardship and restoration of land health; and to cultivate leadership for conservation.

ALF owns and manages the Leopold Shack National Historic Landmark and assists in the management of the adjoining 2,000 acre Leopold

'Kū-lē Region Forestry, Inc.



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Aldo's Daughter Nina Passes

Nina Leopold Bradley died on May 25, 2011 in her home on the Leopold Reserve near Baraboo, Wisconsin. She was 93 years old and had a full and healthy life as a scientist, conservationist, philosopher and humanitarian, sustaining and augmenting the ideas of her father, the famous conservationist Aldo Leopold.

She collaborated with her first husband, zoologist William Elder, on many wildlife projects in North America, Africa, and Hawaii. In the 1970s, for the Thorne Ecological Institute in Boulder Colorado, she facilitated conferences to introduce corporate leaders to important ideas in ecology.

With her second husband, Charles Bradley, Nina re-kindled the axe-in-hand philosophy of her father, and in 1976 established the Bradley Study Center on the Leopold Reserve along the Wisconsin River. She helped to create a graduate program in ecological research at the University of Wisconsin and expanded the land restoration work and phenological observation that her family started when she was young.

Nina Leopold Bradley is remembered by family
Nina, continued on page 3

Memorial Reserve. ALF acts as the executor of Leopold's literary estate, encourages scholarship on Leopold, and serves as a clearinghouse for information regarding Leopold, his work, and his ideas. It provides interpretive resources and tours for some 6,500 visitors annually, cooperates with partners on education and other off-site programming. Land stewardship initiatives serve private landowners locally and regionally toward building and sustaining land health.

The Leopold Legacy Center, ALF's headquarters and a national leader in "green" building design, is located northeast of Baraboo. Guided and self-guided tours of the Aldo Leopold Shack are available from April through November during open hours. Made using trees planted by Aldo Leopold, self-guided tours of the Legacy Center are available year-round. Visit <http://www.aldoleopold.org> to learn more about tours, group tours, workshops and family events.

Promote Your Co-op!

VERNON COUNTY FAIR, Sept. 14-18, 2011. The Kickapoo Woods Cooperative's display at the Vernon County Fair has evolved and improved in the 3 years we've participated. This event has served to increase our exposure to the community and to potential members. We are asking KWC members to consider helping us out in staffing our booth. We usually have 2 or 3 members there for each 3 hour shift; this involves visiting with people on what the Co-op does and how it has benefited you. We'll pair you with a "veteran" of past Fairs to make this comfortable for you. Past participants have commented on how enjoyable this was and how fast the time goes by... If you think you might be able to help, contact Roger Krause at 637-7969 or 637-2787; email is krausewalbrunins@frontiernet.net. I will put you on the list of potential helpers and contact you to schedule as the time draws near.

MORE EVENTS... Since the Board works as unpaid volunteers, many of us are already devoting considerable time...yet more could be done to promote KWC. Perhaps you attend or are involved with a local event where KWC could/should have a display? ...community fair, festival, seminar, etc. You could help promote KWC by bringing this to our attention and/or offering to co-ordinate our display there. We've got a pretty good system of table display, pictures, information, and literature. It shouldn't be difficult for a member to set up a KWC info table at a suitable event. We would ask that you contact any Board member to get approval, tell us if you need additional help, and arrange to pick up necessary materials. In this way, you can help your Co-op...1. members like to see our presence in the community, and 2. recruiting new members becomes easier.

Thanks,
Roger Krause
Marketing Committee

KWC Annual Meeting July 16

Our tenth annual Member Meeting will be Saturday, July 16, and 2:00 pm at the Gays Mills Lions Shelter at the west end of Main Street in Gays Mills. It's a great opportunity to get together with others who are interested in woodland management, and to participate in the workings of your cooperative.

The meeting will begin with co-op business, including reports about the organization's activities over the past year, finances, and our search for an office to make the co-op more accessible and visible. We will also discuss program funding, future activities, and answer questions brought up by members. We will elect two board members, award door prizes, and share a meal. The KWC will provide sandwiches and beverages, and everybody else will bring a dish to pass. It's always a wonderful feast with good company. The Museum of the Kickapoo will be open from 10 until 4, so you may want to come early to view the beautiful, informative displays on the natural history and characteristics of the region. It's across the street from the Lions Shelter in the old mill next to the dam. See you there!

Nina, continued from page 2

and friends for her boundless generosity, wisdom and grace, an inspiration to all. Her expansion of her father's ideas about nature is a gift to all who care about the ecological systems of which humans are a part.

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Managed Forest Law Changes Proposed

A legislative council special committee last winter submitted seven proposed changes for the Managed Forest Law (MFL) to the Wisconsin legislature. UW-Madison forestry professor Mark Rickenbach was on the special committee, and he visited the Kickapoo Valley Reserve on 4 April, 2011, to provide some background on the proposals and to describe the process for their consideration by lawmakers.

One of the most likely to be made law is the proposed change making leasing of MFL land for recreational uses allowable, reversing a clause in the 2007-09 state budget prohibiting such leasing. Another likely change to be discussed is the one regarding taxation of closed MFL land, and distribution of MFL funds. The new calculation may cost landowners slightly more on their tax bill, but the significant impact of the change will be on the distribution of tax dollars. A large portion of the money will be required to be spent on providing access for public recreational use, and will be split between the county, the township, and the DNR.

Other proposed changes include a Board of Review for landowners to appeal DNR decisions on "sound forestry practices" (in addition to the existing contested case hearing process); the simplification of the process to add acreage to an MFL enrollment; and establishment of Forest Enterprise Areas (FEAs) in towns or counties, with payments from the conservation fund to help support sustainable forestry and forest-based

economic development. FEAs must be at least 5,000 acres with a minimum of 1,000 acres enrolled in MFL. Another proposed change would require large holdings greater than 1,000 acres to keep their harvest within a range of maximum and minimum cut per year determined by the DNR. Another allows for group enrollments that total at least 1,000 acres in aggregate to gain the flexibility in timing and coordinating forestry practices currently allowed large forest industry and real estate investment trusts of the same size.

All these proposals are beginning to make their way through the legislative process, starting, most likely, with the Assembly Forestry Committee and the Senate Financial Institutions and Rural Issues Committee. At this stage, all seven proposals are included in a single bill to change the MFL program. If any of the proposed changes may affect you, landowners are encouraged to get more information and contact your legislators. A good summary of the MFL proposals is on Rickenbach's blog, notcountingtrees.org.



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KWC News

Logs Needed for Mushroom Project

KWC has thrown itself into Shiitake Mushroom Logs as a way to raise revenue. On April 16, with much thanks to the Viroqua Food Co-op, we held a truckload sale of the logs inoculated in 2010. Our 100 logs sold out in a matter of minutes with much demand unfulfilled! With several KWC volunteers helping at two work days this spring, we are going into next season with some 450 inoculated logs ready for sale. Perhaps you can help us in the future. We will be looking for suppliers of ironwood or oak logs to be cut next winter. As we learn what our potential is, the co-op would be willing to pay for suitable sized logs (4-6" diameter, 4 feet long). If you are doing a TSI (ironwood removal) or an oak harvest this coming winter, contact me or another board member. You may be able to earn some \$\$\$\$ for your efforts!

Roger Krause, Marketing

Exploring the UnderStory:

Wild Ginger *Asarum Canadense*

by Ken Workowski

Wild ginger is a native North American perennial found growing in moist rich soils in shady woodlands. The large heart-shaped leaves are hairy, dark green and deeply indented at the stem.

They grow in opposite pairs to a height of eight to ten inches. The small maroon to brown deep bowl-shaped flower grows at the base between the leaf stems. The flower is hairy outside and splits into three outwardly folded petals. Flowers bloom in April and May. The root is a long rhizome. When crushed it has a strong antiseptic smell.

Wild Ginger is rather common throughout the Driftless area. In areas where the soil is rich and moist, I have seen it grow so abundant that it forms a thick ground cover that excludes all other plants.

Neil Diebold, of Prairie Nursery, says that he uses it extensively in shady borders to create a maintenance free ground cover that once established will

exclude even invasive species like garlic mustard and Buckthorn. To accomplish this he recommends transplanting rhizomes, gathered in fall or early spring, every square foot through the chosen area. Plant rhizomes one to two inches deep and mulch. Within a few years, if conditions are favorable, the rhizomes will spread and fill the area to form a carpet of heart shaped greenery. We plan on



photos from biology.clc.uc.edu and fs.fed.us



implementing this process late this fall.

Wild ginger has a long history as a medicinal herb, but should only be used with thorough knowledge of its properties as it contains aristolochic acid which in quantities can cause organ problems.

Scientific study shows it to have antiinflammatory, antiviral, antitumor activity, cures warts in some cases and is a broad spectrum antibacterial and anti-fungal.

Speaking of curing warts, I found this bit of folklore: One group of early American settlers (witch hunters) called wild ginger “wart chase” and believed witches used it to rid themselves of warts so they would not be recognized.

Wild ginger is also an important food source for the Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly. Many insects are attracted to wild ginger including ants believed to pollinate the plant.

So as you go about your wood wanderings this summer, look for this common ground cover and consider the possibilities.

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Member Profile: Margaret and Loren Cade

The name of the farm tells something about its history, and about the couple who run it, Loren and Margaret Cade. The Cade Archeological District Vineyard is right next door to the farm where Loren was born and raised, and where he first began picking up arrowheads and other archeological artifacts in the crop and hayfields as a boy. He continued collecting over the years and now has many cases of artifacts framed and mounted. He displays them, along with other amateur collectors, annually at the Valley View Mall in La Crosse, usually the second weekend in March. The Mississippi Valley Archeological Society from UW-La Crosse has had several digs on his and his parents' land, and have found campsites, burials and effigy mounds. The last parcel of his parents' farm, with several significant archeological sites, has been sold to the Mississippi Valley Conservancy to be preserved and studied.



photo from vernonvineyards.com

Margaret grew up on a nearby farm, and the two rode the same school bus as children. They tried living in town for a year when they both had jobs in town, but they soon found that they missed living in the country, and bought the farm where they still live. They continued working at their jobs, she in the school lunchroom, and he at a building supply distributor in La Crosse. In addition, they grew tobacco, corn, hay, beef and subsistence crops, and raised two children on the farm. When tobacco markets and allotments declined rapidly in the 1990s, the county agent procured a grant to allow twenty tobacco farmers to try a new crop. They tried planting grapes for winemaking, and the grant provided classes in

growing grapes, and partial reimbursement for the costs of the first half acre. Loren continued adding more vineyards each year and now has two and one-quarter acres in grapes. Loren's interest in high school chemistry had evolved into winemaking as a hobbyist, which he had been doing for more than twenty years when the Vernon Vineyards began. He worked there as winemaker for five years, and now he still sells his grapes there, helps out at harvest time, and works part time in the tasting room/retail store.

Most of the Cade's 242 acres are woodlands, with more than 100 acres enrolled in MFL (Managed Forest Law). The Cades harvest and replant acorns to improve oak regeneration, and to accomplish their goal of improving ginseng stands, harvest and plant ginseng berries. Loren created his own planting spud for planting acorns with tools and materials on hand on the farm.

continued on next page

Stephanie Purner



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Loren makes his own firewood, so he took chainsaw safety and now uses chaps and head/ear/eye protection, which he now considers essential for safety. He wants to improve his stands of hard maple, and also oak stands for deer and turkey habitat. He wants to see a sustainable timber industry in the region, and notes that he fenced his cows out of the woods 25 years ago. It took ten years to convince his parents to keep the cows out of their woods.

Loren and Margaret Cade have a deep connection with their land and are working continuously to improve the health of ecosystems there, while also supporting the farm with their



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vineyards and occasional timber harvests. Their love for the land and the work is borne out with their daily and yearly rhythms of managing invasive species, encouraging desirable species, and maintaining production areas as healthy ecosystems.

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 \$200. for membership stock.
 Voting Associate

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 _____

Address of woodland property if different:

Total acres _____ Forested acres _____

County _____

Township _____ Section _____

Do you have a management plan?

Yes: MFL__ Stewardship__ Other__

No: I need one__ What is it? _____



Kickapoo Woods Cooperative
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kickapoowoods.org

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.

Events Coming Up

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

July 14 - Emerald Ash Borer (AM) and Battle of Bad Axe (PM), De Soto Community Center, 9:30 am.

July 16 - Kickapoo Woods Cooperative Annual Meeting, Gays Mills Lions Shelter near the Kickapoo River, 2:00 pm. (More on page 3.)

September - Post Harvest Hike.

October 1 - Forestry Tool Field Day

October 14-15 - Chainsaw Safety, level 2 and 1.

For Sale: Stihl HT101 telescoping pole pruner chain saw with HT carrier support system. New, never used. Ontario-Wilton area.

Dick O'Gara
 715-977-0049