

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Forestry Walk through Timber Harvests Sep 10

A Forestry Field Day will be held at the Kettle Trust property north of La Farge on Saturday, September 10, starting at 10:00 am. Harvests were conducted on different stands in 2002, 2005, and 2008, and we will visit each site to consider whether the long term objectives for the harvests are being met. The first harvest in 2002 was conducted with horses and skidders, and sold off the landing. It removed an aspen clone that was getting old and beginning to lose value, along with some hardwoods to release oaks and maples. Objectives of the second and third harvests included releasing the healthier trees so their growth would be enhanced by greater access to nutrients and sunlight, and also to promote utilization of all types of wood while watching nutrient cycling in the forest. The property was enrolled in Managed Forest Law (MFL) in 2004, and the 2005 harvest was mainly oak with some aspen. A skidder was used and some road building was done to extend the logging road and improve access. The 2008 harvest was all hardwood, mostly red oak, aspen, and basswood, with some bitternut hickory, hard maple and cherry. These were all selection harvests, with small clonal aspen clearcuts. We will look for oak regeneration and stump sprouting to see how the forest is re-growing. Some possible topics of discussion include sale methods, resulting damage, trail maintenance, invasive species management, harvesting machinery, and general conditions.

Leading the walk will be Paul Bader, the KWC forestry management professional who planned and administered the timber sales, and resident and host George Wilbur. The event is sponsored by the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative.

To get to George Wilbur's place at the Kettle Land Trust, take Highway 131 North from LaFarge about seven miles to the Village of Rockton. Continue on Highway 131 another .3 miles to Dutch Hollow Road (a Rustic Road) and turn left. Then go 1.3 miles to the top of the ridge and turn right on West Kettle Road. At the T-intersection 150 yards in, turn right on East Kettle road. Follow this to the Kettle Trust sign where their driveway begins, and continue, bearing right (downhill) at the Y, to the end at George Wilbur's home (1 mile from T-intersection).

Coffee and light refreshments will be available when we return from the hike.

For more information, contact Lila Marmel of the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative (sunmoon@mwt.net, 608- 624-5269).