

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Forest Products Workshop April 21

The public is invited to a workshop on growing, producing and harvesting nontimber forest products, including shiitake mushrooms and maple syrup. The Kickapoo Woods Cooperative is sponsoring the event, which will be held on the Dan Badtke farm between Viroqua and La Farge. Participants will visit the maple woods and hike down to the sugar shack to see Badtke's maple syrup operation. New this year is a reverse osmosis machine that removes about 70% of the water from the sap, greatly reducing cooking time. We will visit shiitake and other mushroom production areas, in a hardwood forest. Outdoor production yields mushrooms from spring till fall. Each participant will inoculate logs with shiitake spawn to take home. Bring a drill if you have one and a 5/16" screw tip augur or brad point bit.

Badtke has produced maple syrup and maple candy for 30 years, and shiitake mushrooms for 15 years. He sells his mushrooms and maple products at farmers markets and to local restaurants. In addition, the former dairy farmer raises pigs and beef cattle and feed crops for their needs, and he selectively cuts some timber most every winter. Dan Badtke's farm is a truly diversified operation, making for resiliency when some of those products are not getting a good price or not producing well.

The workshop begins at 10:00 AM and costs \$10 for Kickapoo Woods Cooperative members, \$20 for non-members, and this includes the cost of materials for the shiitake log you can take home for your own production.

To find the Badtke farm from Viroqua, go east on highway 56 about 4-5 miles, turn left on highway 82 and go 1.5 miles to the top of the ridge. Turn right (south) at the big blue house on Groves Lane one-half mile, S 4953 Groves Lane. Watch for signs.

KWC will provide light refreshments, and forestry books and tools will be available for purchase. The event will be held rain or shine, though we may spend less time in the woods if the weather is truly miserable. For more information, contact Lila Marmel, 608-624-5269 or sunmoon@mwt.net.

The Kickapoo Woods Cooperative's mission is to provide forestry education, management and marketing services to residents of the Kickapoo valley and neighboring watersheds that will improve the forestry resource for the region. KWC is accepting new members and can help them to develop Forest Management Plans.