

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact Lila Marmel, 608-624-5269; sunmoon@mwt.net

Spring Flora Hike May 17

On Saturday, May 17, 2008, at 1:00 pm, the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative will sponsor a hike to identify spring flora in the forests of the Wauzeka Unit of the Kickapoo River State Wildlife Area. Mid-May is a great time to see the spring ephemeral wildflowers in the forest, and plant specialist Carol Jacobs will guide the group and identify forest understory plants as well as prairie plants encountered in the open areas.

The state wildlife area at the mouth of the Kickapoo River where it empties into the Wisconsin River is beautiful and remote. Its diverse hardwoods shelter an understory rich with native plants with blossoms of every color and description. Carol Jacobs is a life long lover of plants and self taught expert on native woodland and prairie plants. Long after she had learned to identify and use plants, she earned certification in Western Herbalism at the Rocky Mountain Center for Botanical Studies. On her last spring plant walk for the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative, she introduced participants to the work of John Kotar, a UW-Madison forester who identified understory plant communities that are indicators of forest succession history and soil types, and also predictors of future succession, helping forest managers and landowners to design successful management plans enhancing native forest ecosystems.

This event is free and open to the public. Free-will offerings will be gratefully accepted and will support the educational programs of the cooperative. Light refreshments will be served after the hike.

To find the woods walk, take Onstine Hill Road west from State Highway 131 about 5.5 miles south of Steuben and about 1+ miles north of Highway 60. Go less than one mile and turn left at the t-intersection with Badger Lane. Continue a short distance to the public land access parking area on the left. We will meet at this small parking area. Additional parking is available at the end of the road two-tenths of a mile further. Signs will be posted.

It's time to welcome the spring with a hike in the woods and learn about the plant life bursting forth beneath our feet!

The Kickapoo Woods Cooperative's mission is to provide forestry education and management services to residents of the Kickapoo Valley and neighboring watersheds that will improve the forestry resource for the region.