

# Press Release

For Immediate Release

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## Forest Thinning Workshop March 24

On Saturday, March 24, 2007 at 10:00 AM, the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative will sponsor a workshop on how to manage forested areas for maximum economic return as well as health of the forest ecosystem, wildlife habitat, esthetic goals, or whatever the landowner's objectives are for their property. The workshop will focus on the three primary practices used in timber stand improvement: weeding, pruning and crop tree release. Weeding consists of identifying, marking and removing undesirable vegetation to improve the health and growth of desirable trees and other species. Crop tree release begins with choosing which trees to keep standing in the woods, whether for future harvests, as seed trees, for wildlife, esthetic reasons, or to maintain diversity. Once this is done, we must determine which trees must be removed

Participants will visit a hardwood stand to demonstrate the principles discussed, and will have an opportunity to consider the decisions to be made as the group marks the forest for thinning. The workshop will be held at the property of Kevin Schmidt and Scarlet Welander at 19048 Gays View Road, Gays Mills, Wisconsin.

KWC will provide coffee and light refreshments after the hike. Books and some tools and safety equipment will be available for sale.

This event is free and all are welcome.

To find the Schmidt / Welander property, Red Maple Farm, go through Gays Mills to the west end of town and cross the Kickapoo River bridge, then turn left onto West River Road. Take the first right turn up the hill on O'Neil Ridge Road. Go about one mile up the hill, using caution on the hairpin turn about three-quarters of the way up, and turn left at the top of the hill onto Gays View Road. Go one mile to the end of the road and take the left driveway with the Red Maple Farm sign. Park along the driveway and join us inside the garage to begin the workshop.

The Kickapoo Woods Cooperative's mission is to provide forestry education, management and marketing services to landowners of the Kickapoo valley and neighboring watersheds to improve the forestry resource for the region.

This event will provide useful information and hands-on experience for landowners and others interested in taking practical steps to improve our forests. Kevin and Scarlet's home is a passive solar strawbale building, and they are currently harvesting timber and having it milled to build an addition, which will also be of strawbale construction, with in-floor radiant heat and earthen plasters. After the workshop, Kevin has offered to show any who are interested the house and the lumber, which should be stacked and stickered in the greenhouse by then.