

Kickapoo Sustainable Post

Newsletter of the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative

Forest Health in the Driftless Area

by Jack Knight

Such a myriad of factors influence forest health, I will here focus on three: the recently arrived gypsy moth, the inevitably coming emerald ash borer, and the one factor we have the most influence over, how we interact with our woodlands to create a healthier forest.

Gypsy moths have been on their way here from the east coast since they were brought here in 1869, and arrived in eastern Wisconsin in the 1980s. A foliage pest of oak, aspen, birch, and many other woody plants, much has been learned about them since their arrival which has aided in monitoring and controlling them and mitigating the damage they do. Wisconsin, Iowa and

Minnesota have extensive and effective programs of Gypsy moth monitoring, with traps located in campgrounds and parks where they often first show up from the undersides of trailers and cars coming from

infested areas in the East, as well as sites just ahead of the known advancing populations.

When the male moths are first detected in these traps, the area near the trap is counted for Gypsies to physically remove them if possible and to further determine the scope of the concern. The second line of defense is to use a pheromone lure that disrupts mating. Further intensive monitoring of the area is conducted to see if the third line of defense is to apply Bt, a biological insecticide that destroys the digestive tract of the Gypsy caterpillars. Gypsy moths have a variety of natural enemies, some native—mice, birds, spiders—plus

two imported by the DNR. A fungus disease brought here in 1989 has become well established wherever moths are present and has been useful in slowing the spread of and controlling established populations. The relatively cool and wet year has been favorable to this fungal disease.

A viral disease exclusive to Gypsy moths is also used, NPU. It is more difficult to apply and is used in areas where Bt sprays affect the endangered Karner blue butterfly. It is capable of killing Gypsies in both caterpillar and pupa stages and causes significant declines in Gypsy numbers. Gypsy moths are not here yet in significant numbers, though they have been trapped at numerous locations in the Driftless area, and there have been a few spot treatments of the mating disruption pheromone.

Another important pest, one with a lot of questions about the possibility of control and the timing of its arrival here is the Emerald Ash borer. Introduced in Detroit in 2002 in wooden pallets or packing crates from China, it is the latest in a series of imported pests, including Asian long-horned beetles, also via pallets, and West Nile Virus via shipping containers. All come to us courtesy of expanding free trade zones around the world. Michigan has already cut down 8 million

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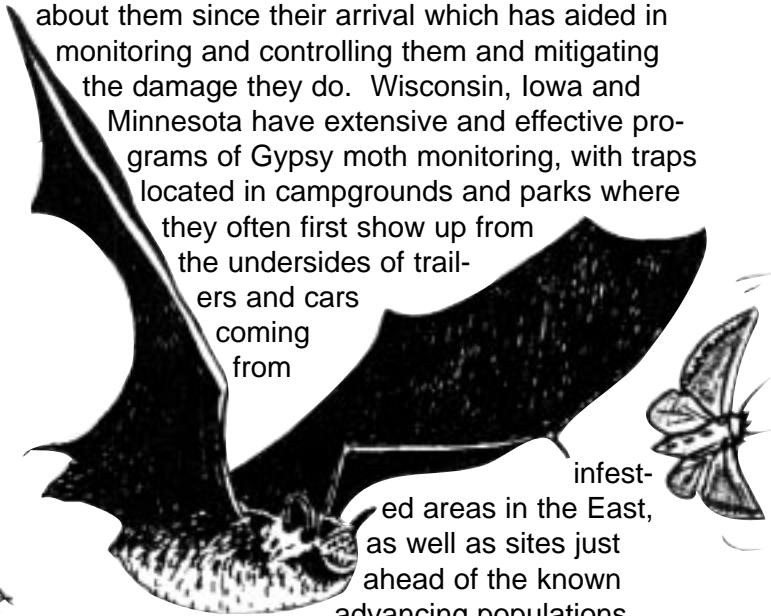
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ash trees, monitors 10,000 traps, has 155 full-time state workers on this in addition to research, quarantines on ash wood and insecticide programs to stem the spread of this worrisome pest. As in the case of any recent introduction of an exotic pest, much needs to be learned about its natural enemies, how fast it spreads, what can be done.

The impact it will have is a huge question, and according to Minnesota Ag officials, "it will get here sooner or later, no two ways about it." Emerald Ash borer kills trees by destroying nutrient-conducting tissue under the bark, causing very rapid death. It is considered the worst new forest pest in some time.

How we manage our woodlands can either provide yet another problem for their health or set the stage to prevent or mitigate health concerns. Poor harvesting practices, a lack of management in controlling invasive plants or less than desirable "weed" trees, not providing for the regeneration of mixed diverse forest and having stands of timber too crowded at any stage of growth all contribute to a less than healthy and productive forest. An uneven-aged mixed forest of vigorously growing trees is the best defense against the myriad of pests and disease out there, so we want to make sure they are not being crowded into a slowly growing stand, too shady for regeneration. Trees that are vigorously growing are both more resistant to pests and able to outgrow and recover from pests. A diverse forest creates balances of pests and predators, and in the worst scenarios provides that only a portion of the forest will be set back in the event of a catastrophic pest problem, and provide a variety of seed sources to best replace what might be lost.

There are many other factors influencing forest health: air pollution, wind, fire, drought, over-

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Annual Meeting Report

About twenty people gathered at Sidie Hollow on a beautiful July day for our third annual meeting. Co-op president Ben Hansen welcomed everyone and introduced board members and paid personnel Paul Bader and Lila Marmel. Last year's minutes were read out and approved, and the financial statement was presented. Lila reviewed the activities of the Education committee, including 12 events and 2 newsletters. Our board members have been asked to present at events in Wisconsin and nationwide. We gained 33 new members this year and the Education Committee would like to find ways to make its programs self-supporting, having relied on grant funding. Paul Bader reviewed the Tool Rental and Sale program and Management and Forestry Services. Both of these programs will be self-supporting in the long-term, and we hope to add more tools and safety equipment, and perhaps also books, to our sale and rental program.

Three grants had been submitted and were pending approval, two of these have been approved since then. Grants were reviewed.

A bylaw change was introduced that would change our annual meeting date to be held no later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year. The current bylaw requires it be held no later than April 15, an awkward timing since our fiscal year ends June 30. This bylaw change will be voted on at next year's annual meeting.

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grazing, monoculture tree farms, to name a few. All for another day, another workshop, another chat in the woods. Here's to your health, and the health of our forests.

From The Coordinator

Grants

We are currently planning this season's educational and outreach programs so watch for information on events coming up this fall. Funding from the Kickapoo Valley Reforestation Fund (Nuzum's Fund) has been used up for the 03-04 year. In the past, Nuzum's has funded the KWC Coordinator position for the purpose of Co-op development and educational events. In conjunction with two UW-Madison professors, we have applied and just received notice of approval for a new Grant from Nuzum's.

The Co-op Coordinator will no longer be funded by grant money and in its place will be a research and outreach program. The new grant is for three years and will include a research project on how human social factors affect changes to the local forest landscape. Also included is the development of a Co-op management plan database and funding for an outreach (educational) coordi-

nator and programs. The following is an excerpt from the first page of the grant application.

Toward Landscape-scale Forest Management in the Kickapoo Valley

Mark G. Rickenbach (UW Forest Ecology and Management), Kimberly Zeuli (UW Agricultural and Applied Economics), and the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative Board
Purpose

This study will combine the University's research and outreach missions with the local educational and forest management capacity of the Kickapoo Woods Cooperative (KWC) to investigate the potential for wide-spread adoption of landscape-scale forest management practices in the Kickapoo Valley.

Objectives

This study has four objectives that span research, outreach, and organizational capacity building. (1) Investigate the ecologi-

From the Coordinator, continued on page 4

Grant for Following up on Forestry

KWC will be included in a grant-supported project to help landowners follow up on their intentions to get things done in their woods. Our focus will be organizing landowner groups to help each other accomplish their goals by working together to complete projects while gaining skills and possibly even friends. A forestry expert will meet with landowners and come to their work days to provide hands-on support to get the work done properly. A meeting will take place this fall to get started. If the thought of expert assistance and free labor sounds interesting to you, contact Education Coordinator Lila Marmel (608-624-5269 or sunmoon@mwt.net) to make sure you find out about the meeting when it is scheduled.

Serving the Kickapoo Valley...

George C. Wilbur

Attorney & Counselor at Law

625-4430

Celeste Gibson

Certified Public Accountant

625-4604

104 W. Main St., LaFarge, WI

Kickapoo Gold Maple Supplies Open House

Date: September 11, 2004

Location: Phil & Sarah Gudgeon Farm
E8533 Cherry Grove Road
Viroqua WI 54665

Topics: Tubing Installation Demonstration
and Assorted Syrup Topics

Speaker: Bradley Gillilan, Sales &
Marketing for Leader Evaporator Co.

Hours: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Spend the day with us and other people interested in the maple business. Lunch will be served. If you have any questions call 608-634-4896.

From the Coordinator, continued from page 3

cal landscape impacts of current and future forest management practices by KWC members and non-members. (2) Determine viable organizational structures to coordinate landscape-scale forest management. (3) Enhance local understanding and adoption of forest management plans and practices that are sensitive to landscape factors and impacts. And, (4) Create a management plan database to help the KWC and other local landowner associations coordinate and plan forest management practices.

With this new grant there will be a slight change in KWC's personnel and duties. Lila Marmel has been designated as the "Education Coordinator." She will be handling as usual the production of the newsletters and taking on the new duties of #3 in the Objectives above. I remain as "Co-op Coordinator", board member, tool rental/sales rep, resource manager and bottle washer. I and other board members/members will be heavily involved with all of the objectives above. Mark and Kim from the UW will be the lead researchers and advisors. Mark has included this work in the Kickapoo Valley with other similar research in Northern Wisconsin and is the author of this grant proposal. Thank you Mark!

The Value of Your Logs

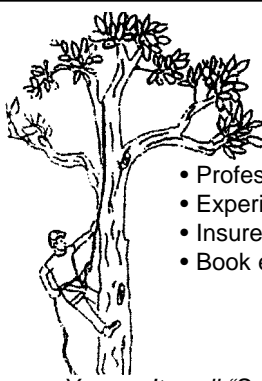
Speaking of forest management, there are at least 5 member harvests planned so far this coming season and I have been asked one question consistently "What is the value of my timber?" The easy answer is "What ever you can get for it." While true, it does not cover the details sufficiently to satisfy most property owners who are about to

sell some of their trees. We are trying to schedule a workshop this winter at a lumber mill to look at various logs and talk in-depth about log prices, quality and grading logs and lumber. In the meantime, here are the factors that go into the answer to what is the value of your timber.

In order to answer the question there are a myriad of other questions that need to be considered—What is the Species? What is the Quality? What is the Volume? and What is the Location? Then there is the Market, it is what we are talking about and it can be very confusing. Why does one mill quote a different price than the next for the same product? There are a lot of log buyers out there and that brings up the next question. How can I tell if I am getting a fair offer?

While I can quote you a value weekly for a semi truck load of one grade of any species of green hardwood lumber commonly traded in the industry, the same can't always be done with logs, there are too many variables. If you have a large volume of fairly high to high quality red oak or some other "in demand" species, I can guarantee a very competitive market. Unfortunately most of the high quality timber has already been harvested and most of us are cutting for salvage and forest improvement. The "first worst" type of harvest produces low quality and low value logs i.e. logs of low demand sp. and rough logs that produce low grade lumber. Most often this type of log is made into pallet lumber and my experience is that the value is very consistent from mill to mill, as long as it is delivered to the mill.

Quantity and location play a more important role in determining what you net for your low grade/low value logs. Quantities of one truck load (about 3,500 board feet) if piled next to a town road can be sold fairly easily. However, if the



ACTION TREE SERVICE

- Professional Tree Trimming & Removal
- Experienced
- Insured
- Book early for winter TSI work

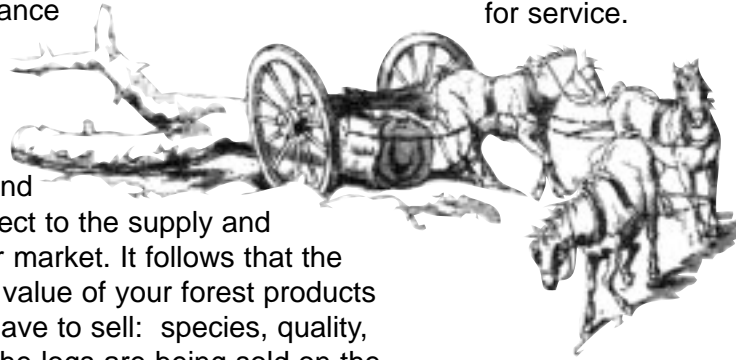
Call Brian Graham
872-2285

You can't spell "Satisfaction" without "ACTION"

Woodlot Owners

I would like to assist you in marking your woods for Timber Stand Improvement. We can use your existing forestry plan or develop a TSI plan. I can help with the tree and shrub ID necessary for TSI and mark all or a portion of your woods to enable you to do your own TSI work. Call or write now to reserve a time this November or December.
Jack Knight, Box 151, Gays Mills WI 54631;
cell phone: 563-380-3180.

trees are standing in the woods and you want to sell them standing, it will probably be necessary to have about ten truckloads to attract any buyers at all. If the terrain is steep and not very accessible your net will be even less because logging costs will rise. Trucking distance to the mill is a determining factor when selling low value logs and less significant with high value logs and the log market is subject to the supply and demand of the lumber market. It follows that the best way to know the value of your forest products is to know what you have to sell: species, quality, volume and whether the logs are being sold on the stump (standing) or on the landing (cut and skid to a place where a log truck can get them). Of course if you sell them on the landing you will have to cut and skid them yourself or hire a logger to do it for you, the logging costs will be yours and you will have more control of the harvest. Even though you will get the best price for logs piled next to the road compared to standing timber, the more restrictive your logging contract is the higher your costs. Typical logging costs vary from about \$100 to \$150 per thousand board feet. With last year's prices paid for low value logs hovering between \$150 and \$200 per thousand board feet paid at the landing you can see with logging costs subtracted that a harvest of that type will be of marginal gain. However the value added to your woods by removing the low value trees may mitigate the low profit in your eyes. Prices paid for veneer and high quality saw logs of an "in demand" species can run from \$600/thousand to over \$1,000/thousand board feet.



ests of the forest and your goals in mind. Please make use of these services—they are central to our Co-op's mission.

Please call or e-mail me with your requests for service.

Paul Bader
608-625-2515;
domehome@mwt.net

The Kickapoo Sustainable Post is produced on an occasional basis approximately 2 times per year. Subscriptions are free to members. Kickapoo Wood Cooperative, PO Box 71, La Farge WI 54639; contact person is Paul Bader, 608-625-2515; domehome@mwt.net. Editing, design, and layout by Lila Marmel, sunmoon@mwt.net; 14150 State Hwy 131, Soldiers Grove WI 54655; 608-624-5269.

Become a member and enjoy:

- Free woods walk to evaluate your forest (\$50 value)
- Information, support and education.

Thank You!

I want to join the Kickapoo Woods Co-op.

Enclosed is my gift of:

_____ \$100. Lifetime Member

_____ \$_____ Other donation

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Total acres: _____

Forested acres: _____

County _____ Township _____

Section _____

I am interested in KWC because:

If you have an upcoming harvest in your management plan and you have sufficient quantity and quality, the best way to value your marked trees is to put them up for bids indicating any special provisions you have for the conduct of the harvest that will be included with your logging contract. If the quality and quantity is low you may be forced to sell your logs from the landing. In either case you will need to mark the trees to be harvested and make an estimate of quantity by species so that a value estimate can be made. The Co-op can provide you with marking, volume and quality estimate services for a fee, and with the best inter-

Calendar

For more info on KWC events (**in bold**), contact Paul Bader, 608-625-2515

September 18 -

Introductory Woods

Walk at Maggie Jones & David Linton's, 10:00 am, 41425 Spring Valley Lane,

phone on site, 872-2297.

97 Built their house from red oaks harvested in their 85 acres of woods, where they interplanted pines in 1976. Six miles north of Boscobel on Hwy 61, take S east 4-5 miles, turn right onto Remington Hill Road where S turns sharply left at the old schoolhouse. Go west 1/4 mile, bear right at the fork onto Spring Valley Lane, through the neighbor's farm to the end of the road. Free and open to the public, light refreshments after the hike.

yard and some row crops, and the great big cottonwood tree. Phone on site 483-2615. Take Hwy 56west from Viroqua 10 miles, right on Cty O, 4 miles, right on Upper Newton Rd.

October 14-17 - Wisconsin Master Woodland Steward Program, UW-Stevens Point. John DuPlissis, 715-346-4128; john.duplissis@uwsp.edu

October 30 - Chainsaw Safety Training (tentative).

November 8-10 - Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Forestry. KWC Coordinator Paul Bader will attend this invitational council.

October 1-2 - Light on the Land Logging Field Day, 9am-5pm both days, Black Hawk Wildlife Area between Sauk City and Mazomanie on Hwy 78. Equipment demonstrations, workshops, and exhibitors with an emphasis on small-scale logging and low-impact forestry. call 608-723-6377 ext 135; swbadger.com **To help on-site with KWC, contact Paul Bader, 625-2515.**

October 9 - Introductory Woods Walk at Loren and Margaret Cade's, 10 am, E4337 Upper Newton Road. Diverse hardwoods plus vine-

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Eighty-five ballots were cast for 3 candidates to fill 2 seats on the board. Dan Badtke received 30 votes, and Paul Richardson and Ken Worskowski tied at 27 votes each. A coin was tossed sending Paul Richardson into board service.

A brainstorming session brought out a number of ideas for workshops, tool additions, and future projects for the co-op. Visions for ten years from now included log buyers attracted to our good timber, continued educational programs, and visible improvements in the woods around us.

In the door prize drawing, Phil Gudgeon won the logging hardhat.

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.

Kickapoo Woods Cooperative
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La Farge WI 54639