

SE Wisconsin SAF Summer Field Trip
Kettle Moraine State Forest, Northern Unit

We had eleven folks participate in our summer field trip to the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit. The trip was lead by Tim Beyer, forester for Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit. Things were kicked off at the Ice Age Visitor Center where we had about an hour's presentation on the Northern Unit's recent certification audit and previous experience in attaining dual sustainable forest management certification by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). We also discussed certification of individual foresters and new Wisconsin requirements that land management plans be developed by certified foresters.



Then we took to the field and Tim showed us results of some pine thinning and discussed policies set in place as a result of certification. Overall, certification for Wisconsin State



Forests encouraged what we would all agree to be good forest management practices. It provided a structure for state forests to standardize practices and better demonstrate sustainable forest management. It became clear that Wisconsin DNR's experience with certification opened markets for their wood and possibly improved bid prices for certified wood.

The SE WI SAF Chapter thanks the Wisconsin DNR's Julie Peltier and Tim Beyer for a great summer field trip. We had a late lunch and then some of the attendees returned to the Ice Age Visitor Center to view their theatre presentation on the area.



Prior to the field trip, Julie Peltier (SE WI SAF Chair), Jeff Kante (SE WI SAF Chair Elect), John Eschle (SE WI SAF Past Chair) and Rick Hokans (SE WI SAF Past Chair) met to discuss plans, dates, and topics for SW WI SAF hosting a state meeting.

1. Hosting Dates --- We still do not have a definite date as to when the SE will host the statewide meeting. Julie has requested this information but as yet has not gotten a definite response. The following is the information we now have:

Fall 2005 Meeting – SW Chapter will host.

Spring 2006 Meeting – Mid Wisconsin Chapter will host.

Fall 2006 Meeting – International Oak Conference in Stevens Point is planned.

Spring 2007 – NE Chapter will host.

Fall 2007 – SE Chapter is scheduled to host but Chippewa Chapter would like this slot.

2008 – SE Chapter?

BOTTOMLINE: We will continue to plan a Fall 2007 meeting until we hear differently.

2. Possible topics for our next hosting of a Statewide SAF Meeting --- The group discussed several topics suggested by others. Of greatest concern to the group was the need to pick a topic or topics that would draw an adequate number of attendees. We decided that, at present, we would plan to host a meeting that would present many topics of then current interest rather than concentrating only on different phases of a “single” topic. Likely topics of our next hosted Statewide meeting would include:

- a. Ownership changes and its effect on Forestry.
- b. Growing drugs in the woods and concerns for employee safety.
- c. 3rd Party Certification – Current status and outlook
- d. Forest Health – Current “Hot” topics of interest.
- e. Toolbox gadgets and concepts – What’s new and their benefits to Natural Resources Managers.
- f. Wood Biomass
- g. Riparian Forests
- h. Earthworms
- i. Fire issues