



# Madison Forestry Newsletter

OCTOBER 2015

**University of Wisconsin-  
Madison Forestry Club**

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/140795032652063/>

Russell Labs  
1630 Linden Dr.  
Madison WI 53726

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT  
WEBSITE:  
<http://forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/>

Photo by: Megs Seeley

# First Annual Fall Forestry Fun Fest

The field of forestry is one in which having professional connections are key, and the best time to start strengthening those networks is as a student. The UW-Forestry Club recognized the need for building connections both with their peers, graduate students, and newly declared undergrads within their own college before students head out into the 'real world', and constructed an event to meet their goals of building connections, teaching from their internship experience, and having fun.

The new event was dubbed the Field Forestry Fun Fest (FFFF); not unlike its name, the FFFF had a dense schedule of events. The venue for the Field Forestry Fun Fest was the family farm of Brian Zweifel, a graduate student in the department, which had open field for social space and eight acres of a mesic mixed hardwood woodlot. Planned by the officer team, the event started off with three activities: chainsaw safety and tree felling technique, a timber marking exercise, and a timber sports station. The 35 people in attendance were split into three groups and cycled through the activities.



Teague Walsh-Felz practicing his ax-throwing



Rachel Kranz felling a cherry tree

Taught by Trevor Iglinski, the chainsaw safety and tree felling activity was to teach fellow students safe practices by using the two club chainsaws to demonstrate felling black cherry trees and letting attendees cut firewood and even fell small trees themselves. Trevor used knowledge from chainsaw safety class and from his recent internship with the USFS on a timber crew in Utah. As some members either never operated a chainsaw or only used one in chainsaw safety level 1, this mini-seminar gave students a chance to get their feet wet with a common forest management tool.

The timber marking exercise was led by Forestry Club Treasurer, Kristina Kusel. She was able to share her experience from her internship with Steigerwaldt Land Services, a forestry consultant firm based in Hayward, WI. This was conducted in Brian's woodlot and was a marking of undesirable species (mainly black cherry) to create patch openings and favor white oak. This was to let students who have never been able to make a forest management decision, actually be able to mark and see what a marking looks like on a landowner's property.



Mr. Zweifel guiding forestry students in the process of making apple cider

The first two stations were set up in workshop format and were for gaining some practical field forestry experience, but the third station was to satisfy the third F in FFFF: fun. Without a timber sports team, the Forestry Club's two-man crosscut saw was able to see its first use in years cutting an oak log in the hands of club members unfamiliar with a two-man crosscut saw. They were also able to have mock competitions in rolling a log with cant hooks through a course and throwing axes at a target. This station was coordinated by Logan Wells, and was a much needed fun distraction from the bustle of college life as well as creating fun memories in many students last semester at college.

After the many activities at the Field Forestry Fun Fest those in attendance were treated to a homemade apple cider making operation at the generosity of the Zweifel family and a social dinner held in their barn. The Field Forestry Fun Fest filled the needs of the club and was a good opportunity for young people in the field to share knowledge with one another and make connections. This event was a success thanks to the help of the Zweifel family and the UW-Forestry Club officer team, and will likely continue in future years.

—Trevor Iglinski

Photographer: Ellen Kinzer



# Traditional Apple Butter Fest

## Event Details

**Who:** Everyone!

**October 17: 4-6 PM**

Behind Russell Labs

Preparing the Apples for Cooking

**October 18: 10-4 PM**

Big Campfire at Picnic Point

Cooking the Apple Butter

\*Food will be provided on both days!

**Why:** Apple Butter is butter shared with friends.

Please join us in making a delicious treat for the supportive UW staff.

Help kick off our Fall Forestry Club season with a new tradition, by participating in an Ol' Fashioned Apple Butter Festival. These cool autumn days generally means a lot of hard work with rural farming families harvesting of crops, gardens and orchards. Learn to embrace our ties with the land by going back to the days of the pioneers and help stir apple butter cooked in a giant copper kettle over an open wood fire.

Generally conducted in the fall as a means of preserving part of the apple crop, apple butter was a community project bringing together families and neighbors; often hosted by church groups and service clubs. As Apple Butter Fests generally go, participants would gather the night before at a farm house to peel, core, chunk and process into sauce 4-5 bushels of apples; and then bright and early the next day volunteers would stir the sauce in a 50-gallon copper kettle for at least 6 hours over an open fire to produce the delicious treat. The applesauce is constantly stirred until it is hot enough to melt sugar which is gradually added to taste during the final 2 hours of the stir.

Our Club will be using a 50-gallon copper kettle with a rounded seamless bottom, compliments of Charlie Goehring, who will help supervise the process. The caldron rests on a specially designed cast iron tripod which holds it about a foot off the ground. Equally important is a 7 ft. long, dual person butter stirring stick and paddle. The foot of the tool is as long as the kettle is deep and has three sections. The center portion is about an inch narrower on each side than the upper and lower third, and the bottom section has a large hole drilled through it to keep the apple pulp circulating. The foot of the paddle is also rounded to fit the bottom of the kettle. Paddle wood is typically Yellow Poplar so as not to impart taste. It is essential that we keep the mixture moving at all times, while it cooks to ensure that it doesn't stick and burn, often with a musician nearby to liven up the proceedings. All Club members are encouraged to stir and participate in other activities. A typical stir pattern is twice around clockwise, pausing briefly downwind to take in the wondrous wood smoke and reversing rotation for two more turns. Just prior to the sauce being declared "Butter" a Master will add just the right amount of oil of cinnamon and cloves to taste. You'll know you have "Butter" when a dollop placed on a clean plate no longer weeps liquid...yum. The Apple Butter is now done and ready to be poured into canning jars. One young lad, Pat Brooks from the Foxfire Series commented following his first sampling of apple butter...***"it's s'good that if you put some on your forehead, your tongue would slap your brains out trying t' get to it, ya boy!"***

—Charlie Goehring



Photo by: Charlie Goehring

*"... apple butter was a community project bringing together families and neighbors"*



Photo courtesy of: <http://implysugarandglutenfree.com/slow-cooker-apple-butter/>



## Tree of the Month: *Acer saccharum*

### WI Champion Sugar Maple

**Height:** 76 feet (23 meters)

**DBH:** 65.6 inches (1.67 meters)

**Location:** Jefferson Co.

The sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*, has stood tall as Wisconsin's state tree since its election by Wisconsin schoolchildren in 1893. Sugar maples have brilliant orange-red or yellow fall color and the quintessential 5-lobed maple leaf shape, as found on the Canadian flag.

Besides its looks, maple syrup is the sugar maple's true claim to fame, and is perhaps the reason the 19<sup>th</sup> century Wisconsin schoolchildren found *Acer saccharum* so appealing.

Sugar, black (*Acer nigrum*) and red maples (*Acer rubrum*) can all be tapped for making syrup, but the high-sugar content of *saccharum* and *nigrum* makes them preferable. Sap collection generally takes place over a four to six week period in the spring, when daytime temperatures rise above freezing and nighttime temperatures are still under 32 degrees.

According to the USDA, in 2011 Wisconsin produced 6 percent of the nation's maple syrup, with 155,000 gallons of syrup adding up to an estimated value of \$5.6 million. All that Wisconsin syrup was made from about 660,000 tapped trees. This pales in comparison to the nation's top maple producer, Vermont, which produced 1,140,000 gallons, or 41 percent of U.S. maple syrup, in 2011.

You can't just tap any sugar maple, though. Maples should have a DBH of 10 inches or more, and the best maples are more open-grown trees that have had plenty of room to develop a wide crown. Good maples can produce 15 to 20 gallons of sap each, boiling down to about a half-gallon of syrup.

—John Joutras



Comic by: Kristina Kusel

# UW Lecture: From Forest to Farmland and Meadow to Metropolis

**Jed O. Kaplan**

Approximately 90,000 year ago, *Homo sapiens* dispersed across the globe, but how did early humans interact with the landscape? During last week's Yi-Fu Tuan Lecture, Jed Kaplan of the University of Lausanne, Sweden discussed his theory on what is being coined as the Anthropocene.

Kaplan argues that some of the earliest evidence of anthropogenic land use change is the pollen data from the Last Glacial Maxima about 25,000 years ago. While models depict large areas of forest in the unglaciated regions of Europe, the pollen records indicate that Europe was mostly swathed in grasses. Therefore, the models lack a key factor. While Kaplan asserts that the missing factor is humans and their use of fire as a management tool, researchers in the audience believe permafrost is the reason unglaciated Europe wasn't forested.

While the role of humans during the Last Glacial Maxima is still up for debate, most researchers agree that, about 11,000 years ago, humans altered the earth with the advent of agriculture. Researchers identified 10 independent origins of agriculture. Agriculture, along with the use of the kiln for pottery and the domestication of livestock, likely caused the carbon dioxide levels to diverge from the modeled trends. Planetary trends indicate that the carbon dioxide should have decreased, but ice core records clearly reveal a steady increase in carbon dioxide levels during the early Holocene.

Metallurgy, the shaping of metal, demanded vast amounts of wood, altered the relationship between people and their environment, and marked another revolution in land use change according to Kaplan. People looked to the forests to fuel their smithies. By the Medieval period, the European landscape was altered due to deforestation, agriculture, and pastoralism to the point where no "wild" lands remained. Today, humans continue to alter the landscape on a global scale.

We are not and never have been apart from "nature." As I developed in my understanding of forestry and forest management, I realized that felling a tree is not inherently "bad." That caring and protecting natural resources requires a deep understanding of the world and occasionally a drip torch or an ax. If Kaplan's hypotheses are correct, *Homo sapiens* have significantly altered the landscape for 25,000 years; only if we live sustainably and carefully manage our forests, watersheds, and soil resources, can we continue living as a part of the biotic world for 25,000 more years.

—Megs Seeley

For more information on Jed Kaplan's research, visit his webpage:  
<http://arve.unil.ch>

## Upcoming Forestry Seminars

Russell Labs Room 184 3:00-4:00

### October 9

**Tricia Knoot:** Motivating action to manage and restore oak: Lessons learned from woodland owners in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin

### October 23

**Patty Loew:** Lights, camera, science: using digital media and culture to excite Native youth about science

### October 30

**Michael Sherriff:** Climate-induced changes to snow-cover regimes and the impact on free-living arctic ground squirrels

## Other Seminars

### October 22

**Timothy Egan:** Still the Geography of Hope: How Public Land Can Restore the Soul, and the Environmental Movement  
Monona Terrace 7:00 PM

### November 6-8

**Tales From Planet Earth**

<http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/tales/WIFilm.html>



Photo by: Megs Seeley