



Kemp's Point

Volume 11, Number 1, May 2010

News from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Kemp Natural Resources Station

Kemp Station Celebrates 50 Years!



2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the Kemp Natural Resources Station. It was in 1960 that Susan Small and Sally Greenleaf made the most generous gift of land and buildings to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Their gift created Kemp Station to serve "as a research and educational center" dedicated to the conservation of our natural resources.

During the past 5 decades, Kemp Station has functioned as a remarkable outdoor laboratory. It has become a place where scientists conduct pioneering research, where students are immersed in learning (sometimes literally!), and where the public gains a

greater appreciation of the complexities and beauty of our natural world.

Thousands of people have passed through Kemp Station during these intervening years.

And no matter who they were or what they were doing, all were touched by the distinct beauty and unique character of "Kemp." In fact, there is a good chance one of those individuals was you!

To commemorate our anniversary, we invite you to attend a reunion and open house on Saturday, August 21, 2010. There will be food and fun as we celebrate 50 years of natural resources research and education. This will be a great opportunity to reconnect with friends, share your favorite Kemp stories, tour buildings and grounds, and learn about the Station's ongoing programs of research and teaching. See page 7 of this newsletter for the full program of events and a registration form.

At this time of unprecedented change, the need for field stations like Kemp has never been more urgent. I hope you will join us as we celebrate both the legacy and the future of Kemp Station. It is sure to be a grand day.

Tom Steele
Kemp Natural Resources Station Superintendent

PS: Be sure to check us out online at kemp.wisc.edu for event updates and some classic photos of Kemp days gone by.

Calling All Alums

Have an old photo or a good Kemp story to share? If so, we want to hear from you. We are collecting photos and stories from former Kemp scientists and students for a summer exhibit at the Minocqua Museum. Plus, we will display all photos during the Station's anniversary celebration. Please email your materials to kortman@wisc.edu.

Future Foresters Apply Classroom Lessons in the Field

By Alex Rahmlow, UW-Madison Forestry Student

I read an interesting article in *Grow*, a newsletter published by the College of Agricultural & Life Science, about Tom Steele's position at Kemp Station and what a great job it is. Superintendent of Kemp Station is a job not unlike the dream job many of us undergrads envision. Fourteen of us were lucky enough to visit Kemp Station on a field trip for Biometry, a course offered by UW-Madison's Forest & Wildlife Ecology Department, taught by Dr. Volker Radeloff.

The purpose of the trip was to practice the forest inventory techniques we had learned about in class. Groups of 3-4 members assessed the type of forest stand being inventoried and then chose what they thought was the best technique (or sampling



Students review tree ID with Dr. Tom Steele.

method) for the trees and conditions in each stand. The chosen sampling method determined which forestry tools would be used to ultimately estimate the volume of timber that could be harvested from the particular stand. This activity is known as "timber cruising."

I have been told by envious upperclassmen and seasoned biometry veterans that not all biometry classes were lucky enough to experience what my group did. Timber cruising on sunny, sixty degree days, among legacy white pines and moss/lichen covered red pine stands, is what most of us undergrads hope to do as part of a career. This trip was invaluable for us not only for the chance to experience hands-on forestry, but also to experience living in a research group, something I noticed many had no prior experience with. Those of us who are

dedicated to getting internships and working on forestry crews benefit from this exposure. Some will go on to graduate school where many will lead summer research projects of their own, with questions that could have been aroused after a timber cruise in the north woods. Or maybe it was realized while looking at the bald eagle perched right off the Mead Residence Hall deck.

The 3-day trip was perfectly planned, both plots were excellent choices and everything from cleaning duty to which stand we visited first were well thought out and ran as smooth as is possible for a group of undergraduates.

Breakfast was served at 8:00 am, departure at 9:00 am. We packed our lunches in between and were in the field by 9:30 am. When we piled out at the first stand (Red Pine) on day one, Dr. Radeloff said something like, "See you at 4:00 or so!" We got some last minute GPS pointers from Patrick, our Teaching Assistant, and headed off. The Pine stand was ideal for a first time timber cruiser. It was open; signs of previous management activities were obvious and helped with navigation. Because it was so open,



The author, second from left, with fellow classmates.

planted in rows and thinned on cardinal directional vectors it was easy to stay oriented, and even connect with other groups. The hardwood stand was a challenge. With 243 acres of rolling hardwoods, this stand was filled with patches of advanced regeneration and both features made navigation and orientation challenging. However, since it was our second full day in the field we were prepared for the chal-

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Mead Donor Mural Unveiled

A tile mural was installed in the dining room of the Mead Residence Hall this winter to recognize the donors who made gifts of \$500 or more to help fund construction of the building. This unique piece was designed, made and installed by local artist, Joan Slack, of Riverrun Center for the Arts, in McNaughton, WI.

Before beginning her work, Joan made several visits to the Station where she walked the property, collected fallen leaves, took photographs, and noted the unique attributes and character of Kemp Station. Next, a paper mock-up of the mural was made, reflecting the overall shape, the landscape details, and the flow of seasons, from spring to winter.

The mural was made from a specially formulated stoneware clay, which was rolled out to over 11 feet



long. The mural's shape was traced from the paper pattern onto the clay and then the large clay piece was cut

into individual tiles. Over the next several days, carving and sculpting was done, and the tiles were allowed to air-dry slowly. Once dry, the mural was fired and glazed. According to Joan, the glazing was a slow process because of the blending of many colors, one season to the next. After the last firing, final installation and finishing was done.

"Kemp Station is a special place. And, the Mead Residence Hall is a particularly special facility," notes Tom Steele, Station Superintendent. "We were looking for a way to recognize the generosity of our donors while capturing the spirit and essence that is Kemp. Joan did a superb job helping us acknowledge the individuals who made this grand building possible." 🐾

Learn more about Joan's work at www.riverrunarts.com.

Future Foresters... (Cont'd from Page 2)

lenges (possibly exempting the tick pandemic). This stand was clearly cut over around 200 years ago and had white pines that were spared in the cut over, now measuring 30+ inches in diameter, as well as mature red oaks and sugar maples. Being here before the leaf out, tree identification was much more difficult in the hardwood stand but the 5-minute tree I.D. refresher given by Dr. Steele turned out to be a huge help to many. The midday visits from Drs. Radeloff and Steele and TA Patrick were also tutorial.

I think the *Grow* article had it right; Superintendent of Kemp Station sounds like a great job. Perhaps not all forestry undergrads agree with me but after the biometry field trip, I am sure they are able to make an informed decision as to whether forestry is the right major for them. To anyone questioning the benefits of forestry field experiences, I would say that any activity which offers hands on experience, stimulates thought, encourages communication, and emboldens its members is an activity well worth a student's time, a patron's attention and the hosting University's dedication. 🐾



Watching Robins Run

By Karla Ortman

My grandparents taught me to appreciate and respect “the land,” — the soil, water, plants and animals. It wasn’t something they did intentionally. Instead it happened just by spending time with them, doing things they ordinarily did. My grandpa died in January. He was 100 years old and was my last grandparent, as Gramma died in 2006. It is the end of an era. Since his death, I’ve thought a lot about the kind of life they lived and the impact they had on how I live mine.

Grampa and Gramma were not “birders” in today’s sense of the word, but they knew their birds. By silhouette, song, and movement they could identify the birds that lived around the farm. Sitting on the porch on a summer evening, we would watch the bluebirds, barn swallows and tree swallows perch on the highlines that ran through the farm yard. The red-headed woodpecker would land atop the highline pole and eat his morsel of food. In spring, they acknowledged the arrival of the migrant birds, making it a part of their daily conversation. They knew what trees and bird-houses held nests and would take me there to have a peek.

Fishing was a way to put food on the table but also became a favorite activity that Grampa and Gramma shared. Many of my childhood fishing outings were to a small pond on the neighbor’s land, known as Stelter’s Pond. We would walk there, cutting

through the woods off the back-forty, taking notice of the wild-flowers and critters we spied along the way. There wasn’t much to be caught in that pond, but it was a great outdoor classroom. That’s where I learned about skunk cabbage, turtles and frogs. Once a quart canning jar full of big, black tadpoles, or pollywogs, came home with us and went to school for show-and-tell. I never amounted to much of a fisherman, but I had fun trying and was a good helper when it came time to dig worms or hunt night crawlers.



A good day of fishing in 1950 -- from left to right, Grampa's brother, my mom, Gramma and Grampa.

Today, when I eat wild blueberries, I am magically transported back to my childhood. Gramma and Grampa picked lots of wild blueberries and if we happened to visit at the right time, we would go along. I recall buckets of them and I ate until I was sick—literally. And Gramma had a big red raspberry patch that I picked in for years, eventually making my own jam from the berries, the same way that she and my mom once

did. Gramma liked to say that I gobbled down those raspberries just like a baby robins. My dad’s favorite was the black caps out in the woods. He would head out in the morning and come back later with his prized berries, covered in scratches and stick-tights.

They always had a large garden and grew everything from tomatoes and beans to pumpkins and onions. The potato, red and white, was their biggest crop, and it was fun to help dig the potatoes, filling the bushel baskets for storage in the cellar. I learned the fine art of picking potato bugs and how the key was to find and eliminate the adults. Each fall, after the sweet corn plants had turned brown, Gramma cut and tied up the corn stalks and took our picture by the corn shock, often holding a pumpkin or a cat.

Animals were always a part of visits to the farm. There were the milk cows and the laying hens, the mean old geese that chased me and the ducks that wound up the main course at Thanksgiving. Grampa enjoyed squirrel hunting and somewhere there’s a photo of myself at age 4 or so, hugging a fox squirrel that Grampa had harvested. The farm is where I was exposed to deer hunting. My grandparents had a good laugh when my sister and I went over to the neighbor’s corn field to protect a big buck that had run through. We tromped over the tracks he’d left behind in the snow!

Grampa didn’t spend much time

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Watching Robins... (Cont'd from Page 4)

outdoors his last couple years, but when he did go out, he sat on the porch and took in the sights and sounds, commenting on the birds he heard. Bird feeders outside the window by Grampa's chair were stocked daily so he could enjoy the variety of birds that came to dine. With his failing eyesight, he proudly pointed out that he knew the robin by the way it ran across the yard. This spring the robin's return was, for me, bittersweet, but they remind me of all that I learned from my grandparents and all that I can now share with my nephews. Why not point out how a robin runs the next time you spend time with a child? You never know the difference it might make to them some day. 🐦



One of many corn shock photos -- from left to right, Grampa, me and my sister. We were in fine form this particular year, 1975.

Assessing Deer Activity



Researchers Teresa Pearson (left) and Brian Werner (below) worked out of Kemp Station this winter on a deer enclosure project for the Wisconsin DNR. Wanting to determine the enclosure size the deer will or will not jump into under extreme condi-



tions, Teresa and Brian constructed and tested various enclosure sizes. First, feed was placed outside the fencing to ensure the presence of deer. Next, feed was placed inside the fencing to see if the deer would jump into the enclosure. Tracks, feed consumption, fence damage and cameras were used to evaluate the deer activity.

New Woodshed at Mead



Mead Residence Hall users won't need to go quite as far for wood the next time they want to build a fire in one of the building's two fireplaces. Over the winter, Kemp's own carpenter, Gary Kellner, designed and built a great-looking woodshed next to the Mead parking area. Gary plans to add a rack to the interior of the shed where researchers can hang their hip-waders to dry after a day in the field.



Learning Opportunities at Kemp

Learn about Wisconsin's natural resources at Kemp Natural Resources Station, a University of Wisconsin research and teaching facility in Woodruff. To register for a session, contact Karla at (715) 358-5667 or kemp@cals.wisc.edu. All sessions are free of charge. The complete schedule is available at www.kemp.wisc.edu.

Sessions may be held in the Boathouse Classroom or in the Fralish Library & Lounge at the Mead Residence Hall.

Wednesday, June 16, 7:00 pm

Wisconsin Wildlife Round Up

Session Leader: Scott Craven, UW-Extension Wildlife Specialist

Join Scott Craven around the Kemp campfire ring for an update on what's news in wildlife in the state. And don't forget to bring your questions!

Thursday, June 24, 7:00 pm

Spruce Grouse in Wisconsin

Session Leader: Nicholas Anich, WDNR Research Scientist

While most Wisconsinites are familiar with the common Ruffed Grouse, few people know of, and even fewer have seen, its rarer cousin the Spruce Grouse. Spruce Grouse are quite tame when encountered, but are rarely seen because they make little noise, are hesitant to flush, and inhabit areas where few people travel, such as black spruce swamps. Little is known about the distribution and habitat use of Spruce Grouse in Wisconsin, but ongoing research is investigating the habits of this

threatened species. Join DNR Biologist Nicholas Anich as he discusses research into this beautiful and secretive forest grouse.

Monday, July 26, 7:00 pm

Discover Dragonflies & Damselflies

Session Leader: Bob Dubois, WDNR Ecologist

Learn about the dragonflies and damselflies of Wisconsin! This indoor presentation will include an introduction to the 8 families of Odonates, the basics of life history and highlights on behavior and ecology. Also learn about the Wisconsin statewide survey of these mighty fliers and how you can become involved.

Monday, August 2, 7:00 pm

Slowing the Spread of Gypsy Moth

Session Leader: Ksenia Onufrieva, Research Scientist, Virginia Tech Entomology Department

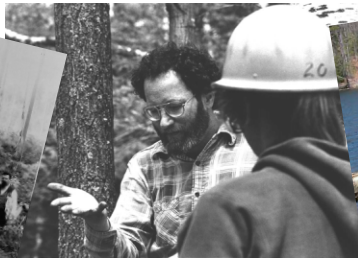
The gypsy moth is one of the most devastating forest pests in the United States. In 1993, the USDA Forest Service initiated a program called "Slow The Spread of the Gypsy Moth" (STS) with the goal to reduce the expansion of gypsy moth in the U.S. Currently, participating states include Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. As the result of the STS program, the rate of gypsy moth spread across the U.S. has declined from 20 to 5 km/year. Join Ksenia Onufrieva for an introduction to the gypsy moth and the research underlying the STS program.



New graduate students from the UW-Madison Department of Plant Pathology teamed up with members of the Northwoods Mycological Society for a mushroom foray last September. It was the perfect pairing as seasoned mushroom hunters shared their knowledge with the students and a great time was had by all.



Kemp Natural Resources Station 50th Anniversary Celebration Reunion – Open House



Kemp Station's 50th Anniversary Celebration kicks off on Friday, August 20, with an optional golf outing at the St. Germain Golf Club, in St. Germain (www.stgermain-golfclub.com), beginning at 3:00 pm. The 18-hole course can be played for \$50, which is part course fee and part donation to Kemp Station.

Beginning on Saturday, June 5, Kemp Station will have a display at the Minocqua Museum, 503 Flambeau Street, in Minocqua. The exhibit will trace the Station's history from early fishing camp to modern research station. The museum is open Monday - Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

On Saturday, August 21, everyone -- alums, neighbors, friends, community members -- is invited to Kemp Station for an open house from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Activities will include boat tours of Tomahawk Lake, Station building tours, nature trail hikes, and a fun nature program for kids and adults. At mid-day, we will gather for a formal program to recognize the significance of the day before enjoying a picnic lunch. Throughout the day, visitors may choose to take a break from the activities and enjoy nature and wildlife films. Visitors will also be invited to review poster displays by various Kemp researchers.

Registration for the open house is required and can be made by completing the form below, or online at www.kemp.wisc.edu. A \$10 per person fee is requested, which includes lunch and all the activities of the day.

Registrations must be received by August 1. Please direct questions about the event to Karla at 715-358-5667 or kortman@wisc.edu.

Please clip & return registration form with payment to Kemp NRS, 9161 Kemp Rd, Woodruff, WI 54568

Name/s _____

Phone _____

Number of persons attending Saturday, August 21:

_____ @ \$10.00 registration/donation = \$_____

Number of persons golfing Friday, August 20:

_____ @ \$50.00 registration/donation = \$_____

Total enclosed: \$_____

(Check payable to Kemp NRS)

Complete this box only if you are a Kemp alum:

I was at Kemp as a/n:

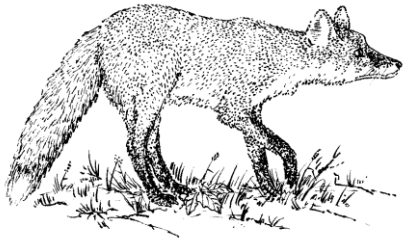
- ____ Undergraduate
- ____ Graduate student
- ____ Visiting Scientist
- ____ Natural Resource Manager

Year/s you were at Kemp: _____



Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Every now and then I get lucky and encounter a red fox on my drive down Kemp Road. It is such an attractive animal, with its red coat with black markings, big ears, intelligent face and bushy tail. A member of the family Canidae, the red fox looks bigger than it's 6-15 pounds because of its fur. Its distinct markings include a white tipped tail and black stockings, although several color variations do exist. Females commonly use another animal's abandoned burrow as a birthing den, with typically 4 kits born in the spring. Both parents help to raise the young and the kits learn to hunt by about 3 months of age. The family stays together until fall, at which time each individual goes off on its own. Fox are omnivorous and will eat practically anything -- car- rion, plants, insects, berries, eggs, birds, squirrel, voles and rabbits. According to an article I found on the Wisconsin DNR website, red fox can locate a rustling sound within 1 degree of its actual location! And they can hear a



mouse squealing 150 feet away! That makes for a great hunter! Red fox hunt through the night, starting about 2 hours before sunset until about 4 hours after sunrise. They will travel about 9 miles during their night of hunting, and so they rest during the day.

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*This newsletter is also available as a
PDF at the Kemp website,
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