



KETTLE MORAINES LAND TRUST

Kettle Moraine Land Trust Woodland Workday Divine Word Seminary Property

November 15, 2014

Two board members, 1 staff and 5 volunteers scoffed at the frigid temperatures this wintery November morning to launch the first volunteer stewardship workday at Divine Word Seminary. Even though winter was still a month away, it didn't feel like it as arctic winds dipping down into the Midwest caused workday temperatures to start off in the upper teens.

Freezing temperatures didn't stop our intrepid group of hardy volunteers from donning an extra layer of gloves and power up our muscles with some delicious hot chocolate and strong coffee as we stood



*KMLT Director Jim Blomberg and
Monica Zoellner*

on the Divine Word property and took in the beautiful scenery accented with an icy coating. After an introduction by KMLT Program Manager Maggie Zoellner about the unique plant habitats found on the property, we walked down a trail to a special woodland peninsula along the edge of Lake Beulah. Along the way we passed through areas of prairie, wetlands and woods mainly undisturbed by human impacts. Once we reached the peninsula island we powered up our saws and worked together to clear invasive shrubs that were shading out the rare plants growing beneath the trees.

As our group worked collectively to cut brush, apply herbicide and make brush piles we soon found the cold temperatures retreated from our minds as section after section of woodland was cleared. In no time at all the three hour workday passed quickly. Midway through we took a rest and water break and heard Dan Carter, a specialist in plants of this part of Wisconsin, tell us about several of the rare plants growing on the property including Yellow false foxglove. The population of Yellow false foxglove growing on the peninsula cannot survive without oak trees. Yellow false foxgloves attaches to oak tree roots to obtain nutrients it cannot get any other way. Plants like this are called "hemiparasitic" because they steal nutrients from other plants but also convert sunlight to energy.

Our workday ended at noon with a trek up to the top of the island peninsula where we could see the huge extent of marsh ringed with sloping woodlands, dotted with tamarack trees and ending at Lake Beulah. Next time we regroup for a workday the lake will surely be frozen over. But as we volunteers noted happily, we were glad for the opportunity to lend a hand stewarding this amazing place, and what better way is there to spend a Saturday morning then ensuring a home for rare plants and animals in our community!



Volunteers for KMLT workdays are welcome. Registration is required.

Please call Maggie at 262-949-7211 or email: maggie@kmlandtrust.org

Our next workday is December 13, 2014 from 1 – 4 pm.

Workdays may be cancelled due to weather conditions. Cancellations or workday updates are available by calling KMLT at 262-949-7211, after 8:00 am the morning of the event.

A special thank you goes to Chris Mann, owner of Kettle Moraine Land Stewards LLC for loaning equipment for this workday – THANK YOU CHRIS!



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Serving the Southern Kettle Moraine lakes area in Walworth County, Wisconsin