

A Pine Tree Tells the Story

How can trees tell a story of the land? Here is the story of one big pine tree on Kuse land near the Medford schools.

At one time, there were many White Pine trees that covered much of northern Wisconsin. Loggers cut most of the trees, shipped the lumber from them to faraway places for building houses and many other things. There were huge stumps left on the land. Immigrants like the Kuses came from Europe and settled the land. They dug and dynamited stumps and tried to make a living by farming. The Kuse family left one large pine tree standing in their pasture. It provided shade for their cows, places for birds to sit and wonderful memories of a time when the forest was thick and beautiful. Walter Kuse cleared the land and grew crops on it. The big pine tree dropped its cones and the seeds from those cones began to grow into new trees. In 1991, you could still see the big pine tree with the young trees growing around it.



**December 1991 – Ecological Succession of Forest
Note the Big Old White Pine. Seeds From it Helped to Start a New Forest.**



November 16, 2005 – White Pines that Have Grown Larger



April 27, 2013 – The Remains of the Old White Pine in the Previous Photo

It is not known if lightning, wind or insects caused the big old pine tree to die. The big trunk still stands in the woods.



Who is Helping to Take this Tree Down?

What living creatures need dead trees for a home or for food?

A variety of trees and bushes have grown up around the big old dead tree. One kind of plant replaces another. Some survive and others are crowded out by the shade of other trees. The process of change in a forest is known as ecological succession.

The big old White Pine tree tells part of the story of the land.

© Dr. Hildegard Kuse and Dr. Loretta Kuse