BRANCHING OUT
Maryland's Forest Stewardship Educator

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University of Maryland Extension - Forest Stewardship Education
www.naturalresources.umd.edu

Vol. 21 No. 1 ~ Winter 2013

Wood Energy on the Move

All of the talk about renewable energy tends to focus on the "sexy" renewables – solar, wind, and geothermal. Actually these sources only make up 15% of the energy from residential renewables while the tried and true renewable -- wood -- makes up 85%. The realization that wood is a clean and affordable fuel is catching on with residential users – residential wood use in Maryland has increased by a third from 2000 to 2010. Technological improvements in wood burning have resulting in residential wood and pellet stoves that are highly efficient (75% and more) and wood and pellets are readily available for a reasonable cost.

The other major use of wood is as wood chips, used as fuel for biomass boilers to heat institutional, commercial, and business buildings. While clean burning technology is available off the shelf and being used in other northeast states, Maryland needs to address policy, perception, and regulatory issues that are limiting the application of the technology in schools, hospitals, prisons, colleges, and other places.

On November 14, 2012, representatives from industry, non-profit groups, and Maryland government officials attended a conference in Annapolis called "Accelerating Wood Energy in Maryland." The conference provided a forum to discuss public policy, the environment and economic opportunities. The goals of the conference were: 1) to address critical milestones along the roadmap that will increase the adoption of wood energy in Maryland; 2) to seek feedback from government officials, industry, interest groups and other on how to address barriers to development of the wood energy industry; and 3) to integrate the Maryland Wood Energy Coalition with industry to provide a support base.

The 120 participants represented a diverse cross section of interested parties, including policymakers, biomass technology companies, forest industry professionals, environmentalists, and others.

The morning session focused on important milestones for the wood energy industry in Maryland such as the state wood grant program, game changer grants, changes in the renewable portfolio standard to include thermal energy, the economic potential of wood energy, and an overview of wood energy efforts throughout the northeast. The audience was engaged with spirited discussions after most speakers. The afternoon focused on an action plan to overcome barriers such as supply, air quality regulations, financing, as well as an initial discussion about a state biomass industry association.

The conference was organized by the Maryland Wood Energy Coalition, a diverse group of state agencies, non-profits, and private business committed to advancing the responsible use of

wood for clean, affordable energy production. Development of this industry can provide another market for low-grade wood products from private woodlands, which can only help the struggling forest industry.

Governor O'Malley's energy advisor, Abby Hopper, addressed the conference at the outset and provided support for wood energy development, but challenged those in attendance to provide her office with a short list of the most pressing needs of the industry. Following the conference, the Coalition provided Ms. Hopper with a list of four priorities that would help advance wood energy in Maryland. In brief, they include: 1) updating emission standards for biomass boilers; 2) changes to the Renewable Energy Portfolio (RPS) standard that will award Renewable Energy Credits for the utilization of woody biomass in thermal applications; 3) consideration of biomass technologies for boiler replacements in state buildings; and 4) continued financial support for the Clean Burning Wood Burning Wood Stove Grant Program.

All of the conference's PowerPoint presentations, with narration and audience questions, are available for viewing at www.naturalresources.umd.edu/ResearchAnnapolisConference.html.

Maryland Woodland Stewards at Work

The Maryland Woodland Stewards (MWS) program has been a success for over twenty years. The men and women who have completed the course have gone on to share their knowledge about Maryland's vital woodland resources, and work with their neighbors and their community to learn about wildlife, habitat, and the importance of forest stewardship. To learn more about the MWS program, go to www.naturalresources.umd.edu/EducationalMWS.html.

We invited the MWS graduates to share their stories from the past year. Since 2010, Carolyn Puckett has trained over 150 volunteers in the identification and removal of invasive exotic weeds as part of the Carroll County Forestry Conservancy Board's "Weed Warriors." She has led dozens of weed removal sessions, and shared a pair of photos of youngsters involved in one of those programs. These students joined her in exploring their school grounds for exotic and invasive weeds, particularly garlic mustard.

Franz Stuppard of Stevens Forest in Columbia, MD, mentioned that since becoming a MWS participant, he has also become a board member of "Trees for the Future." The program works to plant trees in a variety of nations around the world, and he has traveled to Haiti to help restore endangered forest habitats.

Betty Higgs sent along notes about a successful tree harvest on ten acres of their farm in Baltimore County. They worked with a forester to review which trees should be marked for removal, and for two weeks in the fall of 2012 a logger worked on site to cut and remove the trees. Limbs and brush were left on the forest floor for wildlife inhabitants.

Maryland Woodland Stewards Call for Nominations

The 2013 Maryland Woodland Stewards workshop will take place May 2-5 at Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center in Sharpstown, MD, and nominations for this year's class of Stewards are now being accepted.

The immersive 3.5 day workshop offers training in woodland and wildlife management and stewardship, as well as skill building in leadership, outreach, and education. Top-level speakers from across the state will present talks in their area of expertise.

The cost for the entire training, including room and board, is only $95. Support from the Tree Farm System and the Maryland Forest Service allow us to offer this heavily subsidized price.

In return, participants commit to giving back 40 hours of service in land management, education, and outreach in the year following their training.

Ideal applicants will own or manage wooded land, or work with educational programs that reach out to landowners. Volunteer experience is beneficial.

Send the names and contact information of nominees to Nevin Dawson at ndawson@umd.edu. Self-nominations are welcome.

Go to the MWS page in the FSE website for more information on the Maryland Woodland Stewards program, including our recent 20 year report, which highlights the program's accomplishments since its inception as the Coverts Project in 1990.

Is That a Brush Pile or a Pile of Brush?

By David Scamardella, Service Forester, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Michael and Laura Jackson, Bedford County (PA) Forest Landowners and PA Forest Stewards Volunteers

Do you enjoy seeing wildlife on your property? Not just big game animals, but all kinds of wildlife? Do you have lots of smaller diameter low-value trees that could benefit from a thinning? If so, constructing brush piles is for you.

Brush piles are a great way to increase numbers of many kinds of wildlife including rabbits, ground nesting birds, box turtles, fence lizards, and other small game and non-game species. They offer shelter from predators in big open woods or in developing stands.

Dr. Christopher Goguen, assistant professor of biology at Penn State Hazelton, has been studying brush piles since 2005, collecting data on their effectiveness using a variety of studies. He and Robert Caccese recently published a paper, "Winter Use of Brush Piles by Wildlife in Old Field Habitats of Northeastern Pennsylvania," which provides evidence that brush piles are used by a variety of small mammal species in the winter. They found that brush piles built near field edges were especially important habitats for cottontail rabbits. Another on-going study is looking at the thermal value of brush piles. His preliminary data indicates that brush piles are warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer than the ambient environment. A study of black bears in Wisconsin found that twenty-six percent of the bears used brush piles in the winter.

Here is our recommended construction technique, so you will have a long-lasting brush pile instead of a pile of brush:

1. First you need to find the right location. Edges of fields and woods, fence corners, shallow gullies, near ponds and food strips are good locations for brush piles. An unobtrusive brush pile in your yard can be small and tucked into a corner, but still attractive to wildlife. Brush piles are not effective when placed in the middle of a field, and should never be placed in standing water, or where there is severe erosion on a steep slope. Brush piles are flammable, so keep them away from buildings. Several medium-sized brush piles are better than just one large brush pile.

2. Start with a base of stumps and logs that are at least six inches in diameter. Arrange the logs or stumps four to six inches apart, parallel to each other. Any kind of wood will do, but white oak and locust resist rot and will help the pile last longer. Stack the next layer at right angles to the first, log-cabin style.

3. Smaller logs are then placed on top of the base layers, stacking each layer at right angles to the one below. The continual crisscross patterns allow for openings that small mammals and birds can use for shelter, or can move through to avoid predators.

4. Pile smaller brush on top of the logs so the base is covered and the brush touches the ground. Make your top layers denser, working in even smaller branches. Allow openings into the base that are not covered by the brush on top.

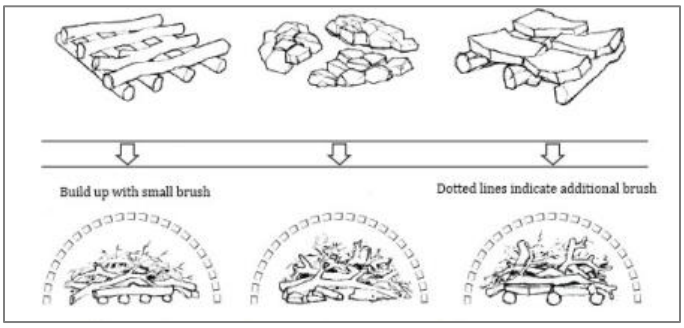
5. You might want to plant native vines such as Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), wild grape (*Vitis* spp.) or trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) to grow over your brush pile. These native vines are attractive and their fruit will provide even more reason for birds to use the brush pile.

6. A well-constructed brush pile may last ten years or more, but you should add new brush to renew the pile every five years or so. When it is time to construct a new one because your old pile has deteriorated, don't tear it down. Just build your new pile next to the old one.

7. Spacing your brush piles 300 feet apart or less will ensure adequate emergency cover.

Alternative Construction Methods and Sizes

A brush pile will last longer if the first layer is made of stones or blocks, instead of logs. Create the first layer with hollow areas inside and provide at least three exits, four or five inches wide. Stack stones or blocks for the second layer, capping the exits.



Three examples of different types of brush piles. Regardless of the material used, the most important step is to crisscross the material as shown. Copyright Bob Tjaden, 2011.

One or more pipes (metal, PVC, clay, etc.) with openings at each end could also be placed on the ground, providing shelter for small mammals such as chipmunks or rabbits. Pile brush on top of the stones to finish the brush pile.

Another type of brush pile could be constructed with loosely placed branches to allow plenty of sunlight to reach the ground, which will

encourage plant growth. Grasses and forbs, as well as tree seedlings will eventually emerge above the branches, thus creating resting and escape cover. Many songbirds, such as white-throated sparrows, song sparrows, and brown thrashers will use this type of brush pile as a nesting site.

A medium sized brush pile is roughly ten to fifteen feet in diameter and five to eight feet high. A large brush pile, built with logs ten inches or greater in diameter and with twelve by fifteen inch openings, will attract larger animals. Mike and Laura Jackson have a brush pile large enough for a bear to use. A trail camera by the brush pile confirmed it.

A mother bear raised two cubs in this brush pile on the Jackson property. Photo by Mike and Laura Jackson.

Resources
1. Goguen, Christopher B. and Caccese, Robert T. "Winter Use of Brush Piles by Wildlife in Old Field Habitats of Northeastern Pennsylvania." Journal of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science 85(2/3):71-75, 2011.
2. Bishop, James C. Jr. "Where Sleeping Bears Lie." Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine December 2004 http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/html/stories/2004/dec04/bear.htm
3. Tjaden, Robert L. and Kays, Jonathan "Wildlife Management: Brush Piles" (Maryland Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet 599), 2002.

This article originally appeared in the Penn State Extension's "Forest Leaves" newsletter, Volume 21, Number 3 (Winter 2012).

Federal Income Tax on Timber: A Key to Your Most Frequently Asked Questions

The 2012 edition of this publication provides a quick reference on timber tax laws that are important to woodland owners. It presents a concise and easy-to-understand explanation of the most commonly asked tax questions. Since the first income tax Form 1040 appeared in 1913, many timber tax provisions have been added to encourage management and stewardship of private woodland that are commonly unknown by tax professionals. This publication will help woodland taxpayers and their professional advisors to learn and utilize these tax laws.

www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/tax.shtml

New "The Woods in Your Backyard" Presentations Available

On January 12, 2013, the Carroll County Forestry Board, in cooperation with the University of Maryland Extension (UME), presented "The Woods in Your Backyard" program in Carroll County. Speakers included Jonathan Kays with UME, MD Dept. of Natural Resources Project Forester Donna Davis and Aimee Weldon of the Potomac Conservancy – all of whom shared a variety of techniques, activities and strategies for property owners who are interested in creating a plan for managing their woodland property.

The presentations from the day are now available on the Forest Stewardship Education website's "The Woods in Your Backyard" page at www.naturalresources.umd.edu/EducationalWBY.html. Click the "Sharing the Program" tab and look in the Sessions Presentations box. The presentations are available in two formats: PowerPoint slides only, or PowerPoint

presentations with accompanying narration and attendees' questions.

The links for the narrated sessions take you to the FSE YouTube channel. The narrated sessions run 40 minutes to one hour five minutes in length. If you wish, you can choose the "Watch Later" option and add them to a playlist for viewing at a more convenient time.

Managing Your Woodland Workshop

You may have noticed that your woodland is being impacted by a continuing series of weather events, insects and diseases, invasive species, and other things. You want to do something but you are not sure what. Whether it is gypsy moth, storm events like Hurricane Sandy, or new emerging threats like the Emerald Ash Borer, you need to know how to make informed decisions. A three-night workshop entitled **Managing Your Woodland Through Good Times and Bad: Making Informed Decisions for Today and Tomorrow** will help you get the facts and resources and connect you with professionals who can help you assess your woodland, identify and reach reasonable objectives, and find the resources to make it happen.

Presentations will feature speakers from the University of Maryland Extension, the Maryland DNR Forest Service, DNR Wildlife Division, Forestry for the Bay, and Parkton Woodland Services. The workshop will be held on consecutive Monday evenings, March 4, 11, and 18 in Frederick, MD. Registration cost is $25.00 for all three classes. See the Events section for more information and how to register.

Conservation Easements: Have it Your Way

Many people may cringe at the thought of a conservation easement, having heard tales of losing your land without actually being paid for it, having to let hordes of recreationists invade your land, or restrictions on your use of the land. But if all of that is true, then why do people still sell and donate them? There are many misconceptions that fuel a general wariness of easements. First, a definition: An easement is the right to a certain limited use of land, held by someone other than the landowner. So if Bob needs to cross his buddy Jim's land to get to his own house, then Jim will give Bob an easement on the land where the driveway is. This will give Bob the right to drive across Jim's land whenever he needs to.

A conservation easement contains the right to development. In this case, a private land trust or government agency will receive the easement from the landowner and retire the right to development on that land in order to preserve it as farm, forest, or other open space.

The organization's goal is usually to preserve the character of the land and to maintain the environmental services that natural areas provide (like filtering water and sequestering carbon). The easement may include the right to public access, or have other restrictions that would limit the ways that the owner could use the land, but they often do not.

The truth is that the restrictions in an easement agreement depend on what you want for your land. The details can vary greatly, and are the result of a conversation between the land trust or agency and the landowner. Just as different landowners have different goals, so do different agencies and land trusts, so it may take a few tries to find the right easement program. Conservation easements are often permanent,

but some programs are willing to work with limited time spans.

But why would a landowner agree to give up part of their rights? There are many benefits to giving up your right to develop. Because easements are legal documents and are often in perpetuity, a landowner can rest assured that their land will remain in a certain land use even if they sell it or pass it on to their heirs.

An easement also makes passing land on to the next generation easier financially by reducing the market value of your land (sometimes down to less than 50% of the original value). Estate taxes are much more affordable when based on this lower value. "Estate exclusion" and "after death easement" are two other methods for reducing estate taxes with conservation easements.

Qualified donated easements can be deducted from federal income taxes as well as from Maryland and Virginia state income taxes. Many states also have property tax incentives.

Besides programs that reduce your costs, some will even increase your income. Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund (MALPF) accepts applications for both farm and forest land and will buy selected easements. Some counties also have funds to buy easements, often called Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs. Maryland Greenprint, Maryland Rural Legacy, and USDA Forest Legacy buy easements in designated areas targeted for conservation. Delaware and Virginia have similar programs, including the Delaware Forestland Preservation Program and the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

All of these programs are very competitive, take longer to process and easement, and have more eligibility requirements. The financial gains must be weighed against the potential capital gains tax.

The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) is a statewide land trust, but also serves as an umbrella organization for over 40 private non-profit local land trusts. Their website, www.conservemd.org, is a good source for further information on easements in general and on specific Maryland programs.

Most of the programs mentioned here are available for both farm and forestland, as both offer many environmental services for the public good when well managed. The benefits of easements do not stop there however, as they can also improve your financial situation while leaving the land in your own hands.

A conservation easement is a great way to ensure that your forest or farm will never lose its rural character, and can have as many or as few restrictions as you want. Your county extension agent or forester can help match you up with the right agency or land trust to meet your goals.

Woodland Wildlife Webinar Series

The Forest Stewardship Education (FSE) program will be offering a series of webinars beginning in February. All programs will be presented on Thursdays from 12 noon to 1 PM. The scheduled webinars are:

February 7: *Principles of Wildlife Ecology Management*, presented by Jim Mullan, Western Regional Manager, MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service

March 7: *Wild Turkey Biology & Management in Maryland,* presented by Bob Long, Wild Turkey Biologist, MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service

April 4: *Conservation Guidelines for Nongame Wildlife*, presented by Jim McCann, State Zoologist, MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service

May 9, 2013: *Ecology & Management of Young Forest Wildlife*, presented by Tom Mathews, Habitat Biologist, The Wildlife Management Institute

All programs are free of charge. If you wish to attend, log on to connect.moo.umd.edu/umeforestry and select "Enter as Guest." If you wish, you may enter your name or a screen name, which enables the presenter to see your on-line questions and comments. Each presentation is planned to last approximately one hour, with time for questions at the end.

About FSE Webinars:

- There is no charge for participation.
- No special software is needed.
- High speed internet connection is strongly recommended.

To stay informed about upcoming FSE webinars, subscribe to the FSE Webinars Email Notification List. To subscribe, send an email to listserv@listserv.umd.edu . In the body of the message, type "SUB FSEWEBINARS" and your name (for example, "SUB FSEWEBINARS John Doe"). Or, contact Forestry Extension assistant Andrew A. Kling at akling1@umd.edu or 301-432-2767 x307 to be added.

We hope you can join us!

Cell Phone Towers and Woodland Management: A Complex Issue

In the 21st century, cell phones are everywhere. Americans and people around the world use them for more than just calls; they use them to surf the Internet, to send text messages, to find landmarks and stores, and to update their status on a variety of social media sites.

Photo © Joe Ravi

This increased demand has led to an expectation for cellular service throughout the nation, even in remote areas and in coastal waters. In addition, users expect more than merely the ability to receive and make calls. They expect high-speed connectivity that will allow Internet access as well. Consequently, cellular providers have constructed more than 190,000 cell phone towers across the country. In addition to traditional towers in rural or suburban areas, cellular providers have installed cellular antennas in urban areas a wide variety of existing structures, such as in church steeples and bell towers, and on water towers, signs, and flag poles. This has led to the development of new services. For example, Larson Camouflage, a company based in Tucson, Arizona, specializes in concealing cell towers within structures that resemble a variety of trees, light poles, or cacti.

Photo courtesy Larson Camouflage

As the cellular industry continues to expand, and competition for coverage areas increases, industry representatives are scouting sites nationwide that might be suitable for tower installation. They approach woodland property owners with apparently attractive prices for leasing a portion of the land for a tower. The offer may seem to be a low-risk opportunity for added income. However, such an offer comes with a variety of challenges and caveats.

One of the first challenges is access to the tower site. How will the construction company reach the site on your property? Is it accessible by an existing road that can accommodate heavy equipment? If not, who is responsible for constructing the road? The provider will also need access to the tower at all hours of the day without advance notice, such as to perform maintenance or repairs. Will the company use the initial access road, or will they want to construct another one? Will they maintain it year-round?

A second challenge relates to environmental matters. There are a variety of state and local regulations that must be addressed. Will the property owner or the leasing company be responsible for remediating the land surrounding the road? What environmental and zoning regulations need to be addressed? Who is responsible for impacts on the property leased, such as erosion or introduction of invasive species?

Finally, the installation of a cell tower raises tax liability questions. Who will be responsible for the personal and real property taxes on the property? How does this affect any pre-existing land management agreements and/or tax assessments?

Any binding agreement such as a cell tower lease requires negotiation on both sides. Forest property owners may wish to consult an attorney who is familiar with cell phone tower leases. Additionally, they should consult their tax attorney for possible tax liabilities associated with a cell phone tower lease, and should also meet with state and county environmental regulators.

Update on State of Maryland "Clean Burning Wood Stove Grant Program"

The Maryland Energy Administration has updated information concerning the Wood Stove Grant Program.

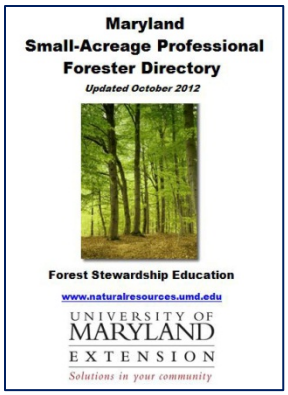
MEA is now accepting qualified self-installed wood burning stoves with documentation of inspection: To accommodate those who are qualified to install stoves at their own home, MEA is now accepting self-installations. MEA want to ensure that the stoves are safely installed and running efficiently; therefore they are requiring that those self-installed stoves are accompanied by documentation that the stove has been inspected after installation by either a county inspector or an insurance adjuster. In the case of an insurance adjuster's inspection, a typed letter on the company's letterhead stating that the installation has been inspected and meets all codes/safety requirements of that jurisdiction will suffice as documentation. In the case of a county building inspector, a "passed" photo or copy of the inspection sticker will suffice.

MEA is now awarding grants for the upgrade of older/less efficient woodstoves: With technology upgrades, MEA now offers the same incentives to households with less efficient stoves, as newer stoves are more efficient, cost effective and environmentally friendly. All other requirements still apply to applications.

For more information on the grant program and a registration form, go to http://energy.maryland.gov/Residential/woodstoves/index.html

New Resource for Small-Acreage Woodland Owners

The University of Maryland Extension's Forest Stewardship Education Program has compiled a resource directory for property owners with one to ten acres of woodlands. The directory, entitled "Maryland Small-Acreage Professional Forester Directory," is the result of feedback from professional, consulting and industrial foresters who offer their services to the smaller property owner. Each forester's entry includes which Maryland counties he or she serves, and what services are provided.



UME hopes that this directory will serve a group of woodland property owners who have distinct challenges when managing their acreage for invasive species, timber health, wildlife habitat, and other concerns.

The directory can be found on the UME web site at www.naturalresources.umd.edu/SmallAcreageForestersDirectory10-2012.pdf .

I'll Do the Thinning Around Here

As woodlands develop, it is beneficial to remove trees that are too dense or species that are invasive or are of poor quality. It is also important to release certain trees, called "crop trees," that you want to continue to grow and take over the canopy by removing competition around and above them. Most trees have no market value, and while they may be good for firewood, access and time do not allow that to happen. Trying to fell trees with a chainsaw can be difficult in a dense forest area, so the use of herbicides can be very cost-effective, safe, and quick.

"Hack 'n squirt" is a stem injection method that injects herbicide using a spray bottle into an ax cut in the bark. Cuts are made about every 2-3 inches or so around the stem, and one spray is deposited into the upward facing cut. The herbicide application is localized and minimizes the impact to other vegetation. This is a quick control method that makes for a good weekend warrior project. What is needed is a good weighted ax that is kept sharp. Fiskars makes a good horticultural ax that is weighted and easy to use. Other products are available as well. Stay away from the old dull Boy Scout ax; they can be dangerous.

Spray bottles are found in many supply stores. A 50% mixture of glyphosate and water will work on many species, and glyphosate is available at most home stores. On hard-to-kill trees (such as blackgum, hickory, red maple, and large trees), space the cuts closer together and add a few incisions at the base of the tree where large roots are attached.

One concern with hack 'n squirt is that the herbicide may be transmitted to adjacent trees. The roots of some species may graft, resulting in the mortality of adjacent trees. Yellow-poplar is especially susceptible. One way to minimize the problem is to use Garlon 3A, an herbicide which

is only available from herbicide supply dealers. Garlon 3A is also very effective against hard to kill species like tree-of-heaven. If Garlon 3A is not available, leave a 5-foot buffer between treated trees and crop trees.

The best time to hack 'n squirt is when the trees are sending sap to the roots (June 1 to November 1). However, winter application works well - just avoid times of active sap flow (February through May). As with all herbicides, be sure to read the label and follow all instructions.

The US Forest Service has released an excellent handbook entitled *Manual Herbicide Application Methods for Managing Vegetation in Appalachian Hardwoods,"* which includes pictures and full recommendations for hack 'n squirt and other manual methods. It is available online at: www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs96.pdf.

Events

For more events and information, go to www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Events.html

February - May, 2013

Woodland Wildlife Webinar

Join us on Thursdays at 12 noon starting February 7 for a series of one-hour webinars on a variety of topics concerning wildlife conservation, management, and habitat for woodland owners. See the article on pp. 7-8.

February 16, 2013

Ruminant Revolution: Use of Sheep and Goats to Manage Unwanted Vegetation in Woodlands and Recreation Areas
Chesapeake College
Wye Mills MD

This workshop will show livestock producers, landowners, and land managers how sheep and goats can be an effective tool for the control of invasive or unwanted species. Contact Nevin Dawson at ndawson@umd.edu or 410-827-8056 for more information.

February 20, 2013

Urban Hardwood Recovery Workshop
Seneca Creek Joinery
19701 Peach Tree Road
Dickerson MD

The Community Woodlands Alliance will be hosting a one-day class for those interested in harvesting urban and suburban timber. The class, taught by Brian Knox, CF, will demonstrate how to cut a tree into harvestable timber. The day will include sawmill and equipment demonstrations, tips on how to grade a log, and classroom and log yard time. Please dress appropriately for weather and ground conditions (boots, jackets, jeans, etc.). SAF and ISA credits are available.

Cost is $50.00 per attendee to cover expenses. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by February 1 to 301-972-7453 or to woodsurgeon@juno.com.

February 23, 2013

Maryland Christmas Tree Farm Association Winter Meeting
Family Friendly Restaurant
Upperco, MD

Topics of this meeting include estate planning and nutrient management. Registration is $45 if you register before February 10. Make checks payable to MCTA and mail to MCTA, 3501 Hanover Pike, Manchester MD 21102. For more information, call 410-374-9538.

March 4, 11, 18, 2013

Managing Your Woodland Through Good Times and Bad: Making Informed Decisions for Today and Tomorrow
Frederick County UME
330 Montevue Lane
Frederick MD

This three-night workshop will help woodland owners connect with professionals who can help them assess your woodland, identify and reach reasonable objectives, and find the resources to make it happen. The workshop will be held on consecutive

Monday evenings. Registration cost is $25.00 for all three classes. To register, please call 301-600-3577 or email tepoole@umd.edu.

May 2-5, 2013

Maryland Woodland Stewards: Volunteer Training Workshop
Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center
Sharpsburg, MD

Contact Nevin Dawson at ndawson@umd.edu or 410-827-8056, or visit www.naturalresources.umd.edu/EducationalMWS.html for more information.

May 10-11, 2013

Private Forest Landowner Conference: The Future of Penn's Woods
Blair Convention Center
Altoona PA

The Private Forest Landowner Conference is the first-ever comprehensive conference for private landowners in Pennsylvania. Whether you own five or 500 acres, there is something for you. Conference presentation tracks include: conservation options, invasive species, taxes, tending your woods, water quality, wildlife, woods in your backyard, and on and on. Exhibitors with displays and demonstrations will be on hand. For more information: http://ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forest-conference.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION
Solutions in your community

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Published four times per year and distributed to forest landowners, resource professionals, and others interested in forest stewardship.

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