

BRANCHING OUT

Maryland's Woodland Stewardship Educator



University of Maryland Extension – Woodland Stewardship Education
<http://extension.umd.edu/woodland>

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

Volume 28, No. 1

Winter, 2020

Forestry Not Well Understood by Marylanders

Jonathan Kays, University of Maryland Extension Specialist

In summer 2018, the University of Maryland Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology commissioned Opinion-Works, an Annapolis research firm, to conduct a representative statewide survey measuring Marylanders' agricultural literacy. Additional insight was gained through a series of focus groups. The survey crystallized the views of Maryland consumers toward farming and forestry. It found that Marylanders have many connections to agriculture and highly favorable views toward farming in the state. However, consumers are less aware and knowledgeable about forestry. The purpose of this article is to highlight the views about forestry found in the report. [Click here to read the full report.](#)

Forestry is Undefined and Unknown Industry in Maryland

Forestry is much less defined in people's minds than farming. The public has a very hard time picturing forestry professionals and do not know what wood products are grown in Maryland.

- Marylanders are typically at a loss to describe or picture the forestry industry, or to imagine the type of people who work in it.
- If they did have a picture in mind, interviewees immediately described park rangers, rather than commercial or state foresters.
- Consumers' favorability ratings for Maryland's forestry industry, which includes forest growers, loggers, and mills, was lower than farming.
- The difference was not due to increased negativity towards forestry, but to more people who said they were "neutral" or not sure about what defines or comprises the industry.
- The lack of definition and awareness around forestry was also evident in the analysis of consumer decision-making.

Forestry is Associated with Sprawl and Loss of Woodland

For consumers in the populous communities of Central Maryland, where most residents live, harvesting trees creates the specter that animals and birds are losing habitat or that woodlands are being replaced for development. In fact, trees are a renewable resource, requiring manage-

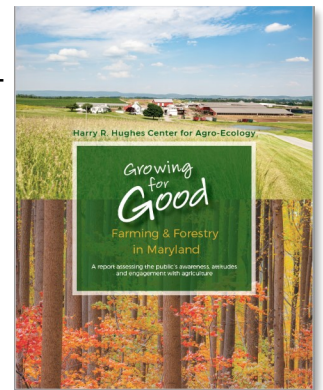
ment for pests and invasive species. The vast majority of forestry in Maryland is not linked to development.

- Forests cover 38 percent of Maryland, over 2 million acres, which is remarkable in a small state with six million residents. The number of forested acres in Maryland is increasing and new forest growth has offset developed land.
- 66% of Maryland consumers agreed with the idea that "responsible harvesting of our forests is vital to Maryland's economy."
- But only 41% agree that forests would be healthier if they were more actively thinned and managed for pests.
- Nearly four in ten Marylanders (38%) agreed with the statement, "I would prefer that there be no logging in Maryland's forests," while only 12% disagreed. The other half reserved judgment, saying they were neutral or not sure.

Marylanders are Surprised by the Economic Impact of Agriculture and Forestry

The research shows that most Marylanders are unfamiliar with the economic and employment impact of the state's agriculture and forestry industries. Knowing its contributions positively influences their opinion of agriculture.

- Three-quarters of all Marylanders (74%) are surprised to learn that agriculture is the state's largest commercial industry, supporting 350,000 jobs.
- Most (62%) said the statement made them feel more positive



Inside this issue:

Register now for "The Woods in Your Backyard" online course	2
MD-DE Master Logger of the Year	2
Woodland Wildlife Spotlight: North American Porcupine	3
Invasives in Your Woodland: Mile-a-minute	4
Invasives in Your Woodland Gallery	5
News and Notes	6
Glottelty Lumber Wins Logger Award	7
The Brain Tickler	7
Events Calendar	8

toward Maryland agriculture.

- Hearing that “Maryland forestry contributes \$4 billion to the state’s economy, employs 10,000 people, and pays \$26 million in taxes annually” surprises the large majority of consumers (86%). Knowing this makes 55% feel more positive about Maryland forestry.
- Marylanders are readily willing to believe that farmers are good environmental stewards.
- The economic impact of these two industries surprises Marylanders. The size and economic impact makes them

Registration is Now Open For “The Woods in Your Backyard” Online Spring Session

Registration is now open for the Spring 2020 session of “The Woods in Your Backyard” online course. Our course is designed primarily for small-acreage property owners who want to learn how to care for or expand existing woodlands, or to convert lawn space to woodlands.

The self-paced, non-credit online course runs for ten weeks, from March 23 to June 2. It is offered through the University of Maryland’s Electronic Learning Management System, and is accessible from any Internet connection and Web browser.

The course closely follows the published guide of the same name, but includes some important extras. Quizzes reinforce the important concepts of the text. Optional activities give participants the opportunity to share one or more of their stewardship journal entries, or photos or narratives of their woodland stewardship accomplishments. In addition, many of the course’s units are accompanied by short videos, created and produced by Woodland Stewardship Edu-

feel much more positive.

When presented with provable facts about the environmental and economic benefits of farming and forestry, Marylanders respond positively. These facts include: 1) Maryland foresters manage woodlands for clean air, clean water and healthy wildlife habitat; 2) Forestry in Maryland produces wood for furniture, paper, biofuels and home building; and 3) Forestry is a major employer in rural counties.

[Click here to read the full report.](#)

cation staff. These 2- to 5-minute videos demonstrate essential skills and techniques (such as tree identification or crop tree release) and share the experiences of other woodland owners.

The course costs \$95.00 and each session is limited to 25 participants. Each paid enrollment includes printed copies of “The Woods in Your Backyard” guide and workbook, plus a copy of *Common Native Trees of Virginia*. Visit our website page about the course at [this link](#) for more information, including updated registration information and a way to preview the course at no charge.

[Go to this Eventbrite link for participant comments, more information, and how to register.](#)

If you are a Maryland Master Naturalist or a Maryland Master Gardener, participating in this course can contribute to your annual hours commitment. See [this link](#) for more details.

The Woods in Your Backyard Online Course

Bruce Barnes Named 2020 Logger of the Year

Agnes Kedmenecz, MD-DE Master Logger Coordinator

Each year the Maryland Delaware Master Logger Program and Maryland Forests Association (MFA) work together to recognize the Logger of the Year. The award recognizes outstanding independent logging contractors who are working to a higher standard.

Nominees understand their role as caretaker of this important renewable resource and must demonstrate deliberate care during timber harvesting, a keen understanding of forest management practices, contribute to the logging community through service, and excel at business management all while keeping themselves and their crew safe.

This year’s recipient, Bruce Barnes of Barnes Logging in southern Maryland was awarded during the “Why Markets Matter” event on October 10, 2019 in La Plata, MD. MFA’s Executive Director Beth Hill, MD-DE Master Logger chair Robert Beale and committee member Dave Gailey presented Bruce Barnes with the 2020 Maryland Logger of the

Year award along with a Stihl MS-39 chainsaw.

We will nominate Bruce for the 2021 Forest Resources Association (FRA) Regional Outstanding Logger Award, which is awarded through the FRA. This year, Maryland’s own Butch and Eric Glotfelty were the recipients of this national award and yes, they were awarded the 2017 Maryland Logger of the Year.

If you know a logger who is doing some good work and want to nominate them, check out our MD-DE Master Logger website at <https://extension.umd.edu/masterlogger/logger-year> or call the office at 410-827-8056.

Congratulations Bruce, and thank you for sharing your knowledge with others, your commitment to excellence, and your gracious spirit. All of these things and more are make you such a great logger!



Woodland Wildlife Spotlight: North American Porcupine

Say the word “porcupine” and the image that immediately jumps to mind is its quills. These modified hairs have evolved into sharp, barbed, and hollow spines—up to 30,000 on an individual porcupine— that cover all of the animal except for the underbelly, face and feet. They form an amazing defense network that can be become embedded in an attacker’s face, which often serves as an effective deterrent against further attack.

However, the quills are only one feature of this rodent. In fact, it is the second largest rodent native to North America; only the beaver is larger. Its range includes most of the continent, stretching from Alaska in the northwest, through the Great Lakes area, to the Canadian maritime provinces in the east and south to Virginia. It is also found along the west coast as far south as northern Mexico, including the desert southwest. It is not found in the Great Plains and apparently is no longer found in the southeast. In Maryland, it is found in the western counties of Allegany, Garrett, Washington and Frederick. A porcupine’s presence is often a surprise to humans due to the animal’s solitary nature and mostly-nocturnal behaviors.

The porcupine’s preferred habitat is mixed conifer-deciduous woodlands, where they will feed on a wide variety of plant material that changes with the seasons. For example, in the winter, they often consume evergreen needles and inner bark of trees. They may even girdle a tree, causing long-lasting damage or even the death of the tree. In spring and summer, they shift to berries, seeds, grasses, leaves, roots and stems. They are prodigious and adept tree climbers, using long, curved claws on their feet to ascend into the canopy in search of buds or leaves. As winter approaches, they may join other porcupines in a den for the winter, such as in a downed tree or a hollow log. They do not hibernate, but stay active through the winter months.

Unlike many animals that take their cues from the lengthening days of spring in the northern hemisphere as the approach of mating season, some female porcupines have spent the winter pregnant. For them, mating has taken place in the fall and early winter after an elaborate courtship involving extensive vocalizations and a courtship dance. During mating, which usually takes place in a tree, the pair will flatten their quills against their bodies to prevent injury. Gestation lasts 205 to 217 days, resulting in the birth of a single young in the spring or early summer. The young are born with a full set of teeth and with open eyes, and although they can eat solid food immediately, they will nurse for four months.

The newborn’s quills begin to harden an hour after birth.

North American Porcupine Basics

Porcupine, Frostburg MD,
2009. Photo by Mikey
Lutmerding, Maryland
Biodiversity Project



Appearance: Distinctive quills, 2-3 inches in length. Brownish-yellow to black coat. White tips on quills.

Size: Males up to 24 lbs. Females are smaller (up to 15 lbs.) 2-3 feet in length; tail is 8-10 inches.

Lifespan: Up to 18 years in the wild.



Porcupine in tree cavity, Allegany County MD, 2020. Photo by William Blauvelt, Maryland Biodiversity Project

They will come in handy as the porcupine matures, as they are its only line of defense. When confronted, they will chatter their teeth and produce a chemical odor to warn the predator. If that fails to convince the attacker, the porcupine will turn its back, raise its quills and lash its tail. It is during these actions that a predator may get a face-full of quills; contrary to popular belief, the porcupine does not throw the quills at the attacker, but they are loosely attached to the skin so it may appear to an observer and an attacker that they have been ejected.

Porcupine predators include great horned owls, bobcats, coyotes and fishers. The latter are apparently particularly adept at attacking the porcupine’s belly in order to avoid the quills.

Porcupines are not federally endangered, but in Maryland it is a watchlisted species, meaning that it is in need of conservation. The species’ slow reproduction is one factor; interactions with humans and automobiles is another (for example, many are killed along I-68 that cuts through its habitat). A third factor is that one its favorite tree species, the Eastern hemlock, is under pressure by an invasive insect, the hemlock wooly adelgid. These factors present challenges to the porcupine’s numbers in Maryland.

Invasives in Your Woodland: Mile-a-minute

With a name like “mile-a-minute,” one might assume that this invasive vine grows quickly. It does. It may not actually grow a mile a minute (60 mph), but experts say that it can grow up to six inches a day, and can climb up to 25 feet in a single growing season. That is a significant amount by any standard.

It is also known as “Asiatic tear-thumb” or “the devil’s tearthumb,” due to its numerous sharp, downward curving spines on the stem. No matter what it is called, it is a vigorous invasive that may only have just begun to spread in the United States. One estimate surmises that it is only found in 20% of its potential range in this country.

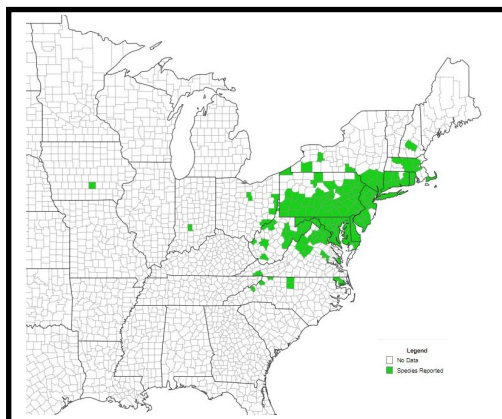
What is it?

Mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*) is native to India and eastern Asia. Although the first recorded specimen of this member of the buckwheat family arrived in the US in the 1890s near Portland, OR, it did not become established. However, it apparently arrived on the east coast in the 1930s as a contaminant of nursery stock. In 1989, it was only reported in three states, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia. Five later that number had grown to eight, and by the early 21st century, was found as far north as New Hampshire, and in isolated areas as far west as Iowa and as far south as North Carolina.

The vine is an annual plant that colonizes a variety of environments in the mid-Atlantic states. It prefers high moisture sites and requires regular sunlight to thrive. It grows along roadsides, river and stream banks, rights-of-way, and disturbed forest sites. It forms dense canopies, smothering native vegetation attempting to regenerate. It climbs into tree canopies and restricts light to plants growing below.

How does it spread?

Mile-a-minute spreads both through its rapid growth and through seed dispersal. Seed germination begins as early as mid-March and continues through April. Flowering begins in early June and the seeds are ripe by July, continuing until the first frost. Birds and other wildlife eat the fruit



Mile-a-minute eastern US county distribution.

Courtesy eddmaps.org.



Mile-a-minute plants. Photo by Richard Gardner, UMES, Bugwood.org

and spread the seeds through their droppings. Unsuspecting humans and domestic animals may also spread the seeds from clothing, footwear, equipment, or fur. The seeds are buoyant for up to nine days, allowing them to be spread by flowing or flooding streams and rivers. Once in the soil, the seeds are viable for up to 6 years.

How can I identify it?

One of the most distinctive features of mile-a-minute is its triangular leaves. They are light green in color, about three inches wide, and barbed on the underside. Round, leaf-like structures surround the stem, from which the small flowers and fruit grow. The green fruit turn metallic blue as the season goes on. See the photo gallery on the next page.

How can I control it?

As with many invasive plants, the easiest way to control mile-a-minute is to prevent any individual plants from growing and an infestation from forming. Individual plants can be removed via hand-pulling, mowing, or cultivating. Hand-pulling is actually relatively easy, as the roots are shallow, but gloves must be worn to avoid the barbs and spines. Once pulled, the plant will not resprout.

Larger infestations will require chemical control. Several herbicides that are labelled for forestry applications have proven effective in combatting mile-a-minute. These include triclopyr, glyphosate, and hexazinone. Regardless of which method is used, it is important to remove the plants before the fruits begin to ripen in mid-July to prevent further spread.

For more information:
Learn more about mile-a-minute:

For more information:

Learn more about mile-a-minute:

[Mile a Minute Vine](#)—University of Maryland Extension Home & Garden Information Center

[Mile-a-minute](#)—Penn State Extension

[Mile-a-minute weed Biological Control](#)—Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team

[Winning the War on Mile-a-Minute and Kudzu](#)—University of Maryland Extension

Image Gallery: Mile-a-minute

Mile-a-minute infestation. Photo by Leslie Mehrhoff,
University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Mile-a-minute foliage. Photo by Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State
University, Bugwood.org

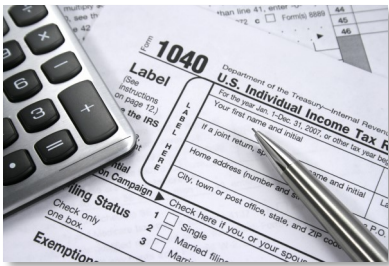


Mile-a-minute vine with berries. Photo by Edwin Remsberg,
University of Maryland



Mile-a-minute infestation. Photo by Richard Gardner, UMES,
Bugwood.org

Annual Tax Tips for Woodland Landowners Now Available



Each year, Dr. Linda Wang, National Timber Tax Specialist for the USDA Forest Service, examines new and existing federal income tax regulations and pub-

lishes a bulletin called "Tax Tips for Forest Landowners." The new one, for the 2019 tax year, is now available from the National Timber Tax website at [this link](#).

The two-page document summarizes important information for woodland owners, foresters, loggers, and timber businesses who are involved in managing and conserving timber. There are several scenarios that illustrate the most common situations, including deductions, cost-share payments, and conservation easements.

The website also includes links to archived recordings of timber tax filing webinars presented by Dr. Wang in previous years. [Click here to learn more.](#)

The World's Oldest Forest?

We are familiar with the role played by modern forests in helping to cool and stabilize landscapes and in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Now, an international team working in New York State have uncovered what they believe is the world's oldest fossil forest. The fossil of a species called *Archaeopteris* demonstrated that it had a highly-advanced root system, similar to trees found in today's woodlands. The findings are summarized in [this article from Smithsonian Magazine](#).



Archaeopteris fossilized root system.

Photo by Charles Ver Straeten.

Wood Heater Tax Credit Extended

A spending package passed by Congress last December retroactively extended the \$300 tax credit for wood and pellet stoves and boilers to cover purchases made after January 1, 2018, and purchases made through December 31, 2020.

Stoves that are 75% efficient or higher are eligible for the tax credit. [This database from the EPA](#) will help consumers determine if the unit they have in mind is eligible.

Learn more about the legislation and the history of the tax credit in [this blog post](#), and how to claim the tax credit [in this post](#), both from our friends at the Alliance for Green Heat.



Urban Wood Use Action Guide from Vibrant Cities Lab



Across the United States, more than 28 million tons of "urban wood waste" is generated annually. Urban wood waste is wood from areas cleared for development, from demolition of abandoned buildings, and from removal of dead or diseased trees. In Baltimore alone, the amount was 78,000 tons. The [Urban Wood Use Action Guide](#) documents a new program there that has created new jobs, saved 15,000 tons of wood for new projects, and generated more than \$2 million in municipal revenue or savings.

Read more about the pilot project at the Vibrant Cities Lab [website](#).

Glotfelty Lumber: Forest Resources Association's 2019 Appalachian Region Outstanding Logger

Forest Resources Association

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) and STIHL Incorporated honored Donald "Butch" Glotfelty and Eric Glotfelty of Glotfelty Lumber Co., Inc. in Oakland, MD as the Appalachian Region 2019 Outstanding Logger at FRA's Appalachian Region (AR) Awards Dinner in Washington, DC last September. FRA's AR Past Chairman Jay Phaup presented Butch and Eric with a wooden crosscut-saw plaque, and STIHL's Product Manager John Allen presented them with a STIHL MS 462 chain saw gift certificate and a \$250 check.

Glotfelty Lumber is a third-generation logging company that was founded in the 1950s by Butch's father, Donald. Butch and his son Eric are the primary in-woods operators, with Butch handling multiple product sorts on the loader and Eric harvesting the timber using a tracked feller-buncher. Their fully mechanized operation has an excellent safety program and has not had a lost-time accident in decades.

The Glotfeltys operate in the mountainous west of Maryland, with occasional harvesting activities in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Much of their work occurs on Potomac-Garrett State Forest, where a large number of outdoor enthusiasts and the public eye make attention to harvesting aesthetics important. The Glotfeltys' quality work in helping the Potomac-Garrett State Forest achieve forest management objectives, with strict adherence to BMPs and nearly non-existent damage to residual stands, has earned them praise from the public as well as the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The DNR managers note that, while Maryland's state forests are certified under both the SFI and the FSC standards, "Glotfelty Lumber harvests have been regularly scrutinized during these organizational audits, and they have always stood up to the rigorous standards of both of these organizations."

Butch has served on the Potomac-Garrett State Forest Citizen Advisory Board for many years, and the Glotfeltys are members of the Maryland Forests Association, West Virginia Forestry Association, and FRA. Butch is also a founding member of the Mountain Loggers Cooperative Association. The "Mountain Loggers Group," as it is commonly called, started a Log A Load for Kids program in their area more than 20 years ago to raise funds for the Morgantown, West Virginia Children's Hospital. Butch and his wife Ann dedicate much of their time to the Log A Load for Kids program, which has raised over \$1 million for the Morgantown hospital since the loggers started the annual fundraising campaign.

Glotfelty Lumber was one of the first loggers to achieve Maryland's "Master Logger" designation, completing the required curriculum in the early 1990s, and Butch helped with Maryland loggers' successful legislative advocacy to achieve a special, higher weight variance on Maryland highways for log trucks with six axles.

The Glotfeltys' nomination was sponsored by the Maryland

Forests Association, the Maryland Master Logger Program, and the Maryland DNR, all of whom offered unqualified endorsement of Glotfelty Lumber for this award.



FRA's Outstanding Logger Award program is designed to raise the visibility of professional logging contractors and to encourage other loggers to adopt the performance of the award winners. The Regional Award winner becomes a nominee for FRA's National Outstanding Logger recognition.

The Forest Resources Association Inc. is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents wood consumers, independent logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries. STIHL Incorporated serves as the sponsor of FRA's Regional and National Outstanding Logger Awards.

This Issue's Brain Tickler ...



Last issue, we asked you to identify this gentleman. He is Joseph F. Kaylor, the 2nd Maryland State Forester, who succeeded the legendary Fred Besley and is credited with [the creation of the state's Forest Conservancy Boards](#). Congratulations to Jane Burner for her correct answer.

For this issue, take a look at the photo below.



Identify this tool, which can assist you to manage your woodlands. Email Andrew Kling at akling1@umd.edu with your answer.

Events Calendar

For more events and information, go to
<http://extension.umd.edu/woodland/events>

February 29, 2020, 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Invasive Tree ID and Removal: Out with the Bad, In with the Good

5301 Marlboro Race Track Rd, Upper Marlboro MD
Join the Prince George's County Forestry Board for a free workshop where you can learn to identify invasive trees and vines, such as Bradford pear and Asian bittersweet, and remove them from your landscape. Go [here](#) for more information.

March 7, 2020, 5:30 pm—9:00 pm

Potomac Valley Chapter Ruffed Grouse Society 23rd Annual Conservation & Sportsmen's Banquet

Urbana Volunteer Fire Department, Urbana MD
Only 150 tickets available for this annual event! Early Bird Raffle ticket packages available until February 24. Ticket levels include individuals, couples, junior and sponsorships. Go [here](#) for more details.

March 13, 2020, 10:00 am—12:30 pm

Tree I.D. 102: Winter

Wye Island NRMA, Queenstown MD
Winter presents a great challenge to your identification skills- without leaves, you can tune in to the other key characteristics and features that set trees apart. Join us in learning to use twigs, seed pods, bark, and shape to identify deciduous trees during the cold months. For more information and to register through Eventbrite, visit [this link](#).

March 18, 2020, 10:00 am—2:00 pm

Spotted Lanternfly Workshop Washington County Agricultural Education Center, Boonsboro MD

Speakers from the Maryland Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources and from the Master Gardener program will share information and tips on controlling this damaging invasive pest that feeds on over 80 types of trees, shrubs and vines. Cost is \$15.00 and includes lunch. Go [here](#) for more information.

March 23– June 2, 2020

"The Woods in Your Backyard" Online Course Online

Register now for our spring session of the online course.
[See page 2 for more information.](#)

April 25, 2020, 7:00 am—3:00 pm

15th Annual Walk for the Woods

Bacon Ridge Natural Area, Crownsville MD

Join Scenic Rivers Land Trust for our signature event celebrating families exploring the outdoors, the beautiful Bacon Ridge Natural Area, and the value of land protection. Enjoy a day in your local, protected woods! This event is FREE, but registration is recommended. Go [here](#) for more information.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or national origin.

Branching Out

University of Maryland Extension

18330 Keedysville Road
Keedysville, MD 21756-1104
301-432-2767

Editors: Jonathan Kays and Andrew A. Kling

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

To Subscribe:

Via Web Site: Go to www.extension.umd.edu/woodland/subscribe-branching-out and submit the requested information.

Via Email: Email listserv@listserv.umd.edu. In the body of the message, type SUB branchingout your name (example: SUB branchingout John Doe).

You will be notified by email when a new issue is available, with links to its locations.

Hardcopy subscription: Mail check or money order for \$10 per year, payable to University of Maryland to the address above.

This and back issues can be downloaded for free at
www.extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/branching-out.

All information, including links to external sources, was accurate and current at the time of publication. Please send any corrections, including updated links to Andrew A. Kling at akling1@umd.edu.

**Send news items to Andrew A. Kling at
akling1@umd.edu or 301-432-2767 ext. 307.**