Now that winter is giving up its grip and there are nice days ahead, woodland owners should take the opportunity to walk around their property. Spring offers a unique time to view the woods as the weather mellows, while leaves and underbrush are not yet obscuring the view, and it is cool enough that you can work without getting overheated. Also, many people are itching to get outside and do something physical to improve the stewardship of their natural areas.

Below is a short list of actions you can take to be a good woodland steward while enjoying your woods. Many resources to accomplish these tasks can be found at www.naturalresources.umd.edu.

Enjoy walking and exploring your woodland property. Spring offers a time to observe wildlife and notice little things happening in the woods. Many people find there is a special place on their property where they can relax and enjoy nature—a sanctuary of sorts. Find that spot and build a bench or clear away the brush so you can see. Perhaps more importantly, clear a wide enough trail so that you can access your woods without any obstructions. For more instruction on trail design, see the article in this newsletter about the publication pictured above, Trail Design for Small Properties.

Do some planning for the future of your woodland by developing a plan. If you own at least 10 acres of woodland, or an area that you are planning to convert to woodland by planting or natural succession, you can get a professional forester from the MD Forest Service to develop a written plan for a reasonable cost. The forester will help you determine your objectives, do an inventory of the property, divide it into areas of similar vegetation and age, and then make recommendations that act as your roadmap for the next 10 years. If you own less than 10 acres, you can purchase a copy of The Woods in Your Backyard, a self-assessment manual to woodland management. No experience is necessary. Using the manual is a great activity and experience for the entire family.

The Woods in Your Backyard manual is currently out of print. However, there is ample supply at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center. To purchase a copy, mail a check for $20.00, payable to University of Maryland, to: Pam Thomas, WMREC 18330 Keedysville Road Keedysville, MD 21756 Please include a shipping address and the manual will be mailed to you.

Look for trees damaged by winter weather. Ice and snow storms have caused many trees to topple or limbs to fall. Now is the time to fire up the chainsaw and cut damaged trees and limbs, as well as other trees for firewood. Without the leaves you can see what you are doing which is usually safer. Cut, split, and transport the wood to a storage area. If you leave firewood in the woodland, cover it so that it will continue to dry into the fall.

For tips on chainsaw safety, see Chainsaw Safety: Keep the Kickback out of Cutting, an article published in the Fall issue of Branching Out.
Convert some lawn to natural area. By creating natural areas closer to your home, you can observe wildlife and also save time and cost. With gas prices spiraling out of control, there is significant savings in reducing the size of your lawn. If you are considering any tree planting, now is the time. While the state forest nursery and other sources of tree seedlings may be out of certain species, check around. Remember, if you are planting tree seedlings in turf you need to kill the turf within 3 feet of the tree with an herbicide such as glyphosate (Roundup), mulch, or other methods. The recently recorded webinar, Options for Converting Lawn to Natural Areas will help you. You can access the recording by going to our Webinar Library page at [http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/ResourcesWebinars.html](http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/ResourcesWebinars.html).

Enjoy this spring in the woods and all the beauty it beholds and pleasure it provides. Access a variety of publications, video, webinars, and other resources at [www.naturalresources.umd.edu](http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu).

---

**Give your woods some credit...and get cash in return**

by Nevin Dawson, Forest Stewardship Educator, University of Maryland Extension (Previously printed in the Delmarva Farmer)

Your waitress hands you the check for your dinner with a warm smile and a “Thanks, Hon!” The total is a hefty sum that lightens your wallet quite a bit, but you still leave a generous tip on the table. Why? Because you value the good service that she provided, and you think that she deserves a little extra for making your life just a little bit better.

Have you ever thought about the ways that trees make your life just a little bit better? They provide food and cover for the wildlife you hunt or enjoy watching, exchange carbon dioxide for oxygen, and keep your waterways clear and healthy. You’re not the only one to benefit, either. Everyone in your neighborhood and downstream from you gets a little bit back from the trees on your property. When is the last time you received a generous tip for the services your trees provide?

Very few woodland owners actually get paid for these good deeds, aside from the occasional hunting lease or CRP check. There is a movement, however, to change this.

The fringe benefits that come from woodland and other natural areas are called ecosystem services, and virtual marketplaces where these services can be bought and sold are available. Some of these markets won’t flourish until additional legislation is passed, but credit registering is already available for habitat conservation, water quality protection, and forest conservation.

Services can be sold by landowners as registered credits, and bought by companies or organizations either to satisfy conservation regulations or to meet voluntary conservation goals. Credits are registered by a third party who ensures that the land is actually providing the advertised service for the life of the contract between credit seller and buyer. A single credit is usually equal to one acre of land. Most markets support the sale of fractional credits.

There are online tools for determining your land’s eligibility for credits and for offering credits for sale. One of them, LandServer, [www.landserver.org](http://www.landserver.org), allows you to draw your property lines on an aerial photo, and then create a report detailing the credit programs you may be eligible for based on your property’s location and resources. The report generated also has information about the soil types on your property, the proportion of different land cover types, the watershed in which it lies, and the topography. This service is only available in Maryland and Delaware right now, but the site will soon service all Chesapeake Bay watershed states, including Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, and Virginia.

Once you’ve generated a report for your property and identified the type of credits you’d like to offer for sale, you can log in to the Bay Bank at [www.thebaybank.org](http://www.thebaybank.org). This website provides a meeting place for sellers and buyers of ecosystem service credits. You can use this site to publicly advertise your interest in selling credits. The most popular credit types are forest conservation, usually through a permanent conservation easement, or afforestation, the creation of new forest land.

How much is a credit worth? According to the Bay Bank website, in 2008, Frederick County, Maryland estimated the value of forest mitigation credits for newly planted forest at $16,000 to $20,000 per acre. Compared to the average cost of $5,000 per acre for
forestland establishment, there is a potential for significant profit for the landowner.

The estimated value of forest mitigation credits for existing woodlands in Frederick County was $6,400 to $8,000 per acre in 2008. Due to the increase in cost of the alternatives to mitigation banking, it is likely that the value of both afforestation and conservation credits has increased since 2008. The actual price of your credits is determined through negotiation with the buyer, and will depend in part on the levels of supply and demand for credits in your county. Urban counties will generally support higher prices per credit than rural counties.

Maryland Department of the Environment also has a credit trading program, mdnutrienttrading.com, but it currently only supports nitrogen and phosphorus credit trading. Landowners can receive credits for best management practices that include riparian buffer and riparian pasture tree planting, as well as Christmas tree and nursery operations. Future plans for the program include expansion into the sediment and carbon credit markets. These markets will support credit sales by forest landowners for certain silvicultural practices and afforestation.

Consider visiting LandServer and the Bay Bank today, and start getting paid for the services your trees provide.

---

**Maryland Woodland Stewards**

**Active Cooperators**

2010 was the 20th year anniversary for the Maryland Woodland Steward (MWS) Program. Since 1990, 415 Marylanders owning 69,693 acres have participated in the program and become trained cooperators. They commit to managing their own woodlands and teaching sound forestry and wildlife practices to others. Today, 300 cooperators remain active and are located all across Maryland (see map below).

With funding, University of Maryland has been able to produce a class of Maryland Woodland Stewards every year. However, the last few years have been difficult. In 2010, there was no funding for the program. Therefore, we placed all our efforts developing ways to reinvigorate the program.

We began by surveying current cooperators. In March, 2010, a survey was completed by 61 current cooperators across Maryland. The purpose of the survey was to collect vital information that would help us decipher the success of the program as well as to use the data in summary to seek future funding.

The 2010 survey results once again prove that the Maryland Woodland Steward program is a valuable and successful program in Maryland. The data continues to show us that cooperators have been very active. The 61 cooperators who participated in the survey spent a total of 15,294 hours managing
their own land (for a total of 933.5 acres reported affected) and an additional 2,624 hours of outreach (for a total of 3,070 reported individuals assisted). The results have been published online and detail these accomplishments.

To learn more, read the full report online at our website: http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Programs/MWS/2010/2010MWSSurveyFinal.pdf

---

**Trail Design for Small Properties**

*by Mel Baughman and Terry Serres*

Trail Design for Small Properties offers simple, inexpensive solutions for designing, building, and maintaining sustainable trails for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-highway motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles. This publication is packed with information and drawings that explain the steps in trail development: determine trail uses, select the corridor, establish design standards, mark the trail location, clear the trail, construct the tread, install structures, sign the trail, and install facilities.

The author, Mel Baughman, is an Extension program leader and forester with extensive trail design experience while Terry Serres is a former graduate student at the University of Minnesota. Order item number 04825 for a price of $12.00 plus shipping from the University of Minnesota Extension Store at the following link:

https://shop-secure.extension.umn.edu/PublicationDetail.aspx?ID=1817

or please call 1-800-876-8636 to order by phone.

---

**The Results are In!**

**Top 10 Natural Resources Publications for 2010**

Based on number of page “hits,” the following are the top ten Natural Resource and Water Quality Publications for 2010.

View all Forest Stewardship Education publications, visit our website at:

http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/ResourcesPublications.html

To see additional publications offered by University of Maryland Extension, go to:

http://extension.umd.edu/publications/index.cfm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Pub ID</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>FS 619</td>
<td><em>How to Determine Your Property Boundaries</em></td>
<td>20,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>EB 357</td>
<td><em>Landowner Liability and Recreational Access</em></td>
<td>9,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>FS 802</td>
<td><em>The Great Horned Owl</em></td>
<td>8,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>FS 756</td>
<td><em>Getting to the Root of Tree Problems</em></td>
<td>6,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>FS 798</td>
<td><em>The Barn Swallow: Friend of the Farm</em></td>
<td>5,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>FS 595</td>
<td><em>Lyme Disease and the Deer Tick in Maryland</em></td>
<td>4,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>EB 354</td>
<td><em>Managing Deer Damage in Maryland</em></td>
<td>4,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>FS 655</td>
<td><em>Resistance of ornamentals to Deer Damage</em></td>
<td>4,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>FS 810</td>
<td><em>Using Commercial Deer Repellents to Manage Deer Browsing in the Landscape</em></td>
<td>3,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>EB 319</td>
<td><em>How to Produce and Market Paulownia</em></td>
<td>3,609</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Forest Stewardship Education Webinars**

Thank you to all who participated in our February webinars! Two webinars were delivered and recorded. You may watch these recordings at any time. Below are the details.

To receive notification for future webinars, please contact Ellen Green at egreen13@umd.edu by email or 301-432-2767 x307 by phone and asked to be placed on the Webinar Notification Email list. Or, you may subscribe yourself by sending an email to listserv@listserv.umd.edu. In the body of the message, type SUB FSEWEBINARS your name (ex: SUB FSEWEBINARS John Doe).

**Options for Converting Lawn to Natural Areas**

Broadcasted February 23, 2011

1 Hour Recording

Webinar Recording Library:

http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/ResourcesWebinars.html

Recommended resources:

Webinar Presentation
Information Sheet - The Woods In Your Backyard: Creating Natural Areas from Existing Lawn or Pasture
Webpage - The Woods in Your Backyard
http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/EducationalWBY.html
Manual - The Woods in Your Backyard: Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home:

The Woods in Your Backyard manual is currently out of print. However, there is ample supply at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center. To purchase a copy, mail a check for $20.00, payable to University of Maryland, to: Pam Thomas, WMREC 18330 Keedysville Road Keedysville, MD 21756 Please include a shipping address and the manual will be mailed to you.

Publications Library:
http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/ResourcesPublications.html

Emerging and Current Forest Threats in Maryland
Broadcasted February 15, 2011
1 Hour Recording
Webinar Recording Library:
http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/ResourcesWebinars.html
Recommended resources:
MD Dept. of Agriculture Forest Pest Management:
www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/forest_pest_mgmt/
University of Maryland Extension Home and Garden Information Center Plant Diagnostics:
http://plantdiagnostics.umd.edu

Emerald Ash Borer information:
http://www.emeraldashborer.info/
Maryland EAB information:
http://www.hgif.umd.edu/content/emeraldAshBorer.cfm

University of Maryland Extension EAB Page:
http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/YourWoodlandThreatsEAB.html

Thousand Cankers Disease:
Bark Beetles on Conifers:

American Paulownia Association Conference

This year's conference will be held in Fredericksburg Virginia, April 14–16, 2011 and will focus on the first 20 years of Paulownia as an industry in the United States. The ability to change with the times is critical to success, and this year’s conference will address: The Growing, Harvesting, Processing, Marketing and Opportunities Available for Paulownia. In addition to the basic forestry sessions, new markets will be explored: veneer production, urban & community arboriculture, and public relations that can assist in keeping your products and services in the public’s eye and grow your business.

Activities and meals are planned that will give attendees a taste of “Southern Hospitality” and add to a worthwhile learning experience. Call (301) 790-3075 for further information or visit our web site at: www.paulowniatrees.org. Whether an Association member or non-member, we look forward to seeing you in historical Virginia.

Resources:
Conference Schedule:
http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Documents/Events/20110414APAConference.pdf
Conference Flyers:
http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Documents/Events/20110414Flyers.pdf
APA January Newsletter:
http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Documents/Events/20110414APANewsletter.pdf
Training on Invasive Species First Detection for Landscape Managers and Arborists

These training sessions are organized to train professional horticulturist in detection of invasive diseases and insects. Participants will be provided with in-depth training in diagnostic skills needed to diagnose and detect invasive species. A combination of lecture and hands-on training will be used in these training sessions.

The training sessions will be on April 12, 2011 and located at the University of Maryland Extension Office in Baltimore County, just off Rt. 83 north.

We have brought together some of the leading experts from the University of Tennessee, USDA APHIS, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Longwood Gardens, and University of University of Maryland Extension to provide the training.

Input for developing the training sessions was provided by professional arborist and landscape managers in Maryland. Each participant will be provided with color manuals and fact sheets that will help in the identification process. A complete Invasive Species Diagnostic Notebook will be provided that combines all of the information needed in diagnosis by professional horticulturist.

Participants who wish to receive national certification in the National Plant Diagnostic Network will be asked to take a short exam at the end of the training. Those passing the testing will receive national NPDN certification.

Who should attend: Arborist and Tree Experts, Landscape managers, Nursery Managers, Garden Center Professionals, City, County, and State foresters, IPM Scouts and Plant Consultants, Extension professionals, professional horticulture authors.

The two workshops offered are:

1. Invasive Insect and Disease Species Training
2. Invasive Insects First Detector’s Training

Download Training Agendas, Registration Instructions and other Details: http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Documents/Events/20110412InvasiveTraining.pdf

Worcester County Landowner Education Series 2011

The Worcester County Department of Development Review and Permitting invites you to a series of presentations by various experts for landowners in Worcester County. Please register today for these valuable learning experiences! This program is made possible by Worcester County and a generous grant from the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

Wildlife Habitat Restoration on Large Properties
This program, presented by Nevin Dawson, a forester with the UMD Extension Service, will provide guidance on improving wildlife habitat on properties over 10 acres. Information on programs that provide funding for restoration programs and payments to landowners will be provided. Each participant will receive Forest Resource Management, an $18 value. Registration required.

Date: March 10, 2011 - 6 pm to 8 pm
Location: Worcester County Government Center, 3rd Floor; 1 West Market Street, Snow Hill, MD 21811
Cost: $5.00 per registrant

Conservation Easements and Tax Law
King Burnett, an attorney and expert on tax law and conservation easements, and representatives of conservation organizations and programs will present information on the conservation easement programs available to Worcester County landowners, and the tax implications and advantages of a variety of scenarios. Each participant will receive Preserving Family Lands, by Stephen Small (2009), a $26 value. Registration required.

Date: March 24, 2011 -6 pm to 8 pm
Location: Worcester County Government Center, 1st Floor; 1 West Market Street, Snow Hill, MD 21811
Cost: $5.00 per registrant

Enhancing Wildlife Habitat on a Small Property
Just in time for spring planting, Andi Pupke of Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, a wildlife biologist who has been advising landowners for over a decade on habitat restoration, will present a program on creating, restoring and preserving bluebird, butterfly and other desired wildlife habitat on your small property/yard. Two publications on native plants ($7 value) will be provided to each participant. Registration required.

Date: April 7, 2011 - 6 pm to 8 pm
Location: Berlin Town Hall Council Chambers (2nd floor), 10 William St., Berlin, MD 21811 Cost: $5.00 per registrant

Towards Sustainable Agriculture
Dr. Eric Rice, farmer, and Johns Hopkins University professor, will discuss the challenges facing our food production system, and propose solutions available to farmers, communities and consumers. No registration required.

Date: April 21, 2011 - 6 pm to 8 pm
Location: Ocean Pines Branch Library, 11107 Cathell Road, Ocean Pines, MD 21811
Free
Space is limited. For events that require registration, please register by February 25, 2011.

Info Chips
1. **Sustainable Wood-Based Bioenergy in Maryland**
   The Pinchot Institute, with support from the Harry Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, has conducted a comprehensive analytical study of the distribution of Maryland's diverse woody biomass resources and the opportunity to develop optimal scale projects. The report is entitled, *The Potential for Sustainable Wood-Based Bioenergy in Maryland*. Companion to this report is the development of Maryland's *Forest Biomass Harvesting and Retention Guidelines*. These guidelines were crafted to protect biodiversity, forest productivity, and other important conservation values during biomass harvests. Both of these documents are available online at: [http://www.pinchot.org/articles/323](http://www.pinchot.org/articles/323)

   The basic conclusions of report, *The Potential for Sustainable Wood-Based Bioenergy in Maryland*, are:
   - Small to medium-sized decentralized installations are best suited for Maryland.
   - Opportunity exists for developing biomass energy industries in all jurisdictions.
   - Small changes in existing policies could foster significant investment in wood energy.

2. **Chronic Wasting Disease Found In a White-Tailed Deer in Maryland**
   Maryland Department of Natural Resources reports the first laboratory confirmed case of Chronic Wasting Disease in Maryland. Read complete article at: [http://www.dnr.state.md.us/dnrnews/pressrelease2011/021011a.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/dnrnews/pressrelease2011/021011a.asp)

3. **2010 Tax Year Resources**
   DNR - Maryland Environmental Trust [http://www.dnr.state.md.us/met/](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/met/)
   Maryland Department of Natural Resources News [http://www.dnr.state.md.us/dnrnews/pressrelease2010/122010.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/dnrnews/pressrelease2010/122010.asp)

4. **Stumpage Price Reports**
   Unfortunately, Extension no longer tracks stumpage prices for Maryland. The best information can be found at the websites below:
   - Penn State Timber Market Report [http://extension.psu.edu/timber-market-report](http://extension.psu.edu/timber-market-report)
   Maryland’s resources and archived reports may be found on this page: [http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/ResourcesStumpage.html](http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/ResourcesStumpage.html)

5. **2011 is the International Year of Forests**
   The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests. This global platform sets out to celebrate efforts to sustainably manage the world’s forests and bring awareness to conservation and sustainable
development of forests of all types. To learn more, visit http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/

6. Online Video Series - Wildlife Habitat for Good

Developed for landowners in the southeast, this video series generally applies to the types of habitat we develop and manage here in Maryland. There are 10 videos that run about five minutes each.

http://vimeo.com/channels/wildlifehabitatforgood

Events Calendar

March 10, 2011 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Worcester County Landowner Education Series
Wildlife Habitat Restoration on Large Properties
(see complete article in this newsletter about series)

March 24, 2011 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Worcester County Landowner Education Series
Conservation Easements and Tax Law
(see complete article in this newsletter about series)

April 7, 2011 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Worcester County Landowner Education Series
Enhancing Wildlife Habitat on a Small Property
(see complete article in this newsletter about series)

April 12, 2011
Invasive Species Workshop

April 14 – 16, 2011
American Paulownia Association Conference 2011
This year’s conference will be held in
Fredericksburg Virginia and will focus on the first
20 years of Paulownia as an industry in the United
States. See complete article in this newsletter.

April 21, 2011 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Worcester County Landowner Education Series
Towards Sustainable Agriculture
(see complete article in this newsletter about series)

April 27, 2011 – 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Kent County Green Drinks: Woods and Wildlife in
Your Backyard
Play it Again Sam’s, 108 South Cross Street,
Chestertown, MD
Nevin Dawson leads an informal discussion on
managing small properties for big goals. Cash bar
and snacks; no registration.

May 7, 2011 (save the date)
The Woods in Your Backyard. Kent County. Details
TBD.

June 2, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Goats v. Weeds: A Targeted Grazing Demonstration
Adkins Arboreturm, 12610 Eveland Road
Ridgely, MD 21660. Details TBD. Demonstration
also offered on June 4.

June 4, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Goats v. Weeds: A Targeted Grazing Demonstration
Adkins Arboreturm, 12610 Eveland Road
Ridgely, MD 21660. Details TBD. Demonstration
also offered on June 2.

University of Maryland Extension programs are
open to all citizens without regard to race, color,
gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation,
martial 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, Ellen Green, Nevin
Dawson, and Lori Flook

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

To Subscribe:

Email Notification: To be notified by email when
new issues become available, email
listserv@listserv.umd.edu. In the body of the
message, type SUB branchingout your name (ex:
SUB branchingout John Doe).

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

Online: Issues can be downloaded for free at

Send news items to Nevin Dawson at
ndawson@umd.edu or 410-827-8056 x125.