How to Stop Exotic Invaders

Invasive species are a fact of life, but we can still take action to limit their spread and economic impact. They can germinate and continue the plant’s spread. It builds up a thatch of dead material that is extremely flammable, and can fuel a very hot wildfire when ignited.

Another common forest invader is garlic mustard. This evergreen produces large numbers of seed every year that can still sprout ten years after falling from the plant. Both species create a thick layer on the forest floor, shading out native seedlings. Without native seedlings, the healthy regeneration of the entire forest is at risk. Walking or running equipment through these patches will spread the seeds to new locations. Clean out the dirt from equipment cabs and pressure wash all equipment between job sites.

Master Loggers Help Woodcocks

Woodcocks can now breathe a little easier in Garrett County. Master Loggers Mark and Randy Furman and the crew of Furman Forest Services recently closed out a job in Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area that created new habitat for the American Woodcock.

They clearcut mature alder and mixed hardwoods on seven one-acre tracts, starting at the low end on the border of a wetland and working their way up slope, making sure to only run equipment when the ground was frozen solid to minimize the impact on the soil.

Clearing the old bushy alder will allow it to resprout and create the vertical structure that woodcocks prefer.

This project was funded by the Wildlife Management Institute, and is part of a national effort to educate both private and public land managers of the importance of young forest habitat for woodcock, ruffed grouse, golden-winged warbler, and a host of other wildlife species. It is a partnership between Appalachian Mountains Young Forest Initiative and MD DNR. For additional information, visit www.timberdoodle.org.
Tips for Using Less Fuel

Your engine needs 10,000 gallons of air to burn one gallon of fuel, so good air flow is very important.

- Diesel engines require a lot less fuel and have fewer operating expenses if they’re properly operated and maintained. Here are some tips.
- Black exhaust smoke indicates that fuel is not burning completely. If you see black smoke, clean the fuel injectors, and use a fuel injector additive periodically.
- Black exhaust smoke may also mean that your air cleaners need service. Your engine needs 10,000 gallons of air to burn one gallon of fuel, so good air flow is very important.
- Replace fuel filters often. Cut a used one open. If it’s dirty or slimy, you should replace it more often. A slimy filter may indicate algae. Consider an algicide additive, especially in warm weather.
- Use proper oil viscosity. If it’s too low, your engine won’t have enough protection. If it’s too high, fuel consumption increases.
- Use high gears and low throttle to decrease fuel consumption and wear on the drivetrain.
- Check tire pressure weekly. Pressure that is just 4 psi too low can mean an 8% increase in fuel consumption.
- Replace worn tires for less slippage and better fuel economy. Use radial tires for better traction.
- Don’t idle for more than 10 minutes. New studies show that this practice saves fuel.

Consider using a fuel additive in cold weather for easier starts, but check with your fuel supplier first to see what has already been added.

Don’t store fuel for more than 6 months without a stabilizing additive.

Make sure fuel containers meet local, state, and federal regulations.

Refer to your operator’s manual for proper fluid types, tire pressures, and maintenance intervals.

Nominate the Logger of the Year

The MD/DE Master Logger Steering Committee and the Maryland Forests Association (MFA) are looking for nominations for the 2011 Logger of the Year award.

The award program is open to all independent logging contractors. Preference will be given to Active MD/DE Master Loggers.

The award winner will receive an engraved plaque, complimentary registration at the MFA Annual Meeting, and other awards donated by MFA sponsors. If eligible, the winner will automatically be nominated to the regional Forest Resources Association Outstanding Logger Award Program.

Who can submit a nomination? Anyone! Letters of nomination must be received by July 29, 2011 at the address below, or at this link: tinyurl.com/3nzxmks.

Karin Miller, Maryland Forests Assoc., PO Box 599, Grantsville, MD 21536.
New Disease in Black Walnut

Like a death by a thousand cuts, the thousand cankers disease kills walnut trees one small canker at a time. Each canker is smaller than a quarter and is too small to have any impact individually, but is almost always deadly when multiplied with the help of the tiny walnut beetle.

It was first noticed in California in 2008, and was found in Tennessee in 2010. There are probably other infestations in the East that haven’t been found yet.

The beetle is the size of a flea, and the holes it makes are almost too small to see. They usually start on larger twigs and branches, and then work their way into the trunk.

Look for yellowing leaves, sudden wilting, and new sprouts on the trunk of walnut trees. Some trees may have sap stains or bleeding, but this is easily hidden by the bark furrows. Also look for dark brown spots in the cambium, which can only be seen after carefully removing the bark of twigs.

The only effective control measure is removal and burning or grinding of infested trees. Contact the Home and Garden Information Center at 1-800-342-2507 or by using the “Send a Question” feature at www.hgic.umd.edu.

OSHA Requires Current CPR and First Aid

Keeping your CPR and First Aid certification up to date is not just a good idea—it’s the law.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Logging Operations Standard requires all logging supervisors and employees to maintain valid and current CPR and First Aid certification.

It’s also the employer’s responsibility to ensure that training is presented in a way that employees can understand, with consideration for their language abilities. This is especially important if members of your crew speak English as a second language. Be sure to keep written and signed records of all trainings.

Here’s a First Aid quick tip: each employee transport vehicles and each felling, bucking, limbing, and landing site must have a serviceable first aid kit that meets OSHA requirements.

You should also keep a basic first aid kit on your person when using a saw. Consider keeping a maxi-pad between the suspension and shell of your hard hat in case you need to control a lot of bleeding in a hurry. It works!

You Can’t Take Your CE Credits to the Bank

Continuing education is essential to maintaining both your status as an Active Master Logger and your reputation as a well-informed professional.

The MD/DE Master Logger program encourages you to participate in as many educational opportunities as possible. Remember, though, that credit banking is not allowed. This means that credits you earn above and beyond the 8 credit minimum every two years cannot be used in the next two-year period.

For example, if you need one credit by the end of 2011 and you take an 8 credit course, the extra seven credits expire at the end of the year and you must earn another 8 credits in the 2012-2013 period.

Remember that formal classes are not the only way to earn credits. There are many additional membership and online options for earning the credits you need.
**MD/DE Master Logger Program**

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**THE LOGGER** is the official publication of the MD/DE Master Logger Program, Master Logger Steering Committee (MLSC), and the Maryland SFISIC.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td><strong>Take Charge of Your Legacy: A Workshop for MD Woodland Owners</strong>, Schmidt Center, Brandywine, MD, 8:45 am - 3:00 pm, $10-15 (includes lunch), Craig Highfield: 410-267-5723 or <a href="mailto:chighfield@chesapeakebay.net">chighfield@chesapeakebay.net</a>.</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
<td><strong>Suburban Deer Management: Options and Choices for Decision Makers</strong>, Elks Club, Bowie, MD, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, $25 (includes lunch), Pam Thomas: 301-432-2767, ext. 315 or <a href="mailto:pthomas@umd.edu">pthomas@umd.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>Jul 23</td>
<td><strong>Hands-on Welding for Loggers: Hard-facing, Machine Settings, and Proper Torch Use</strong>, Allegany College, Cumberland, MD, 9 am - 5:30 pm, cost TBD, Carol Taylor: 410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:carolt@umd.edu">carolt@umd.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>Jul 30</td>
<td><strong>ML Core: OSHA Regulations &amp; Logging Safety</strong>, Queenstown and Online, 9 am - 1 pm, $30, Carol Taylor:</td>
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<td>Aug 13</td>
<td><strong>ML Core: Sediment &amp; Erosion Control; Logging Aesthetics; Spill Prevention &amp; Control</strong>, Southern Maryland, location TBD, $30, Carol Taylor: 410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:carolt@umd.edu">carolt@umd.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>Sep 24</td>
<td><strong>ML Core: Sediment &amp; Erosion Control; Logging Aesthetics; Spill Prevention &amp; Control</strong>, Queenstown and Online, 9 am - 1 pm, $30, Carol Taylor: 410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:carolt@umd.edu">carolt@umd.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>Dec 17</td>
<td><strong>ML Core: Basic Forestry &amp; Silviculture; Forest Certification</strong>, Queenstown and Online, 9 am - 1 pm, $30, Carol Taylor: 410-827-8056 or <a href="mailto:carolt@umd.edu">carolt@umd.edu</a>.</td>
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Attendees at all listed events are eligible for ML CE credit hours equal to the length of the program.