Reminder! Meetings this week – It’s not too Late to Register - Call Today!

2011 Pumpkin & Sweet Corn Twilight
Tuesday, September 27th
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
A light dinner fare will be available.
There is no fee for this program, but we ask that you please pre-register with Debby Dant at: 410-827-8056 X115 or ddant@umd.edu ASAP.

2011 Pumpkin and Sweet Corn Twilight
University of Maryland Wye Research and Education Center
Queenstown, MD
September 27, 2011
4:30-6:30 PM

Farm Estate Planning Workshop
Wednesday, September 28th
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

University of Maryland Extension is sponsoring a Farm Estate Planning Workshop on Wednesday, September 28th at the St. Mary’s Agriculture Services Center in Leonardtown, MD. The workshop will begin at 9:00 AM and will conclude at 3 PM.

The workshop will focus on farm estate planning basics. Some of the topics to be discussed are: (1) Estate Planning Objectives, (2) Developing and Implementing a Plan, (3) Federal and State Estate and Gift Taxes, (4) Wills, (5) Property Ownership, (6) Use of Trusts, and (7) Special Provisions for Farms and Small Businesses.

Other speakers will discuss special local considerations for estate planning in Maryland, agricultural land preservation, transfer of farm management responsibilities, distribution of non-titled property, and effective communication among family members.

Because of USDA support, the workshops have no registration fee. A catered lunch is provided.

Registration is necessary to plan food and handouts. Call Ben Beale ASAP at 301 475 4484 to register.
SARE FARMER GROWER GRANT
WRITING WORKSHOP
Friday, October 14th
9:00 a.m. – Noon
Chesapeake College, EDC - 27

Farmer Grants are for commercial producers who have an innovative idea they want to test using a field trial, on-farm demonstration, or other technique. A technical advisor--often an extension agent, crop consultant, or other service professional--is required as a project participant.

Projects should seek results other farmers can use, and all projects must have the potential to add to our knowledge about effective sustainable practices.

Note: Proposal deadlines are December 1 with awards announced in March.

If you need special assistance please register 1 week ahead of time. This course is open to anyone interested in learning more about grant writing and SARE projects.

To register call: 410-822-1244 or sdill@umd.edu

October 4
Emerald Ash Borer: What it Means for Woodland Owners?
Maryland Forests Association
Educational Workshop Series
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Location: St. Mary's County Library, Charlotte Hall Branch, 37600 New Market Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a shiny green beetle from Asia, is slowly removing ash trees from Maryland’s landscape.

This workshop will review the insect’s physiology and the impact it has had so far, and then help you determine the steps that you can take to maximize the value of your forest—for profit, wildlife habitat, water quality, or other objectives—despite the threat of EAB.

Registration forms and additional information are available at http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Events.html#20111004.

The registration fee for the workshop is $10.00.
Registration Deadline is Friday, September 30, 2011. Contact: Nevin Dawson, Forest Stewardship Educator ndawson@umd.edu, 410-827-8056

October 11
Medicinal Roots of Appalachia and Forest Management
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location:
Garrett Community College, Continuing Education Building, Room 205, 687 Mosser Road, McHenry, MD 21541

The Maryland Forests Association, in cooperation with University of Maryland and Forestry for The Bay is conducting a Medicinal Roots of Appalachia and Forest Management workshop for family forest landowners, MFA members, tree farmers, and forest conservationists. Discover the lore, tradition, and science behind Appalachia’s most popular and native medicinal roots, from the economically exalted roots of the culture like Ginseng and Black Cohosh to the local secret favorites like Solomon’s Seal and Stoneroot and many more! Come away with tidbits on Appalachian culture past, present, and future and its contribution to our herbal materia medica. Learn how management of your forest can help. Registration forms and additional information are available at http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Events.html#20111004

NOTE: Registration is also available through the University of Maryland Extension Garrett County office, 1916 Maryland Highway, Suite A, Mt. Lake Park, MD 21550. Call (301) 334-6960. Use the same registration form and make checks payable to the Maryland Forests Association.

The registration fee for the workshop is $10.00.
Registration Deadline is Friday, October 7, 2011
October 14 & Nov 2  
GPS Training for Natural Resource Professionals, Conservation Volunteers, and Woodland Owners

Handheld GPS receivers are accurate (+/- 15 feet) and can be used for numerous natural resource related purposes but first you need to learn how to use it in the field and interact with a computer. The University of Maryland Extension is offering Beginner GPS Workshops to teach those interested in learning how to use GPS handheld receivers with a computer, using applications specific to land conservation and forestry uses. No special skills are required. Topics to be covered include the basics of using a GPS receiver, as well as: marking waypoints, creating routes, and creating tracks, entering and finding coordinates, determining acreage or perimeter of an area, locating roads, stream crossings, and points of interest, downloading and uploading data to a computer (computer provided), downloading and uploading data from Google Earth, computer software options, and comparing different GPS handheld units.

October 14, 2011
Location: Western Maryland Research & Education Center, 18330 Keedysville Rd, Keedysville, MD 21756
Register by October 11. Contact: Pam Thomas (pthomas@umd.edu) 301-432-2767 x315

November 2, 2011
Location: University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Lab 1107 Waters Hall, Princess Anne, MD
Register by: October 28, 2011 Contact: Carol Taylor (carolt@umd.edu) 410-827-8056

October 21  
Integrating Terrain Navigator with GPS for Natural Resource Professionals, Conservation Volunteers, and Woodland Owners

A second one-day workshop is being offered on the use of Terrain Navigator (TN) software that provides USGS topographic maps in a digital format and allows the user to create GPS waypoints, routes and tracks and transfer them to a GPS unit or to download GPS information taken in the field and then create a individualized computer map of the area you are working. All this information can be kept on a laptop and can it can save many hours of field time. It is for natural resource professionals, volunteers, and landowners as well.

Garmin GPSMAP76Cx units and computers are provided for the training. All knowledge and skills learned are easily transferred to other GPS units. Lunch and course materials are provided. The manual of activities and resources are posted free of charge at:
www.naturalresources.umd.edu/EducationalGPS.html

Workshops run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the cost is $45. Registration forms and additional information are available at
http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Events.html#20111004

Register by October 18. Contact: Pam Thomas (pthomas@umd.edu) 301-432-2767 x315

October 25  
Working in your Woodlands: Sustainable income opportunities

12:00 pm - 4:15 pm
Location: Jefferson Ruritan Club, Lander Road and Rte. 340, Jefferson, MD (southern Frederick County) and field visit to Thrasher Farm, 4144 C Lander Road, Jefferson, MD.

Often the woods on agricultural lands are perceived as an area not suitable to farm or a maybe simply as place to hunt or to get firewood. Many times these woodlots are degraded from neglect or from an unscrupulous logging operation. If you have an interest doing something in your woods then please join us to learn how to sustainably incorporate them into you overall farm operation - as a way to generate new products & sources of revenue, access new markets and increase the value and vitality of your land.

Cost: $5.00 for CASA members; $10.00 for non-members

Agenda:

Registration info:
http://www.forestryforthebay.org/events.cfm (scroll to find event)
Growing Grapes for Wine Program
2012 Grant Announced

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) is once again offering grants to farms in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties to aid in the purchase of wine grape vines. These funds are being made available as a continuation of SMADC's Growing Grapes for Wine Program which was established to encourage and support the development of a competitive wine industry in Southern Maryland.

The grant program offers matching funds for the purchase of grape vines compatible with the region. The Grapes for Wine Program is offered together with the University of Maryland Extension which will provide ongoing training and production expertise.

To be eligible an applicant must own or be co-applicant with the owner of at least 5 acres of land currently in agricultural use. The site must be suitable (determined by a UME educator) and the soils tested for nematodes. Soil samples must be taken this fall and sent to a laboratory for analysis. The grant application and guidelines detail procedures and provide a list of laboratories.

Existing grape growers and new growers may apply, unless the farmer is a prior recipient of a SMADC Farm Viability Grant awarded specifically for vineyard enhancement. Past participants of the Growing Grapes for Wine cost-share program are eligible.

Awards will be made based on satisfactory test results and pending availability of funding. Grant applications are due to SMADC by December 2, 2011.


The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) was established to promote diverse, market-driven agricultural enterprises, which coupled with agricultural land preservation, will preserve Southern Maryland's environmental resources and rural character while keeping the region's farmland productive and the agricultural economy vibrant. To learn more about additional programs and resources, contact SMADC, P. O. Box 745, Hughesville, MD 20637; phone: 301-274-1922; fax: 301-274-1924; email cbergmark@smadc.com or visit [http://www.smadc.com/](http://www.smadc.com/).