UM Extension Woodland
Stewardship Education
Program

Our Team

Bob Tjaden, Extension Forestry Specialist
Jonathan Kays, Extension Forestry Specialist
Agnes Kedmenecz, Forest Stewardship Educator
Nancy Stewart, Forestry Extension Assistant
Andrew Kling, Forestry Extension Assistant
What were the most important legislation signed by President Lincoln?

- Emancipation Proclamation 1862?
  - Freedom for blacks

- Homestead Act 1862?
  - Turned over vast amounts of the public domain (270 million acres) to private citizens.

- Pacific Railway Act 1862?
  - Gave huge grants of lands for rights-of-way to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line.
Morrill Act of 1862

Establishment of Land Grant University System

- Every state given 10,000 acres of federal land
- States sold land to endow a college offering courses in agriculture, engineering, and home economics, as well as regular academic programs.
- Military training be offered at each college. Basis of ROTC program.
- Second Morrill Act of 1890 extended land-grant provisions to 16 southern states and permitted division of funds for white and black schools.
Smith-Lever Act 1914
Cooperative Extension Service

- Established a system of cooperative extension services, connected to the land-grant universities.
- One of the largest, informal adult education systems in the world and consists of three layers of organization – federal, state, & county.
The Land Grant Mission
University of Maryland at College Park
College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Federally assisted system of higher education

- Teaching - at the campus level
  - Morrill Act of 1862 (1890)
- Research - basic and applied
  - Hatch Act of 1887
- Extension - taking it the people
  - Smith-Lever Act of 1914
Objective of WSE Program

• Provide credible, research-based education programs
• Enable woodland owners to make informed land management decisions.
• Provide educational opportunities for natural resource professionals, policy makers, LGO’s and others
• Woodlands are the best land use to protect natural resource values.
• Woodlands cover 42% of Maryland.
• 76% owned by over 150,000 private landowners. 85% of ownerships 1-9 acres in size
• $3.5 billion forest industry with 40,000 jobs

So… the future of our forests depend on the cumulative decisions of these many landowners!
2006 Family Forest Ownership - MD

More owners → Smaller woodlots

% of Total

% Acres

% Owners

USDA Forest Service, 2006
Number of MD Private Forest Owners (1000’s)

**Percentage with 1–9 Acres of Forest**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Survey</th>
<th># of Owners (x1000)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>95.8</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Parcel size 9.3 acres - 2006

Exploring the Myths of Private Woodland Owners

- Rural and Land Connected
- Anti-environmentalists
- Timber Oriented
- Pro-private Rights
Landowner Categories

- Woodland Retreat Owners
- Supplemental Income Owners
- Working the Land Owners
- Uninvolved Owners
Percentage Owners by Category in MD

- Woodland Retreat: Noticeably above national average
- Working the Land
- Supplemental Income: Noticeably below national average
- Uninvolved

Percentage of Owners

- Woodland Retreat: 55%
- Working the Land: 15%
- Supplemental Income: 5%
- Uninvolved: 25%
Woodland Retreat Owners

What are they interested in?

- Keeping their woods healthy
- Wildlife habitat
- Improving recreational and aesthetic values
- Conserving their land
- Financial assistance for improving the health of their land
Woodland Stewardship...

- A sense of responsibility.
- Knowing the opportunities.
- Aware of the consequences of actions

Making informed decisions…

Guided by objectives
Website Resources

[www.extension.umd.edu/woodland](http://www.extension.umd.edu/woodland)

- Branching Out Newsletter
- Webinar recordings
- Video library
- Resource Links
- FAQ’s
- Publication Library
- Our YouTube channel
- More….
Branching Out
Forest Stewardship Newsletter

- Free, Quarterly
- Sent Electronically
- Learn about upcoming events.
- Past copies archived
- Subscribe and/or view at www.extension.umd.edu/woodland
Find a Forester

• [http://extension.umd.edu/woodland/your-woodland/find-forester](http://extension.umd.edu/woodland/your-woodland/find-forester)
Social Media
YouTube Channel - Facebook

https://www.youtube.com/user/UMdFSE
Woodland Stewardship Education
www.facebook.com/UMDWSE
Since 1990 the Maryland Woodland Stewards Program

Leveraging Limited Resources

• Teaching volunteer woodland owners how to improve wildlife habitat and other forest benefits using sound forest management practices

“Neighbor Helping Neighbor”
Key Concepts of Outreach

• Trained opinion leaders in a community are a credible source of information
  – “Neighbor Helping Neighbor”
• Forest stewardship practices need to be seen to be understood
  – “Education Through Demonstration”
• Limited resources are best leveraged by training and supporting volunteers
Since 1990, trained 475 volunteers who own or manage over 70,000 acres. 

Information one-to-one to an average of 2,326 people per year. 

Over 20 years, more than 40,000 hours in outreach & education. About 1 FTE / year
Annual Surveys of Volunteers
20 year averages

Volunteer Time

• Stewards contributed an average of 2,343 hour per year in education and outreach – 39,830 hours during the life of the program

• Averaged 12,739 hours per year in management efforts on their property over the life of the program
Unmet Challenge!

• Creating local/regional woodland owner associations
• IDEAS?
CONSIDERING A TIMBER HARVEST?

Call Before You Cut

HEALTHY WOODS GROW ON GOOD ADVICE

Information online. FREE packet available by mail:

callb4ucut.com/maryland

or call (301) 432-2767 x315

This program is supported by thirteen partner organizations

The University of Maryland is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Equal Access Programs.
Call Before You Cut

A Landowner’s Guide for a Successful Harvest
“Healthy Woods Grow on Good Advice”

Why Sell Timber?

Your woods represent one of your most valuable resources. The decision to harvest, and how to do so, can either improve or set back the future value of your land, its potential for wildlife habitat, and as a source of income for you and your family.

There are several reasons why you might decide to sell timber.

The timber represents a source of income.

The health and vigor of your woods, and habitat for some species of wildlife, can be improved if you develop a harvesting approach that fits your needs.

Trees that may be damaged due to ice, wind, snow storm, fire, insects, and disease can be salvaged to allow you to recover some of their value.

Whatever the reason for harvesting, a professional forester is uniquely qualified to assist you with a timber harvest that accomplishes your needs and expectations.
Call Before You Cut Program
www.callb4ucut.com
The Call Before Your Cut campaign in Maryland is coordinated by the University of Maryland Extension’s Woodland Stewardship Education program. For more about our partners, click on the logos below.
Woods In Your Backyard
Targeting Small-Acreage Owners

- Three state extension project – MD, PA, VA – Since 2006
- Transitioning lawn to natural area, enhancing existing woodland
- Self assessment guide sold over 11,000 copies
- Workshops for over 3000 small acreage owners
- Online Course since 2016
Disconnect With Small Acreage Landowners

- Forest stewardship programs – greater than 10 acres
- Few programs for those with 1-10 acre woodland owners that make up the majority (two-thirds or more)
- Good for small and larger woodland owners!
- There are few service providers available
Purpose of Workshop

Transition from mowed to natural use

Enhance existing natural areas
Land Management Techniques

“Taking forestry to the backyard”

- Best management practices
- Brush piles
- Create campfire area
- Firewood cutting
- Food plots
- Mast trees
- Tree planting
- Trails & roads
- Much more…
Invasive Specie Concerns
Reduce Wildlife Abundance & Diversity
From: Bringing Nature Home Doug Tallamy

Many more caterpillar species on native woody plant genera in the mid-Atlantic states
Program Offerings

Program Resources on Website

• Adapt program to your needs - Full day, half day, 1 or 2 hours.
• Cost includes price of guide and instructor travel
WIYB Online Course

- Built on Canvas ELMS
- Debuted Fall 2016
- Intent: 2x a year (Spring & Fall)
“How would you describe the service professional(s) you contacted?”

- Lawn care company: 4%
- Landscape contractor: 19%
- Tree company or arborist: 31%
- Forester: 15%
- Other: (please specify) 31%
Land care practices for natural areas

Top 5 Unpaid Labor projects:
- Planting trees and shrubs
- Creating wildlife brush piles
- Reducing/eliminating mowing
- Using herbicides to control exotic/invasive plants
- Pruning trees
Land care practices for natural areas

Top 3 Paid Labor projects:
- Planting trees and shrubs
- Using herbicides to control exotic/invasive plants
- Planting/enhancing mast trees
Conclusions, so far …

• Need to work with green service providers to expand services
• Need to continue outreach to younger landowners
• Nearly all are pursuing one or more land care practice on their properties
• Designed for individuals wishing to increase their understanding of forests and forest management
• Offered online and by mail
• 15 week course offered fall and spring
• $300

Online Wildlife Management Course in development
• 525 completed course since 1995
• In 2000 went electronic
• Average acreage 104 acres
• Impacted 12,000 acres: from US & International
• 63% benefited financially
MD Wood Energy Coalition

Started by UME in 2010

- Goal: Accelerate wood energy development in MD
- Many partners new to UME
- Educational outreach
- Results: Residential wood grant program, commercial regulations updated, seeking comm. projects
Maryland Wood Energy Coalition
Established April 2010 with DNR Forest Service

Objectives:

• Committed to increasing the adoption of high efficiency, low emission wood energy technologies that meets Maryland air quality standards.

• Best achieved through:
  – small to medium-sized commercial and institutional applications for government, schools, and businesses, and,
  – residential thermal applications.
Coalition’s Four Priorities Addressed
May 2014

1) Update MDE air emission regulations  DONE!

2) Establish thermal renewable energy credits as an incentive  Nope!

3) Provide sustained support for the Maryland Wood Grant Program  DONE!
   – $50K pilot program by MEA extended indefinitely
   – $1 million commercial wood energy program coming

4) Public agencies & facilities to lead the way  Slow progress
   – Dept Gov Service promoting biomass as a fuel
W. MD Local Government Exchange

_Educating Local Gov’t officials_

- Organized by University of MD Extension & Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology
- Annual program offered since 2007 for local government officials from 5 W MD counties
- Create network of information sharing between local gov’t officials on land use & conservation issues
- Engaged steering committee with credible impacts
- Program implemented in Southern MD & Eastern Shore
Short Rotational Forests & Biosolids

*Trees solving environmental challenges – Since 1997*

- Biosolids applied & buried in trenches on mine spoils
- Hybrid poplar trees utilize the nutrients in 6-8 years
- Produce forest products, wildlife habitat and restoration
- Research used to permit operations for biosolids from Columbus, OH, New York City, Wilmington, DE and other locations.
• Voluntary training and education
• Helps loggers meet the ever-increasing demands of logging profession
• Information about current environmental regulations, forestry principles, and safe work practices
Other Programs

- Master Naturalist
- Small Farm Program
- Handheld GPS Training
Improving Partnership of UME and Forestry Boards?

- Be connected to UME-WSE Program through Branching Out newsletter – Facebook
- Consider becoming a MD Woodland Steward
- Contact your county UME agricultural educator. Invite them to your monthly meeting and engage them is what your outreach efforts.
- Understand what UME can provide.
Improving Partnership of UME & Forestry Boards?

• Consider starting a county woodland owner group.
• How is that different from a forestry board?
• New program areas: Legacy planning!
• 4H Forestry Invitational; 4H Wildlife Invitational
• Educate people to understand why? It's not just about programs?
Questions?

Jonathan Kays
Extension Forester
University of Maryland Extension
301-432-2767 x323
jkays@umd.edu
www.extension.umd.edu/woodland