

Where does a woodland steward get information to help manage that woodland and the wildlife in it? Forest professionals and other woodland owners are good sources of information. In addition, there are publications on forest and wildlife management. Unless noted, all of the following are available from your county Extension office and single copies are free to Maryland residents.

#### Of general interest

***Natural Resources Income Opportunities on Private Lands.*** Proceedings of April's conference in Hagerstown attended by 290 people from 23 states. Includes 38 papers related to forest farming and forest utilization, recreational tourism, recreational access, opportunities assessment, challenges, management, estate and tax considerations, and integration of natural resources into farm and woodlot management. [Eds: Kays, Goff, Smallidge, Grafton, Parkhurst; 275 pages, \$20, bulk rate available for 4 or more copies; order from Washington County Cooperative Extension Service, 1260 Maryland Ave, Hagerstown MD 21740; 301-791-1304.]

***Recreational Access and Landowner Liability in Maryland: Guidelines for Managing Free or Fee Access.*** Previewed in *Branching Out*, Fall 1997, this gives details on landowner liability, trespass and property rights, recreational use along tidal and nontidal waterways, controlling recreational use, controlling timber trespass, and developing a lease hunting enterprise. It also has examples of a hunting lease; sources of liability insurance for hunt

clubs and other recreational enterprises; and sources of additional information. [Bulletin 357, 27 pages, \$2.50.]

#### Newly published

NEW! Seven fact sheets on riparian forest buffers can help you plant streambanks. This is timely for Maryland woodland owners who will participate in the effort to plant 600 miles of Chesapeake Bay tributaries by 2010. These fact sheets explain forest riparian buffer terms, systems, installation, maintenance, and plants to use: ***An Introduction to the Riparian Forest Buffer*** [Fact Sheet 724, 2 pages.]

***Riparian Forest Buffer Design, Establishment, and Maintenance*** [FS 725, 8 pages.]

***Trees for Riparian Forest Buffers*** [FS 726, 4 pages.]

***Understory Plants for Riparian Forest Buffers*** [FS 727, 4 pages.]

***Grasses for Riparian Buffers and Wildlife Habitat Improvement*** [FS 728, not yet available.]

***Soil Bioengineering or Streambank Restoration for Riparian Forest Buffers*** [FS 729, not yet available.]

***Riparian Buffer Systems*** [FS 733, 2 pages.] [Eds: Tjaden and Weber.]

In addition, a video ***Riparian Forest Buffers---The Link Between Land & Water***, explains and illustrates the functions and values of the riparian forest habitat. Designed for landowners, it is appropriate for individual or group viewing. 21 minutes; closed-captioned. Borrow from a MD,

PA, or VA Extension service office, state forest or wildlife agency, or Natural Resources Conservation Service, or purchase for \$15 from the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service Wye Research and Education Center, 401-827-8056.

### **Forest management**

**Sources of Information and Guidance for Forest Stewards.** [FS 624, 12 pages.]

**Maryland's Forests---Past, Present, and Future.** [FS 627, 7 pages.]

**Developing a Forest Management Plan---The Key to Forest Stewardship.** [FS 625, 4 pages; available on the Internet; see below.]

**The Forest Stewardship Planning Guide (FSPG)** is a Windows-based computer software program to help private forest owners determine goals for their woodland. [Free from \_\_\_\_\_.]

**Glossary of Forestry Terms.** 175 forestry terms and definitions, from "all-aged stand" to "wolf tree," including agency acronyms and seven illustrations. [FS 620, 7 pages.]

**How to Determine Your Property Boundaries.** [FS 619, 7 pages.]

**Measuring Your Forest.** [FS 629, 8 pages, illustrations and charts.]

**Marketing Forest Products: The Sales Contract.** [FS 628, 8 pages.]

**How to Produce and Market Paulownia.** [Bulletin 319, 21 pages, thirty illustrations, \$2.00.]

**Alternative Income Enterprises---Resource List.** [FS 626, 12 pages.]

### **Wildlife Management**

**Wildlife Management Series.** Set of eighteen illustrated fact sheets. The first four (4-7 pages each) present an overview of wildlife management and steps for managing wildlife and the last fourteen (seven pages each) detail wildlife species' physical characteristics, abundance and distribution, life history, management, and ecological roles. Topics are Introduction to Wildlife Management, Planting Crops for Wildlife, Brush Piles for Wildlife, Field Border Management, Eastern Cottontail Rabbits, Bobwhite Quail, Ring-necked Pheasants, Ruffed Grouse, Mourning Doves, Eastern Wild Turkeys, Tree Squirrels, Black Bears, Wood Ducks, Dabbling Ducks, Diving Ducks, Canada Geese, and Songbirds Life History and Management. [WMP; \$10 for set.]

### **Wildlife Damage Management**

**Controlling Deer Damage in Maryland.** [EB 354, 22 pages, \$1.50]

**Resistance of Ornamentals to Deer Damage.** [FS 655, 8 pages; available on the Internet,; see below.]

**Reducing Vole Damage to Plants.** [FS 654, 8 pages.]

### **Related topics**

Several family resource management publications may be useful to forest owners. Among them are

*EstatePlanning: Owning and Transferring Property.* [FS 410.]

*Estate Planning: Gift, Estate, and Inheritance Taxes.* [FS 421.] Ask your Extension office about others.

For the above publications, contact your county Extension service office, under "county government" in the telephone blue pages. Two of the publications, FS 625 and FS 655, can be downloaded from the Internet. Access them at [www.agnr.umd.edu/CES/pubs/online.html](http://www.agnr.umd.edu/CES/pubs/online.html).

### **Branching Out**

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*Published quarterly and distributed to more than 4100 woodland owners, resource professionals, and others interested in forest stewardship. Calendar and news items are welcome. Deadline for the summer newsletter is July 10; phone 301-432-2767 x310; fax 301-432-4089; e-mail vs12@umail.umd.edu; or mail to Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, 18330 Keedysville Road, Keedysville MD 21756.*

The sponsoring agencies' programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, or physical ability.

## Habitat Cost-sharing

A new Wildlife Habitat Improvement (cost-sharing) Program, WHIP, had its initial enrollment in February. WHIP is the first program targeted exclusively at improving wildlife habitat on America's private lands.

Conservation practices eligible for WHIP cost-sharing are the restoration of grassland habitat in field borders and fields, the restoration of riparian buffers with trees, shrubs, or herbaceous plants, and the stabilization of adjacent streambanks with trees and shrubs. The area must contain at least one acre of grassland, shrub, or tree plantings, or at least 150 feet of streambank stabilization plantings.

Practices installed must be in the landowner's conservation plan as developed by the landowner, the Soil Conservation District, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. This plan is separate from the forest management plan developed by a forester. Participants agree to maintain the practices for five to ten years, with NCRS providing technical assistance and up to 75 percent of the cost of installing the conservation practices.

WHIP was created in the 1996 Farm Bill. Maryland receives \$180,000 this year. WHIP can help you increase and improve wildlife habitat. Although the first signup has passed, there will be other signup periods. Contact your local NRCS or Soil Conservation District office, under "United States Government, Agriculture" in the blue pages of the phone book.

Forest owners and others can tour the tree farm of 1998 Maryland Tree Farmer of the Year, Bill Slagle, Garrett County, Saturday, June 6.

As featured in the last *Branching Out*, Bill's Walnut Meadows tree farm has managed hardwoods, evergreens, ginseng, shiitake mushrooms, a recent timber stand improvement, and a nature trail. The tour also may include Bill's current project, a "house of the 21st Century," featuring foam construction forms and geothermal heating.

All are invited to the tour which is sponsored by the Maryland Chapter of the Walnut Council and the Maryland Tree Farm Committee. For details, including information on overnight accommodations at the new Rocky Gap Conference Center, contact Vera Mae Schultz, 301-972-0848, [treefarmer@compuserve.com](mailto:treefarmer@compuserve.com); or Jeff Bracken, 304-258-4681.

Thirty woodland owners or other environmentally concerned people in Maryland will receive training as Coverts ("kuh-verts") Cooperators this fall. The three-day intensive training includes forest and wildlife management and information sharing strategies.

The training is September 24-27, in Washington County. All costs are paid by the Ruffed Grouse Society, a non-profit organization for forest wildlife conservation. In return, participants agree to follow a management plan on their property and share their learning with others for a year.

To apply to be a Coverts Cooperator or to get more information on the Coverts Project, contact *Branching Out*. Applications are due June 26.

## Update on Forest Health

**Gypsy moth** populations last year were at their lowest levels in over a decade. The number of acres defoliated continued to decline. According to the Maryland Department of Agriculture, of the areas treated, 88% were on the Eastern Shore; the rest were in Charles and Prince George's counties in southern Maryland.

In 1995, a **forest tent caterpillar** outbreak defoliated more than 16,000 acres of hardwood trees in lower Eastern Shore counties. In 1997, defoliation decreased to about only 100 acres.

An aerial survey in late summer found no active **southern pine beetle** infestations.

**Fall webworm** activity was evident across the state. Most areas had isolated roadside infestations. Garrett county, however, had 3000 acres of heavy defoliation.

**Pine shoot beetles** were found in traps in Washington, Allegany, and Garrett counties. Before 1997, only one beetle had been found in the state---in a trap in Allegany county in 1995.

No **exotic bark beetles** were found in baited traps in the counties adjacent to the Chesapeake Bay. This information is important to certify Maryland as free of these insects for export purposes.

**Elm yellows disease**, first identified in the state in 1996, last year affected severely elms in Frederick and Washington counties and areas in adjacent states.

The MDA continues studies to identify potential biological agents to control the exotic **mile-a-minute** weed that affects forest regeneration.

**Dogwood anthracnose** was less prevalent last year than in recent years. Although it is found statewide, its impacts east of the mountains have been minimal.

**Orange-striped oakworm** again was localized in Harford County in a 50-acre stand of almost all red oak.

Last year's cool spring temperatures allowed **sycamore anthracnose** to develop much later than usual. Some sycamores show signs of dieback.

Information on forest pests is accessible through the MDA website: [www.mda.state.md.us/forestp/home3.htm](http://www.mda.state.md.us/forestp/home3.htm).

## Upcoming Stewardship Events

**May 21-22: Estate Planning for Forest Landowners**, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, \$235. Contact Barbara Falls, 540-231-3122, [bfalls@vt.edu](mailto:bfalls@vt.edu).

**May 30: Spring "refresher" course for Coverts Cooperators**, Harford county.

**June 4: Tree Farm Committee and Tree Farm Grassroots meeting**, 10am-3pm, English Family Restaurant, Route 13S, Salisbury, with field tour at Chesapeake Corporation. Contact Bill Laws, 410-260-8509; all tree farmers, especially those on the Shore, are invited.

**June 6: Tour of Walnut Meadows** with 1998 Maryland Tree Farmer of the Year, Bill Slagle, Bruceton Mills, WV. See article.

**June 26: Applications due** for 1998 Coverts Cooperator training in September. See article.

**July 22: Native Warm Season Grass Workshop**, Russell County, VA. Contact Debbie Flippo, 804-598-3706, [dflippo@dgif.state.va.us](mailto:dflippo@dgif.state.va.us).

A draft of the Department of Natural Resources' 68-page deer management plan "Charting the Course for Deer Management in Maryland" can be reviewed at most public libraries, downloaded from <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/dmp.html>; or purchased for \$10 from DNR.

