

Backyard Forest Workshop Planned

Are you interested learning how better manage the natural areas on your property or convert some lawn into natural area? If so, you are invited to participate in the upcoming “**The Woods in Your Backyard Workshop**” on Saturday, January 14, 2012 from 9AM to 3:00pm. Registration begins at 8:30. The class will be held at the University of Maryland Extension, Carroll County Office, 700 Agriculture Center Drive, Westminster, MD 21157.

The registration fee for the entire course is \$35 per individual which includes materials, morning refreshments and lunch. Workshop participants will receive a full-color 130-page manual, **The Woods in Your Backyard**, as a program reference and a CD.

A brochure/registration form and agenda can be found on UME’s Forest Stewardship Education Events page at: <http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu/Events.html#WBY>. Those interested in information or in attending can visit the website or contact UM Forestry Extension educator Jonathan Kays at jkays@umd.edu , or Donna Davis at the Carroll County Forestry Board by phone, 410-848-9290, or email, dldavis@dnr.state.md.us.

Registrations are due by Tuesday, January 10th. Please make all checks payable to CCEAC and send to UM Extension 700 Agricultural Center Drive, Westminster, MD 21157, “Attention WIYBY workshop.” Call Donna Davis at 410-848-9290 for late registration.

This one day workshop is designed to provide the basics of forest and wildlife management for small acreage property owners. Participants will learn how to make their woodland work for them. Landowners of just a few acres can make a

positive difference in their environment and may also discover income earning opportunities through planning and implementing simple stewardship practices.

There will be a special focus on converting lawn to natural areas. If a landowner's lot connects with other lots, there is ample opportunity to make an even larger impact by getting neighbors involved. Workshop participants will learn:

- Why they should manage their land;
- How to map their land and what to do with it;
- How their land relates to the land around it;
- How to identify land management units on their property;
- The basics of tree identification forestry, and wildlife habitat management;
- How to assess the property's water resources, recreational possibilities, aesthetic appeal and ways to improve each;
- How to convert excess lawn area to natural areas.
- How to choose a few land management projects to help meet their goals; and
- How to set a timetable and mark progress

Small lots are important in Maryland. A vast majority of landowners have less than 10 acres. This land, wooded or not, is a vital resource for all of us. By enhancing or creating natural areas and woodland on these small lots, the landowner can enjoy recreation, aesthetics, wildlife, and improve water quality.