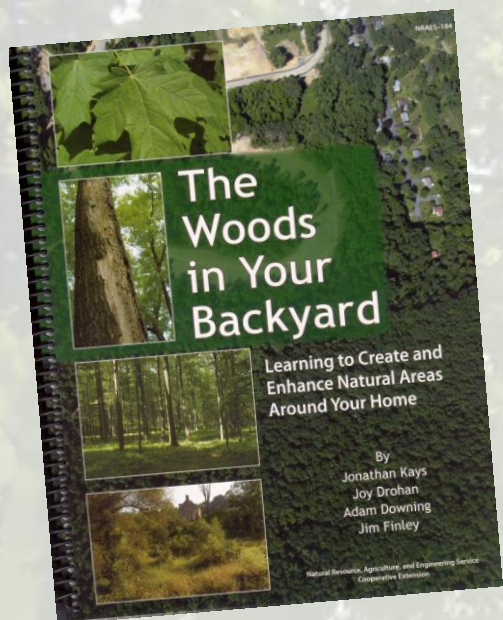


Lets Work Together: The Woods in Your Backyard Curriculum

*Educating Small Acreage
Landowners & Service Providers*



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Jonathan Kays, University of MD Extension
Adam Downing, Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension
James Finley, Penn State Cooperative Extension
Andrew Kling, University of Maryland Extension
Craig Highfield, Forests for the Bay

Historical Background

- Three-State Extension effort (MD, PA, VA) initiated 2002 with US F&W funding, others.
- WIYB guide released Sept. 2006. Two printings for over 7,000 copies at \$22 each (list).
- Hundreds of presentations & workshops.
- Lawn converted to natural area, natural areas enhanced. Demonstrated impacts
- Revised guide with downloadable workbook – July 2015 release

WIYB Resources & More

www.extension.umd.edu/woodland

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Woodland Stewardship Education

Your Woodland The Woods in Your Backyard GPS Training Maryland Woodland Stewards

Home

About:

Did you know that three quarters of Maryland's forests are owned by a diverse group of private landowners? You may be one of them.

The Woodland Stewardship Education pages are filled with researched-based information to help you make informed decisions about your place in the landscape.

Click here for faculty and staff contact information.

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- Wildlife and Plants
- Invasive Species
- Riparian Buffers
- Enterprise Ventures
- Tax Information
- Biosolids Research & Poultry Litter Research

Your Woodland

- Enterprise Opportunities
- Find A Forester
- Forest Threats
- Resource Links
- Laws, Rights and Regulations

Resources:

- Branching Out newsletter
- Webinar Recordings
- Video Library
- Resource Links
- FAQs
- Publications Library
- Workshop Resources Library
- Youth & Forestry
- Our YouTube channel

Headlines:

"Green Book 2014" Updates Maryland Woodland Harvest Permit Process

More headlines

Event Calendar:

Apr 29	Understanding Sustainable Forestry
May 9	Affording a Quality Community: Balancing the Quality of Life versus the Cost of Living
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Web & Curriculum Support

www.extension.umd.edu/woodland

- 4-minute video
- How to order the guide
- Sharing the program
 - PP presentations used in workshops
 - Evaluation, press release, brochure
- Small Acreage Forester Directory
- Updated Resource list from guide
- Downloadable Appendices, case studies, activity sheets from workbook
- Professional papers

The Woods in Your Backyard

View our four-minute introduction to The Woods In Your Backyard.



Maryland Small-Acreage Professional Forester Directory

Updated October 2012



Woodland Stewardship Education

www.extension.umd.edu/woodland

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Why Do We Need WIYB?

Disconnect With Small Acreage Landowners

- Forest stewardship programs – greater than 10 acres
- Master gardener & other programs for residential
- Few specific programs for those with 1-10 acre forest landowners that make up 2/3 of owners
- There are few service providers at present to work with this audience



Woodland Ownership Trends

- ↗ woodland owners
- ↗ ownership tract acreage
- short tenure of ownership
- new/different owner's (land ethic)
- The words we use:



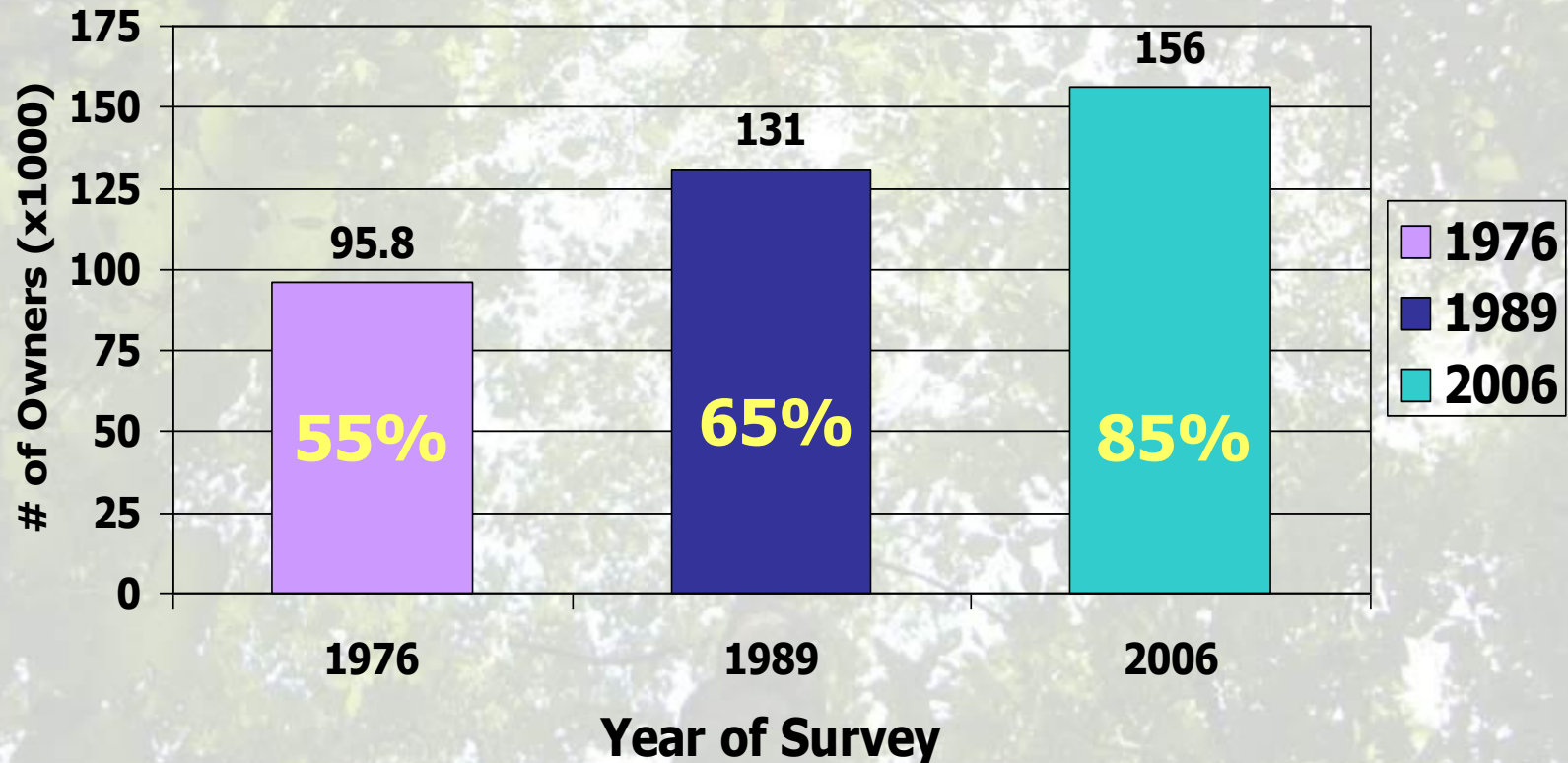
Forests >

Woods >

[Natural Areas]

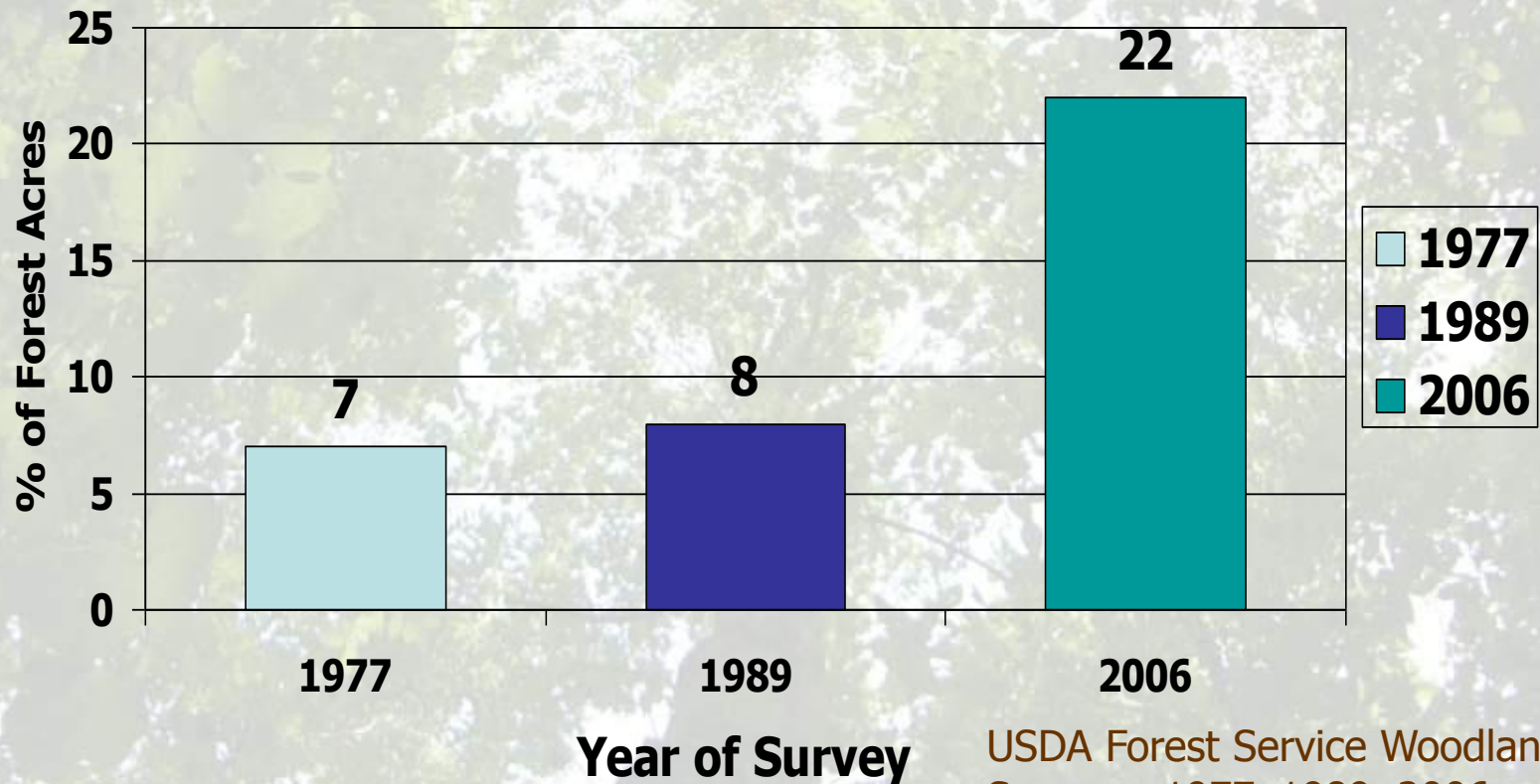
Number of MD Private Forest Owners (1000's)

Percentage with 1–9 Acres of Forest



Average Parcel size 9.3 acres - 2006

Change in % Acreage of MD Private Forest Owners with 1-9 Acres of Forest



USDA Forest Service Woodland Owners Survey – 1977, 1989, 2006

Challenges To Be Addressed

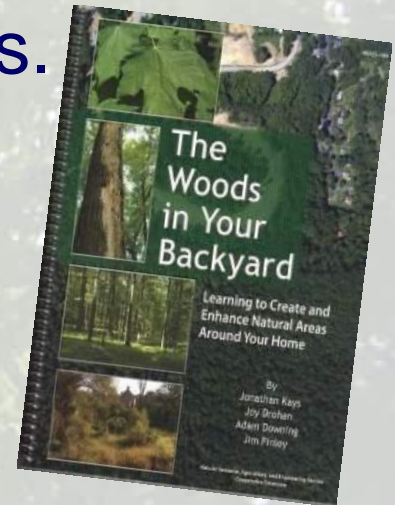


Transition from mowed to natural use for objectives you find important

Enhance existing natural areas for what you want

WIYB Objectives

- Develop self-assessment guide to educate landowners with 1-10 acres on how to create & enhance natural areas for sustainable outcomes.
- Develop a local delivery & mentoring system using trained volunteers & organizations.
- Train and develop service providers.

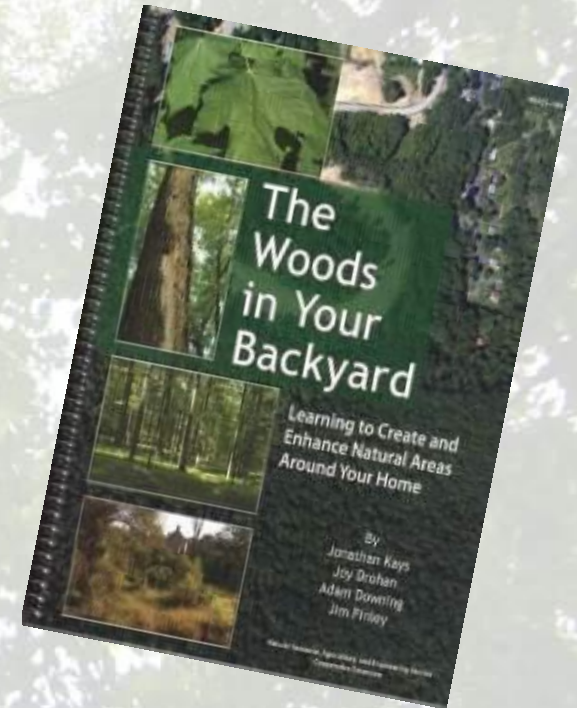


WIYB Guide The First Step

- 138 pages, 91 color photos
- 20 activities, Workbook
- Diagrams, Figures, Case Studies, Worksheets, Glossary, Resources, Appendices

Coming Soon!

- Revised WIYB guide
- Downloadable workbook – pdf fill-in



Printed by PALS Publishing - \$24

<http://palspublishing.cals.cornell.edu>

Guide Overview

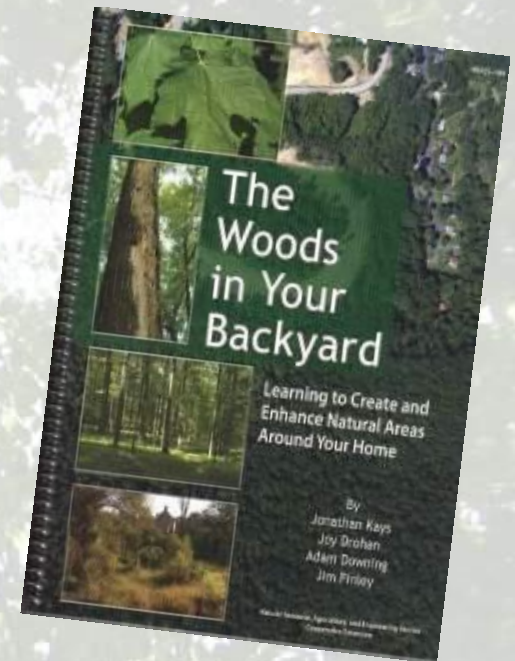
A Learning Approach

- **Part 1:** Introduction: Assessing your interests in your land
- **Part 2:** Get to Know Your Property
- **Part 3:** Ecological Principles
- **Part 4:** Put Your Knowledge into Practice
- **Part 5:** Workbook
- **Appendices**



Guide uses a learning approach....

- A lesson...
- Followed by hands-on activities...
- Complete the activity sheet...
- User ends up with the basics of a forest stewardship plan and way to implement it.



Conceptual Framework of Looking at One's Property – Page 4

- Three types of land use:
 - *Intensive use* – buildings, sheds, paved areas, etc
 - *Intermediate use* – lawns, garden, pasture, orchard
 - *Natural use* – forested, unmowed areas with small trees & shrubs



Paired 3-acre plots

**Intensive –
Intermediate – Natural
Use Areas**



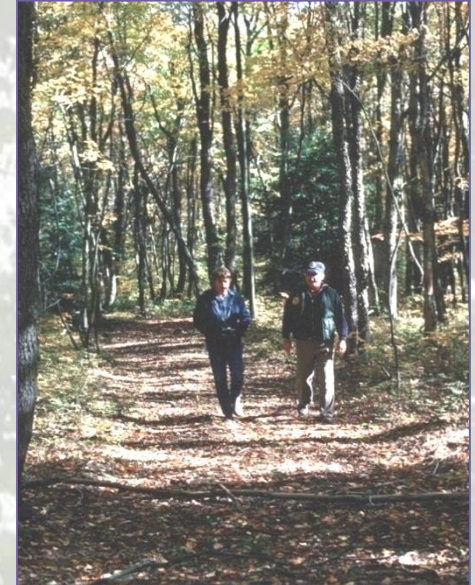
**Natural Succession –
Some Planting after 3
years**

**Natural Succession –
Some Planting after 16
years**



Amenity resources

- ▶ Scenery
- ▶ Trails
- ▶ Privacy
- ▶ Shade



Typically the MOST important product of personal natural areas

Potential Natural Area Improvement Projects

- Remove damaged trees and/or limbs
- Control exotic and/or invasive species
- Improve tree growth by thinning an overcrowded stand
- Plant trees



Potential Forest Products Projects

- Firewood for personal or others' use
- Ginseng or other medicinal plants from the natural areas of the property
- Grapevines for wreaths
- Shiitake mushrooms



Potential Wildlife Habitat Projects

- Create brush or rock piles
- Encourage growth of wildlife food trees
- Improve shelter opportunities by planting trees, brush piling or creating soft edge



Potential Water Resources Projects

- Establish or enhance forest cover around streams, seeps, springs, or ponds



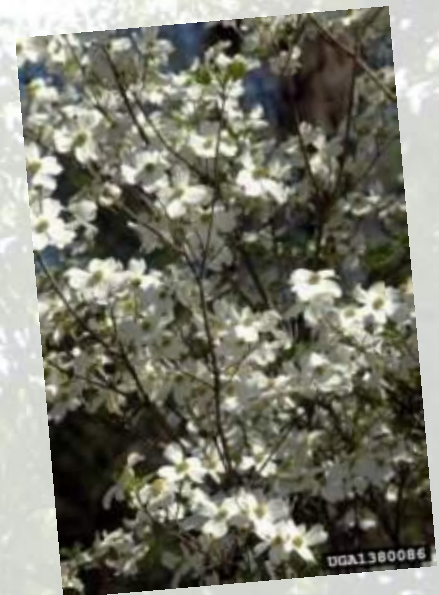
Potential Recreation Projects

- Create or improve trails
- Create a campfire or camping area
- Create a natural-area haven (place to relax)
- Improve opportunities for hunting or wildlife watching



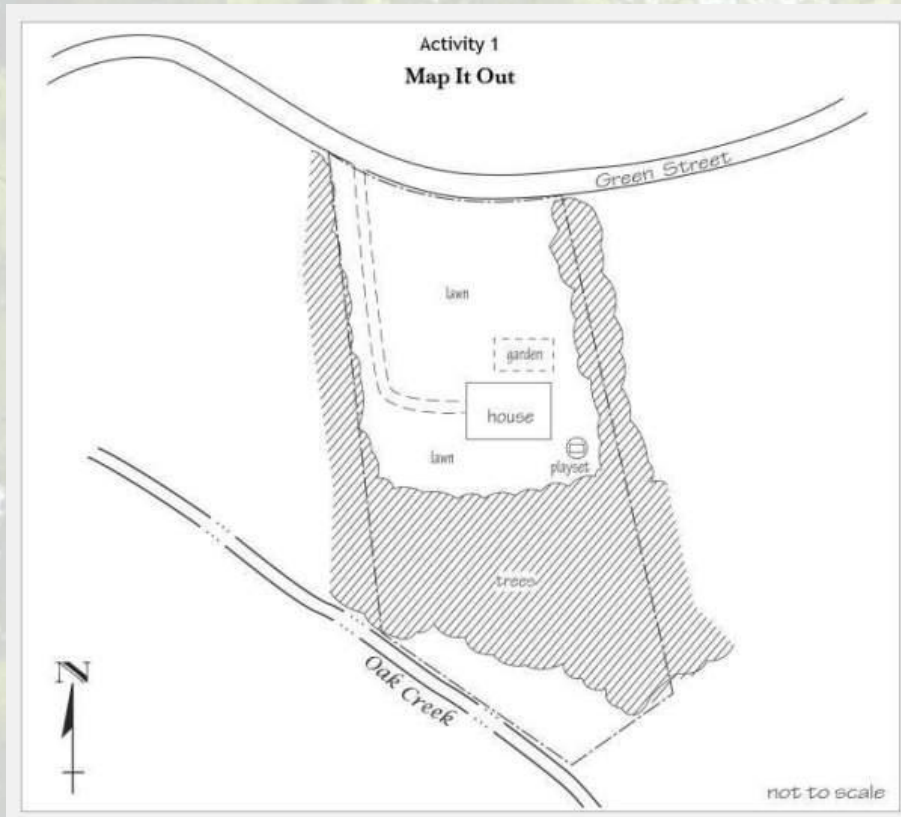
Potential Aesthetics Improvement Projects

- Create or enhance a scenic view
- Plant trees that have brilliant fall color
- Clean up natural areas damaged by insects, disease, or storms
- Increase privacy
- Plant flowering trees and shrubs



Activity 1 - Draw a Map

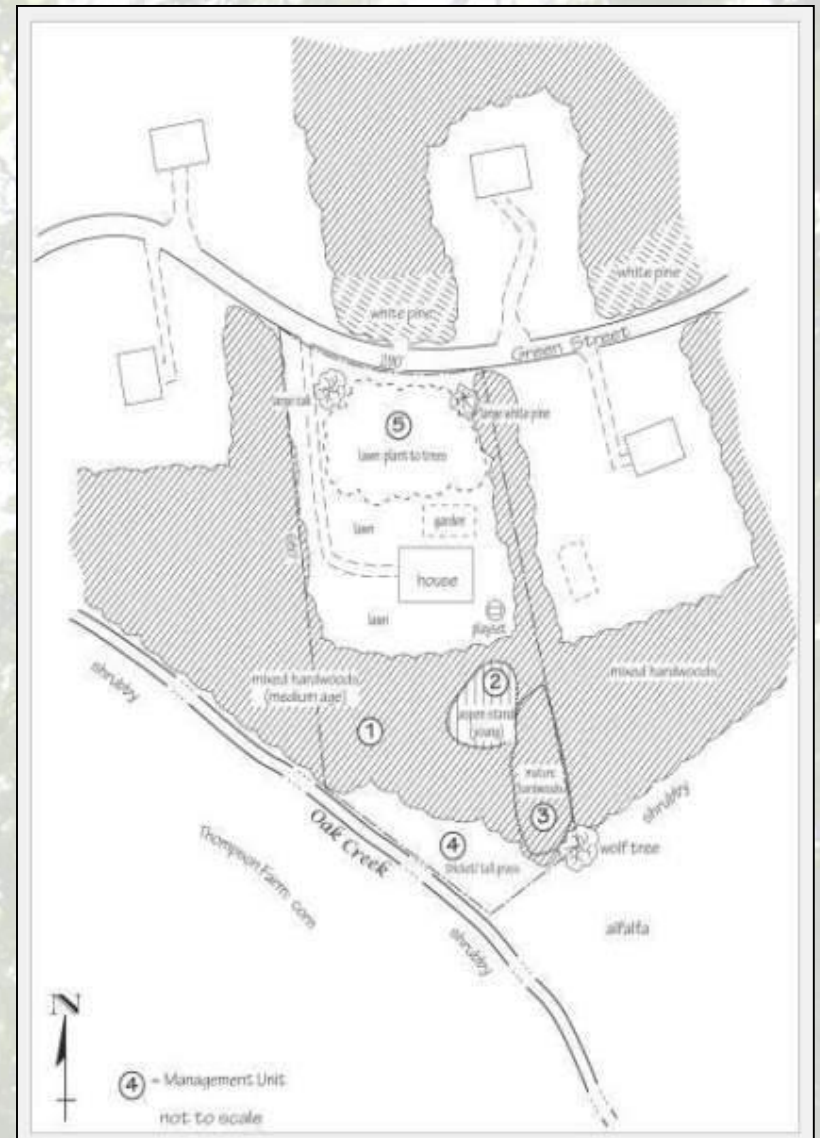
Nelsons' Case Study Property Map



Designate land management Units

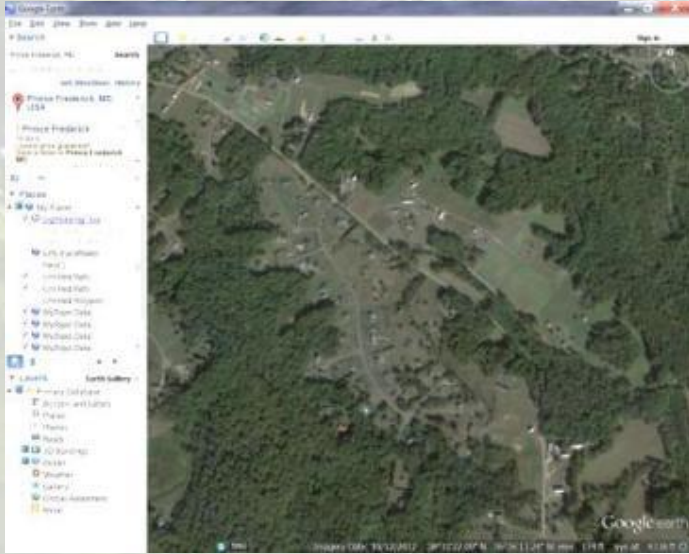
- Add units to hand drawn map or whatever type of map used.
- Tree identification basics

- 1) mixed hardwoods of various species, medium-sized
- 2) young aspens
- 3) mature hardwood
- 4) streamside riparian area (tall grass/thicket)
- 5) lawn (plant to trees)

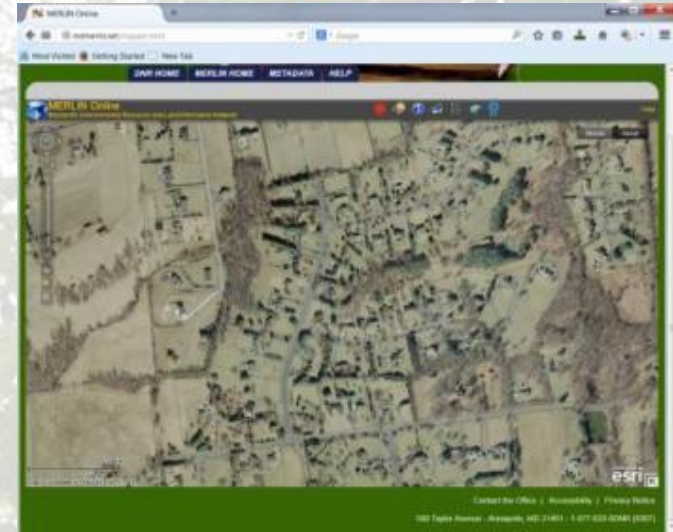


Activity 7, Page 23 - 24

Drawing a Map Online Mapping Tools



Google Maps



MdMerlin

www.mdmerlin.net



Forests for the Bay – Landservier mapping
www.forestsforbay.org



The Nelsons' Most Common Tree and Shrub Species by Land Management Unit

Managed unit	Vegetation type	3 Most common tree species	3 Most common shrub species
1	mixed hardwoods	yellow poplar, hickory, oak, maple	dogwood, musclewood, green briar
2	aspen	aspen, yellow poplar	dogwood, green briar
3	mature hardwoods	red oak, hickory, yellow poplar	dogwood, cedar, service berry
4	streamside riparian area	n/a	raspberry, green briar
5	lawn	n/a	n/a

Choosing Projects

Identify and Rank Your Objectives

	Potential objective	Rank selected objectives
<i>Natural area improvement</i>		
I have a grassy field or lawn I want to plant in trees.	X	1
I want to manage exotic and/or invasive species.	X	
I want to improve the health of my natural area.		
I want to improve forest regeneration (tree reproduction).		
I want my trees to grow faster.		
I want to cut dangerous dead or damaged trees.	X	
I want to cut vines that are strangling and/or weighing down my trees.	X	
Other:		
<i>Forest products</i>		
I want to cut firewood for myself or others.		
I want to start a forest products enterprise for fun and a little extra money.		
Specific enterprise of interest:		
Other:		
<i>Wildlife habitat elements</i>		
I want to create some snags for woodpeckers and other cavity-nesting animals.		
I want to create a soft edge between my lawn and forest to improve wildlife habitat diversity.	X	
I want to provide more shelter and/or food for wildlife.	X	
I want to have more reptiles and amphibians.	X	3

Menu driven table helps landowners identify & rank objectives with some suggested broad project ideas.

Make a Timetable – Spell out Details

Lesson 5, Activity 19, page 74

Management unit	Goal	Project description (Provide details and step-by-step activities)	Priority	Start date	Projected completion date	Who will do it?	Cost estimate
5-lawn	convert to trees	Use Roundup herbicide on the grass in the fall before planting in the spring. Use trees and shrubs that flower and/or have great fall color and/or produce wildlife food to reforest lawn in front of garden. Seedlings will include yellow poplar, black walnut, red oak, black cherry, and white pine. Order bare root seedlings from state nursery in late fall. Plant on a 10' x 10' spacing in this 3/4-acre area (~225 trees). Install a tree shelter and a wooden stake around each seedling to protect it from deer browsing. Respray the grass between the rows with herbicide in the summer after planting, if needed. Mow between the rows until forest canopy closes because of homeowner association rules.	1	this fall	end of spring 3 years from now (split plot in thirds so the cost and time required per year are less; start closest to the road)	mainly Tim with help from Ellen	\$300 for plants at ~\$1.35 per plant; \$100 for Roundup herbicide and backpack sprayer; \$900 for shelters and stakes at \$4-5 each
4-riparian area	plant a riparian forest buffer to help protect water quality in Oak Creek	Plant trees and shrubs (~440) recommended for riparian buffers throughout area currently in tall grass and thorny shrubs (1 acre). Plants will include river birch, green ash, sycamore, red maple, dogwood and buttonbush. Use tree shelters as described above. Mow grass before planting and frequently thereafter until trees establish. Do not use herbicide next to the stream.	2	next fall	end of following spring	mainly Tim with help from Ellen	\$600 for plants; \$2,200 for tree shelters and stakes

Logging in Large-Lot Suburban Developments with a Good Forester



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...



Results of this Three-State Effort?

Maryland – Virginia - Pennsylvania

- Sale of over 7,000 WIYB manuals
- Video & Resources online
- Workshop teaching modules and materials
- Recognized by state forest stewardship programs
- Demonstrated impact with new audiences
- Guide revision July 2015
- Online course development – Fall 2015

Maryland WIYB Impacts

Exit Surveys 2013 - 2015

- Four workshops – 131 participants
- Knowledge gain – (1-10 scale)
 - Before workshop 3.9 ---- After workshop 7.9 ---Gain 4.1
- 65% plan to convert lawn to natural area
- 91% plan to better manage existing areas
- 31% plan to work with neighbors
- 78 Acres affected (4.4 average)
- 612 total acres owned (42% natural area)
- Estimate \$7500 will be saved with conversion natural area
- 9% have a written plan

Virginia WIYB Impacts - 2014

Adam Downing, VA. Coop. Extension

According to Exit Surveys:

- 371 participants, representing 4713 acres.
- 58% plan to convert excessive lawn to natural areas
- 76% intend to better manage natural areas
- 59% plan to complete a written plan
- Over 90% described at least one action they plan to take in the next two months.
- Within two months, all participants began the planning processes & 10% completed a written plan
- The public value of these improved private properties exceeds \$ 3,289,674* annually in goods and services.

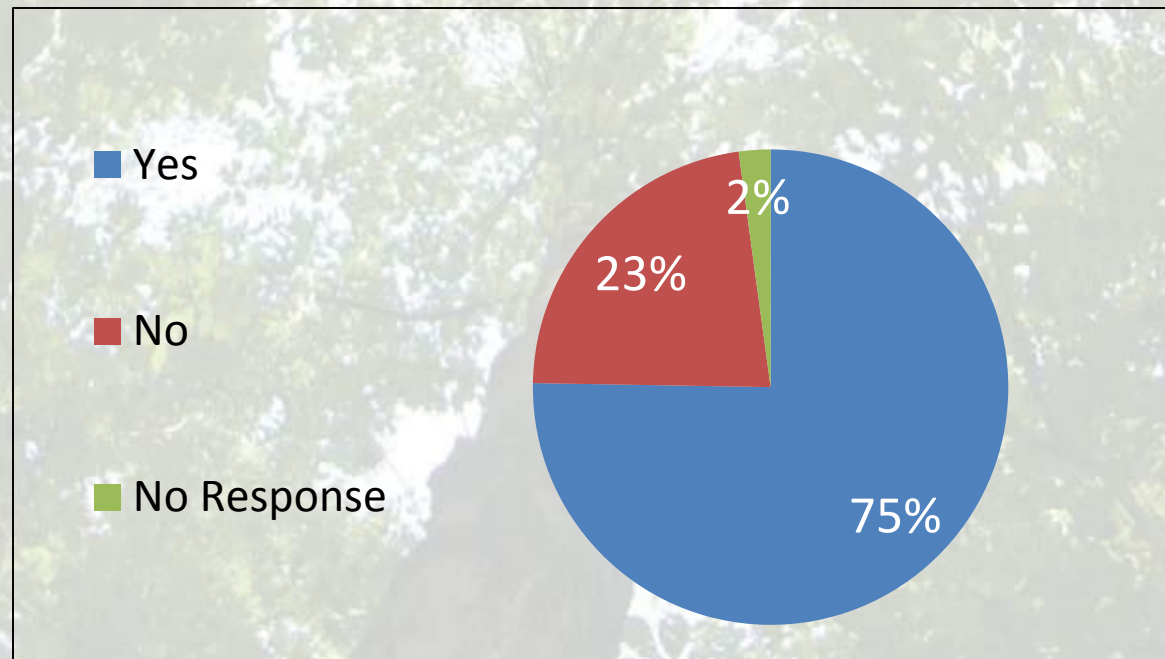
Used and Shared by Other Organizations

- Neighborhood Green – Frederick Co, MD
- Backyard Buffers
- Lawn to Woods - soon
- Forests for the Bay program
- Greening the Lower Susquehanna – PA
- Cornell Cooperative Extension – webinar and workshops
- Many anecdotal comments

Challenges

Engage Foresters & Green Industry

- 2009 MD forester survey found 70% of foresters receive requests for services on small acreage properties that are less than 10 acres.
 - 70% provided services for the clients



Maryland Small-Acreage Professional Forester Directory

Updated October 2012



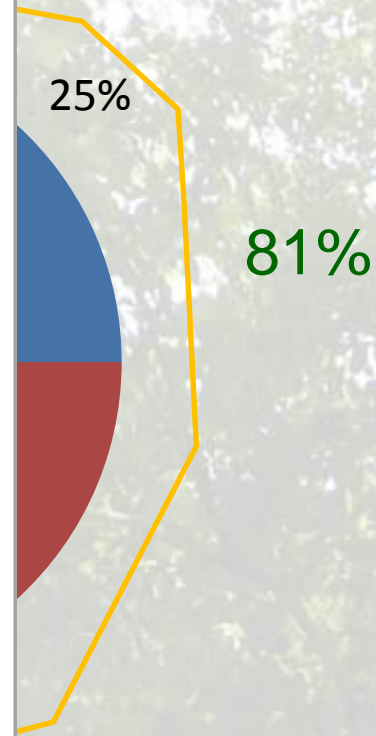
Woodland Stewardship Education

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Forester Survey (response)

justify services.



Survey of Green Industry Professionals Attending Session on WIYB

Percentage of Green Industry Offering Woodland Services

Service	Landscape Cont. & Architects/design	Arborist / Tree Service
<u>Establishment/Water Quality</u> Planting trees or shrubs along drainage ways, preparing, planting lawns with tree seedlings	69%	17%
<u>Wildlife Management & Recreation</u> Establishing wildflower meadows, designing or creating trails	68%	19%
<u>Health</u> Controlling vines in natural areas, spraying exotic and invasive species	57%	27%
<u>Wildlife Management</u> Building brush piles, establishing wildlife food plots, creating tall grass meadow with less frequent mowing or burning	65%	30%
<u>Products</u> Cutting trees for lumber, firewood, or for income	15%	77%

Landscapes and Backyard Woodlots: Business Opportunities for the Green Industry

Gettysburg, PA - November 11, 2008

Lessons Learned: Chicken 'n Egg Problem

- Professionals realize they are not well qualified to make management recommendations, but can implement them. Can work with a forester.
- Green industry unsure of demand and potential profitability of woodland practices, especially in economic climate. Need success stories.
- Arborists not interested in logging activities due to differing OSHA regulations.

Challenges to Overcome!

- Change in paradigm of forestry community – small acreage owners are worth the effort. Why?
- Continue to work on service provider problem
- Use of small acreage harvesting equipment and willingness of owners to engage.

Future Vision for WIYB: A Focus Program

- Vehicle for state & federal private landowner outreach to small acreage owners in the Mid-Atlantic states or Chesapeake region
- Edit and adapt WIYB guide for other regions as needed.
- If support available create a stand alone website that can be adapted for each states needs. Similar to “Call Before You Cut”.

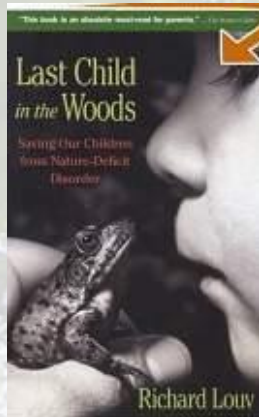
QUESTIONS?

www.extension.umd.edu/woodland

Jonathan Kays
Extension Specialist
Natural Resources
University of Maryland
Extension

jkays@umd.edu

301-432-2767 x323



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