

BRANCHING OUT

Maryland's Woodland Stewardship Educator



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Vision for the Forest Industry

Jonathan Kays, University of Maryland Extension

A [recent study](#) funded by the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology found that while Marylanders have many connections to agriculture and hold highly favorable views toward farming operators in the state, there is a lack of understanding of the forestry industry. When some citizens see trees being cut, they may perceive it as a coming development, even though it was a planned forest harvest based on sound practice.

What are the consequences when sound forest practice is seen as clearing for development? There are many for the environment, since protection of water quality and the Chesapeake Bay depends on well-managed forests to protect the soil, provide wildlife habitat, clean the air, and other benefits. It also results in regulatory and permit procedures that serve as barriers to the practice of forestry, as some local government officials believe that stopping tree harvesting for forestry purposes equates to controlling development. Fortunately, in the last few decades, an evolution has occurred as many now recognize that “leaving the forest alone” is not always the best way to conserve it. Additionally, there are the economic impacts resulting from the downturn in the forest industry.

With 73% of Maryland's forestland owned by private landowners, the ultimate future of our forest resources depends not on the government but on the individual decisions of over 150,000 private landowners. While planting trees is an easy sell in many cases, the harvest of trees is also essential to helping landowners meet their diverse objectives and to fueling rural economies. Lacking markets and reasonable regulations to harvest trees and derive some income, a logical result is the parcelization of the land for development. Markets matter for forest products, and the present state of the industry is poor with the loss of major sawmills and the 675 direct jobs lost in western Maryland with the closing of the Verso Pulp Mill in June 2019. New markets for low quality forest products, known as woody biomass, is needed as well as regulatory changes to bolster the forest industry as an essential conservation partner to sustain healthy forests.

Thankfully, there are numerous efforts in progress. Phil Gottwals, Founder and Managing Director of the Agriculture and Community Development Services (ACDS), is

spearheading a collaboration of state agencies and allied non-governmental organizations to develop an Economic Adjustment Strategy for countering the economic impact of recent forest industry closures, such as Verso, and for securing the future of Maryland's forest industry. The help of environmental groups is essential to support policies that favor the growth of the forest industry and forest employment statewide through an economic development strategy that increases markets for forest products. ACDS's goal is to establish a clearly defined vision of the type, number and location of forest product enterprises needed to best utilize the resources available, and to identify markets to support those enterprises. The broad elements of this Strategy center on:

- Strengthening or developing existing or emerging industry clusters and benefits from shared labor pools, infrastructure and markets;
- The development of economic development diversification strategies supported with State of Maryland resources and policies, such as: 1) facilitating access to private capital investment; 2) providing related capacity building and technical assistance; and 3) facilitating and promoting market access for goods and services created and manufactured by existing and start-up forest product businesses.

A draft copy of this plan will be available by mid-December on the [MD DNR Forest Service website](#) or the [Western Maryland Resource & Development Council's website](#). All are encouraged to become partners in this effort.

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Bruce Barnes: Appalachian Region Outstanding Logger

Rick Meyer, Forest Resources Association, Inc.

On October 10, the Forest Resources Association and STIHL Incorporated honored Bruce Barnes, owner of Barnes Logging in Clements, Maryland, as the Appalachian Region 2020 Outstanding Logger.

At an early age, Bruce Barnes assisted with his father's horse logging operation. Bruce continued the horse logging operation for many years, and while he logs with mechanized equipment today, he maintains some of his history with horses, competing in horse pulling competitions and demonstrations.

Bruce works independently, purchasing his own timber and merchandising all timber types for the best value to the landowner. He manages his own log yard where he scales and grades the higher-quality logs for export markets. Bruce manually fells timber using STIHL chain saws. A long-time Maryland Master Logger who is very proficient with a power saw, Bruce has taught chain saw safety training classes for loggers.

Bruce often works with a consulting forester to achieve silviculturally sound forest management objectives, with strict adherence to BMPs and protection of the residual stand of timber. This has earned him repeat business with forest landowners and praise from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. He further enhances his professional image to the public by keeping his logging equipment immaculately clean.

Bruce has a friendly and loyal reputation in the local busi-



Rick Meyer (right) presenting Bruce Barnes the Appalachian Region Outstanding Logger award.

Photo courtesy Maryland Forests Association

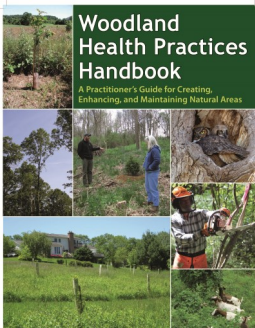
ness community. He serves as chairman of the St. Mary's (MD) County Fair Board, and he has been a mentor to many loggers over the years.

The FRA 2020 Appalachian Region Outstanding Logger Award prizes—a cherry & walnut wooden crosscut saw plaque from FRA and a STIHL MS 462 chain saw gift certificate and a \$250 check provided by STIHL—were presented to Bruce Barnes by FRA Appalachian Region Manager Rick Meyer at the Western Maryland Forestry Field Days & Equipment Show in Friendsville, MD on October 10.

The Barnes Logging nomination was submitted by the Maryland Forests Association and the Maryland-Delaware Master Logger Program.

FRA's Outstanding Logger Award program is designed to raise the visibility of professional logging contractors and to encourage other loggers to adopt the performance of the award winners. The Regional Award winner becomes a nominee for FRA's National Outstanding Logger Award competition. The Forest Resources Association Inc. is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents wood consumers, independent logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries. STIHL Incorporated serves as the sponsor of FRA's Regional and National Outstanding Logger Awards.

New Woodland Health Practices Handbook Available



A new book is now available from the Woods in Your Backyard Partnership, a collaborative effort of the University of Maryland Extension and groups and agencies in Virginia and Pennsylvania. *Woodland Health Practices Handbook: A Practitioner's Guide for Creating, Enhancing, and Maintaining Natural Areas* is specifically written for landscape

companies, arborists, and other green industry professionals in the eastern U.S. looking to grow their businesses by providing natural area management services to small-acreage clients.

The handbook promotes land stewardship for the owner's enjoyment and for improved environmental quality. It describes how to implement a wide variety of small-scale natural area management services.

The included Woodland Health Assessment Checklist will assist practitioners in selecting appropriate management actions for a given property. Examples of how to write and develop land care plans based on your clients' values are also included.

Funding for this project was provided by the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc. The \$27.00 purchase price includes shipping via USPS.

[To purchase this handbook, visit this link.](#)

Woodland Wildlife Spotlight: Eastern Wild Turkey

Perhaps spotlighting the Eastern wild turkey is a bit on the nose for a fall newsletter, but it is important to recognize that the species performs a year-round role in the woodlands of Maryland and the mid-Atlantic, beyond the obvious connections to Thanksgiving Day meals.

The Eastern wild turkey is certainly part of North American history. It provided nutrition for the original inhabitants for centuries before the arrival of Europeans. While turkeys [were not specifically mentioned](#) as part of the famous 1621 Pilgrims' feast, it is possible that they were. Additionally, although [the story](#) that Benjamin Franklin advocated for the turkey to be the national symbol of the fledgling United States is a myth, he definitely felt it was a noble bird.

Unlike many other birds, the turkey requires different habitats during its lifespan. It requires both wooded areas for roosting and for food for the adults of the flock, as well as more open areas, such as fields or edge habitats, for nesting and food sources for the young (called poults). Consequently, many conservation groups advocate for a mix of habitats for individuals or land managers wishing to create suitable turkey habitat. However, the species is highly adaptable, and some flocks have colonized suburban lawns and backyard woods for their own, leading some to experience the birds for the first time beyond a grocery store freezer in November.

Because the turkey does not migrate, they may be found across Maryland year round. As summer yields to fall, the birds may gather into large flocks of up to 100 individuals to find suitable habitat for the winter. With the coming of spring, the large flocks will fragment into groups of 10 to 30. Breeding season begins in March and lasts until May. Males perform elaborate courtship rituals, gobbling, dragging their wing tips on the ground, and displaying their fan-shaped tail feathers as they strut around the females and to assert their dominance over other males. The female lays her eggs in a nest that is generally nothing more elaborate than a depression in the ground. However, the surrounding area is usually densely vegetated to hide the female and the eggs from predators. The clutch is usually 9-12 eggs, laid one at a time and one per day. The eggs are incubated for approximately a month and will all hatch at once.

Soon the poults will leave the nest with the female for open areas, which provide the insects that form their diet for the first few weeks of their life. Over half of the poults fail to reach maturity, falling victim to predators or to cold, wet weather before they are able to fly into trees for escape and for roosting. As they mature, their diet expands to include acorns, nuts, leaves, seeds, and fruit. They scratch

Eastern Wild Turkey Basics

Appearance: Iridescent or black plumage. Males have bare neck and head. Neck is bluish-grey; head color varies red, blue, or white, depending on season. Red lobe of skin ("wattle") that hangs from neck or chin. Short, rounded wings with black and white bars. Long legs with spurs on back of each that grows throughout lifetime. Females duller in color; grey heads; no spurs on legs.

Size: Males up to 3 feet tall, 4 feet long, 25 lbs. Females roughly half the size.

Lifespan: In the wild, less than 2 years; some have been known to live up to 13 years.

Male wild turkey displaying, Garrett County, 2015. Photo by Josh Emm, Maryland Biodiversity Project



Small flock of turkeys. Photo by Kerry Wixted, Maryland DNR



the ground with their feet to uncover their food, and typically forage for two to three hours after dawn and before dusk.

When confronted by predators or when surprised by humans, individuals and flocks generally run away, but the turkey can fly, and with great speed - up to 50 miles an hour for short distances. They have excellent eyesight and hearing, which are up to five times greater than humans.

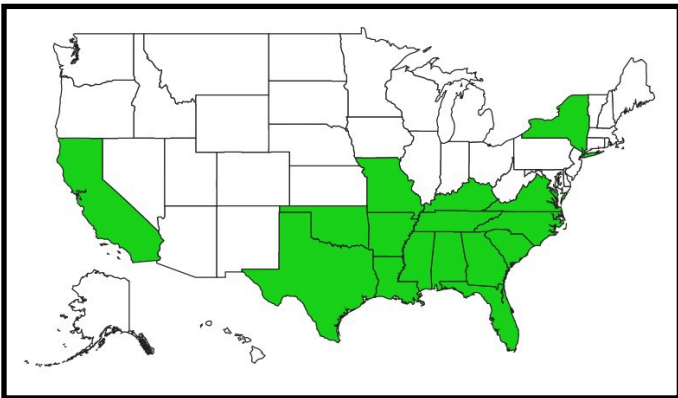
Adult turkeys can fall victim to bobcats, raccoons, eagles and owls. Other birds, mammals, and snakes often consume turkey eggs. But humans are by far the birds' largest predators. A combination of habitat loss through land clearing and hunting resulted in turkeys disappearing from all of Maryland, except for some scattered populations in western counties.

A reintroduction program by the Department of Natural Resources and partner organizations began in 1979 and restored the species to Maryland. These efforts, along with habitat management efforts by interested property owners, have resulted in a healthy turkey population across the state. Consequently, the state DNR has established hunting seasons in both spring and fall to help manage the species.

Invasives in Your Woodland: Japanese Privet

The prospective homeowner noted the landscaping around the home on the corner lot. The realtor said that the home had been one of the first to be built when the development began in 2005, which was one of the reasons the lot was larger than many in the neighborhood. There was a great deal of open space behind the house, a mix of single trees planted on the north side of the property, and a nice sized red maple in the west-facing front yard. Next to the house on that same west side was a trio of shrubs. Two were familiar: an azalea and a rhododendron, that grew next to the front steps. The third dominated the others, growing as high as the first floor windows. During this summer day, it had abundant bright white blooms that bees were visiting. The landscaping, which was sure to provide shade during the summer and a windbreak during the winter, was a selling point. Only later did the homeowner recognize that this large shrub was actually a Japanese privet, an Asian invasive plant.

The privet family is native to Europe and Asia, but not to North America. Japanese privets are less common than other privets that are more widespread across the eastern U.S. Reported sightings in the mid-Atlantic are sparse. However, the distribution map below may not reflect the species' full extent, based on its continued use in landscaping.



Japanese privet state distribution.

Courtesy eddmmaps.org.

What is it?

Japanese privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*) was introduced to the U.S. from Japan in 1845 as an ornamental plant. As is the case with many introduced species, the intentional plantings in disturbed areas such as for landscaping around homes and buildings have led to its escape into more natural surroundings. It can thrive in floodplains, fields, and woodland edges. It may also appear in woodlands that have recent harvest areas. As with the house lot mentioned above, it can outcompete native species for re-

sources and take over a small area in just a few years.

Privets in general are considered invasive in many parts of the United States. In Maryland, the family of plants is considered a Tier 2 invasive plant, which requires retail outlets to prominently display the plant's status.

How does it spread?

The plant spreads mainly through the dispersal of seeds found in its berries. The berries are consumed by birds and the seeds are spread through droppings. They can also spread via stump re-sprouting, in which sprouts may be spread out after an individual plant has been cut.



Japanese privet flowers. Photo by Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia,

How can I identify it?

Japanese privet can be identified by the berries mentioned above, which are present almost year round.

The small, oblate-shaped green berries turn purple in the fall. The plant's leaves are oblong and opposite on the stem, with smooth edges, 1 to 3" in length. The four-petaled flowers are trumpet-shaped and appear in clusters along the stem in late spring to early summer. The plant's bark distinguishes it from native lookalikes like flowering dogwood or blackhaw, which also have oval, opposite leaves. The natives both have highly textured bark; Japanese privet bark is smooth. See the photo gallery on the next page.

How can I control it?

A variety of methods can control Japanese privet, depending on the plant's size and level of infestation. Small individual plants can be removed by hand-pulling or using a "weed wrench"-type tool. Be sure to remove all the roots as they may re-sprout. Herbicide applications by foliar spray can be effective, although the spray should contain a mix of glyphosate and triclopyr, as the mixture is more effective than just glyphosate alone. Basal bark treatments have also been effective.

For more information:

Learn more about Japanese privet:

[Japanese Privet](#) – Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States
[Privet](#) - University of Maryland Extension Home & Garden Information Center

[Ligustrum japonicum](#) - North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox

[Privet](#) - Penn State Extension

Image Gallery: Japanese Privet



Japanese privet bark. Photo by Michasia Dowdy, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



Japanese privet flowers.
Photo by Karan Rawlins, University of Georgia,
Bugwood.org



Japanese privet berries in fall. Photo by Andrew A. Kling,
University of Maryland Extension



Japanese privet in woodland edge. Photo by Nancy Loewenstein, Auburn University, Bugwood.org

News and Notes

Woodland Wildlife Webinars Available for Viewing

Our Woodland Wildlife Wednesday webinar series has wrapped up for 2020, but don't worry. Each of the webinars is now available for you to watch at your leisure. Learn about forest pests and diseases, black bears, reptiles and amphibians, and landowner liability & recreation access in Maryland, and more!



Go to the [Woodland Stewardship Education program's website](#). Select "Webinar Recordings" from the Resources menu on the right side of the screen. And don't miss upcoming webinars in the series; check the [Events Calendar](#) for more information.

Jonathan Kays Receives National SAF Award

In an online ceremony on October 29, 2020, University of Maryland Extension forestry specialist Jonathan Kays received the Technology Transfer Award from the Society of American Foresters (SAF).



Regular readers of *Branching Out* have benefitted from Kays' knowledge and expertise on a variety of woodland-related topics. This newsletter, which he started in 1992, is just one part of his portfolio. It also includes the Maryland Woodland Stewards program, "The Woods in Your Backyard" publications and online course, and research into biosolids, wood energy, and much more.

Bill Hubbard, Assistant Director and Extension Program Leader for Environmental and Natural Resources at UME, Kays "represents what Extension forestry is all about. He exhibits extraordinary teaching skills, listens to his stakeholders, and creates scholarly products that are used all over the country."

Read more about SAF's award in [this article](#) from the University of Maryland Extension.

Enhance Your Property for Wildlife! The Wildlife Management Online Course

The University of Maryland Extension will offer the **Wildlife Management Online Course** for the spring 2021 semester. The course will be offered in an online version only. The course begins February 1 and runs until May 15, 2021. **Registration is now open! To register, go to our website at <https://extension.umd.edu/wildlife-course> or click on <https://2021wildlifecourse.eventbrite.com>.**

This is a **non-credit** course, as there are no formal classes and no prerequisites. You work from the com-



fort of your home using your own property, a friend's or public land. You will learn about ecological concepts, predator-prey relationships, biodiversity, hazards and diseases, habitat assessment techniques, managing forests for wildlife and much more. Ultimately, the course provides you with the tools to develop the framework for a wildlife management plan for your property.

The cost for the Wildlife Management Online Course is \$150. Included in the cost is a copy of *Wildlife and Timber from Private Lands: A Landowner's Guide to Planning and Common Native Trees of Virginia Tree Identification Guide*. Participants will receive a flash drive of the text and appendices at the end of the course. A certificate of completion is awarded when all requirements are completed.

But don't take our word for it. See it for yourself on our website at <https://extension.umd.edu/wildlife-course>. There you can read a lesson from the text, read through detailed course information, and FAQs. You can even try your hand at identifying animal tracks.

For more information, contact Nancy Stewart at the University of Maryland Extension, Wye Research and Education Center, P.O. Box 169, Queenstown, MD, 21658; phone 410/827-8056, ext. 107; or email nstewart1@umd.edu. Check for details on our website

Teri Batchelor: An Appreciation

Kenneth Jolly, Acting State Forester, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

Editor's note: As this article was being prepared for publication in the fall 2020 edition of "The Maryland Natural Resource," Margaret Teresa "Teri" Batchelor passed away in July following a battle with cancer. Acting State Forester Kenneth Jolly completed this profile in her honor.

Forty-one years ago, none of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources Foresters were women. That all changed on June 13, 1979, when the Maryland Forest Service hired Margaret Teresa "Teri" Batchelor.

Raised in Kent County on the Eastern Shore, Teri always enjoyed the outdoors and decided early in life to pursue a career in forestry. She was undeterred by the fact that in the 1970s, forestry was almost exclusively a male-dominated profession. In high school, she was already breaking new ground when she applied to attend the DNR Forestry Career Camp and became the first female attendee.



After high school she entered the "pre-forestry" program at the University of Maryland, and after two years transferred to West Virginia University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in forestry in 1978.

Her first position with the Maryland Forest Service was managing the Baltimore County Forestry Project, supervising a staff of five Forest Rangers. After successfully working there for more than two years,

Teri transferred to the Kent and Queen Anne's County Forestry Project in 1981. The transfer presented new opportunities to grow in her career, and in 1992, Teri became the Upper Shore Project Manager, expanding the geographic area under her supervision to include Caroline and Talbot counties. As Project Manager, she oversaw delivery of all Forest Service programs across this wide swath of the Eastern Shore.

"Teri was outstanding at everything she did," Eastern Regional Forester Matt Hurd said.

Through her career, she planted more than 3,000 acres of new forests—1.3 million tree seedlings. In addition to that,

Teri helped hundreds of private woodland owners each year achieve their woodland management goals, whether for improving wildlife habitat or growing forest products. In total, she gave professional forestry recommendations covering over 36,000 acres of woodland in her career.

Sharing her love of forestry with all age groups and interest levels came naturally to Teri. Through local presentations and hands-on workshops she spread the knowledge that trees do more than just provide shade on a hot day, that they clean our air, protect the Chesapeake Bay, and prevent soil erosion.

Teri made sure every Arbor Day in the Upper Shore Project felt like a holiday to school-age children, complete with a poster contest and Smokey Bear appearances. Her outreach even caught the attention of the International Society of Arboriculture, earning Teri the prestigious Gold Leaf Award for Outstanding Arbor Day Activities.

Teri worked with local officials to participate in national community tree management programs such as Tree City USA. She also served as Executive Secretary of the Kent and Queen Anne's County Forestry Boards.

"Teri was a fixture—her experience was unmatched," Kent County Forest Board Chair Andy Simmons said.

Teri's influence spread beyond the Maryland Forest Service. She was active in a number of professional forestry organizations, including serving as a Governor-appointed member of the Maryland State Board of Forester Licensing for 15 years, including 5 years as vice chair. She also served on the Maryland Forests Association Board of Governors for six years as a professional forester representative.

Teri was also a leader in the Society of American Foresters, the primary national organization of Professional Foresters in the United States. In 1982, she was first elected to serve on the Maryland-Delaware Executive Committee and continued to serve on the Executive Committee in various leadership positions for the next 38 years. For this career of service, Teri received an honor that very few achieve when she was named a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters in June 2020. Teri is the first and only woman to ever receive this honor in Maryland.

For these amazing contributions, Teri Batchelor has forever made her mark as Maryland's "First Woman of Forestry."

This Issue's Brain Tickler ...



Last issue we asked for the (polite) four-letter word that "habitat trees" are more commonly called. The answer is "snag." Congratulations to Joanne Sheffield for her correct answer.

For this issue, consider the photo at right of the fruits and seeds of a white ash. What is the term for the papery tissue that encloses them?

(Hint: with maple trees, kids call these containers "polynoses," "whirlygigs," or "helicopter seeds.")

Email Andrew Kling at akling1@umd.edu with your answer.



Photo courtesy Virginia Tech Dendrology

Events Calendar

For more events and information, go to
<http://extension.umd.edu/woodland/events>

December 3, 2020, 2:00 pm—3:00 pm

FRA Webinar: 2020 Election Results & Implications Online

Presented by Forest Resources Association. The 2020 election results will have tremendous implications for FRA policy priorities in the nation's capital. There will also be key changes in leadership on Congressional committees. Tim O'Hara, FRA Vice-President of Government Affairs, and Pat Rita, FRA Consultant, Orion Advocates, will lead this webinar and discuss the results of the 2020 Elections for the President, Senate, and House and what they mean for FRA members. The webinar is free, but advanced registration is required. Visit [this link](#) to register.

January 20, 2021, 12:00 pm—1:00 pm

Woodland Wildlife Wednesday webinar Online

The first Woodland Wildlife Wednesday webinar for 2021 will feature Jim McCann of the Maryland DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service. Registration information is pending; check our website [Events Calendar](#) for updates.

January 27 - March 24, 2021 (9 consecutive Wednesdays), 7:00 pm –8:30 pm

The Woods in Your Backyard evening webinars Online

Presented by Penn State Extension, in cooperation with University of Maryland Extension, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: Forests for the Bay Program. The "Woods in Your Backyard" webinar series is designed specifically (but not exclusively) for landowners with 10 or less acres. The series teaches land stewardship through nine live, one-hour, online evening lectures that can be viewed on your home computer. All lectures are recorded and can be viewed later if a live session is missed. For more information, click [here](#).

February 1 - May 15, 2021

Wildlife Management Online Course Online

Presented by the University of Maryland Extension Woodland Stewardship Education program. Registration is now open. For more information, see "[News and Notes](#)" on page 6; to register, go to <https://2021wildlifecourse.eventbrite.com>.

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This and back issues can be downloaded for free at www.extension.umd.edu/news/newsletters/branching-out.

All information, including links to external sources, was accurate and current at the time of publication. Please send any corrections, including updated links to Andrew A. Kling at akling1@umd.edu.

**Send news items to Andrew A. Kling at
akling1@umd.edu or 301-432-2767 ext. 307.**