



The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at the University of Maryland and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, FY 2008

Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds help Maryland's diverse forest landowners make sound forest stewardship decisions and provide education for professional foresters, loggers, and local government officials. Each RREA dollar allocated to the University of Maryland and University of Maryland Eastern Shore is leveraged with \$5 of state, private, or local funds to offer the programs described below (More at www.naturalresources.umd.edu).

- **Local Government Exchange** is a one-day program developed in 2007 and 2008 to provide an educational forum on land use and natural resource issues for local government officials in five western Maryland counties. The program model has been effective, and is partially responsible for the Chesapeake Bay Program funding two extension positions statewide to offer similar programming.
- **Maryland Woodland Stewards** (*formerly Coverts Project*) is a forest wildlife volunteer program that educates 20-25 forest landowners each year about sound forest stewardship in a 3.5 day workshop. Since 1990, the 405 volunteers who have been trained own a total of 69,693 acres. In 2008, 24 cooperators were trained with a total of 709 acres. Annual surveys of volunteers report thousands of personal contacts, landowners seeking professional assistance, and volunteer time.
- **Woods in Your Backyard** is a program initiated in 2006 in cooperation with Penn State and Virginia Tech Extension to provide educational and technical resources for small acreage landowners who represent 85% of MD forest landowners. The self-assessment manual has sold 4,000 copies, received awards, and been shared with more than 1,000 landowners and professionals through numerous workshops.
- **General Forestry Correspondence Course** is a non-credit course from the University of Maryland offered spring and fall semesters that requires designing your own forest management plan. Started in spring 2000, nearly 325 participants have enrolled. The course was offered online starting in 2008. Surveys indicate nearly 75% of participants have initiated or updated their forest management plans, impacting more than 5500 acres.
- **GPS Training for Natural Resource Professionals** includes two separate one-day programs: a Beginner GPS Course; and a course to use Terrain Navigator Software with GPS. Numerous workshops have been offered since 2005, with five trainings for 106 adults and youth in 2008. Adoption rates of this technology have been very high.
- **MD/DE Master Logger Program** is a voluntary program that Maryland Cooperative Extension agreed to implement starting in 2008 with industry support. It is designed to help loggers meet the ever increasing demands on the logging profession. The program has three parts: a 16-hour core component, current CPR & First Aid certification, and an annual 4-hour continuing education requirement. Seven trainings for 114 loggers were completed in 2008.

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