Hi Folks,

The time is coming for another Forestry Field Day! April 4 is the date. We will start at McDowell Lumber Company at 9:00 a.m., learn about lumber and log grading, and then travel to the property of J.B. Davis, where we will spend most of the morning. There, we will observe and discuss woodland management. Topics to be addressed include regeneration harvesting, crop tree release, woody biomass harvesting, soil productivity, wildlife and forestry, and the present use value taxation program. NC State University Extension Forestry and Wood Products faculty and staff, along with consulting forester David Henderson, will conduct the program.

Lunch will be served, and the program will adjourn at approximately 1:00 p.m. Sponsors of the event include NC Cooperative Extension, Henderson and Tugwell Consulting Foresters, Edwards and Randolph Forestry Management Group, J.B. Davis, McDowell Lumber Company, and Piedmont Forestry Consultants. Please call to pre-register no later than March 27, and call early to ensure a spot on the list. For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact Mary Helen Ferguson at 336-318-6000, no later than five business days before the event.

In addition to the Randolph Co. Forestry Field Day, a new event, the Piedmont NC Woodland Steward Series will be held in the region this spring. See the next page for details on this series of events. Also in this newsletter is information about timber tax resources and the market for wood for biomass energy.

Regards,

Mary Helen Ferguson
Extension Agent
Woodland Steward Series
1st Annual Piedmont Short Course for Private Landowners Offered
Adapted from press release by Amy Garascia

The health, productivity and ecological character of North Carolina woodlands rest largely in the hands of family forest owners. Woodland owners enjoy trees and other natural resources for their social, environmental and economic benefits. This course is designed to help property owners (especially those with 20 acres or less) understand the basic principles of forest stewardship to enrich their experience as a woodland owner.

Woodland owners interested in managing their land and developing an understanding of the basic principles of woodland stewardship are invited to participate in a unique educational event scheduled for this spring. A team of land management experts from federal and state agencies, universities, and the private sector are coordinating efforts to offer the Piedmont Woodland Steward Series through the Biltmore Forest School.

Forty-eight hours over 4 workshops will be provided with opportunities to engage with natural resource and land management specialists. Sessions include both hands-on activities in the field and instruction in the classroom. Introductory information on a wide variety of land management topics will be discussed.

**Workshop Schedule:**

**Discovering Your Land: Basic Land Management Skills (April 17 & 18)**--How to set property management goals and objectives while considering the role of your land in the big picture of regional ecosystems. How to write your land management objectives and manage your land with wildlife in mind. Learn to use basic tools such as plant identification, soil sampling, using maps and compasses, and GIS/GPS information to manage your land.

**Woodscaping Your Woodlands & Firewise Management (May 1 & 2)**--A general overview of managing your forest land--how topography and soil affect the forest type and a tour of harvesting methods. Basic information on forest insects and diseases, pasture management, and secondary forest products. Reducing the risk of wildfire loss by becoming “Firewise” in your backyard.

**Native Landscaping & Water Management (May 15 & 16)**--A general overview of choosing and planting native plants for your property. Care of urban trees and basic information on invasive plants. Solving stormwater problems with plants and piedmont prairie restoration.

**Stewardship, Recreation, & Liability (May 29 & 30)**--Planning trails on your property, plus the basics of land ownership liability, recreational income opportunities, and conservation easements. Explore management practices in the field and apply your new knowledge and skills. Finalize your goals and objectives. Graduation ceremony and lunch will follow on Saturday for those who have attended at least 3 of the 4 workshops.

**Registration**

The cost is $50.00 per person per session, with spouse or other family member at $25.00. Registration includes lunch and snacks on the first day of each workshop as well as workshop-related materials. Reserve your spot for the whole course by registering early! Registration deadline is one week prior to the session desired. Credit toward NC Environmental Education Certification is available, as well as CEU credits. For more information and registration materials, visit [www.cradleofforestry.org](http://www.cradleofforestry.org) or contact Amy Garascia, Program Coordinator, at amyworkshopinfo@aol.com or 828-884-5713 ex. 26.

The course is sponsored by: the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association, North Carolina Division of Forest Resources, NC Cooperative Extension Service, USDA Forest Service, NC Zoo, NCWoodlands, Montgomery Community College, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Land Trust for Central NC, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.
National Timber Tax Website
Including 2008 Tax Tips

You may find some useful tax-related information on this website: www.timbertax.org. I will draw your attention to two documents in particular:

1) Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2008 Tax Year
2) Income Tax Deduction for Timber Casualty Loss

If you would like paper copies of these, please let me know.

Biomass Energy Harvesting

Last summer and fall, NCSU Extension Forestry held several educational meetings about the energy from woody biomass. I want to pass on several key points:

- Healthy trees remove carbon dioxide from the air and are a renewable resource.
- The payment for biomass is not very high now and may be comparable in value to pulpwood. As Dan Edwards reminded people at our “Present and Future Pine and Hardwood Markets” meeting, continue to try to grow high quality saw timber.
- Chipping wood that remains at the log-loading site after a harvest and selling the chips for the biomass energy market may provide enough income to pay for replanting.
- Approximately one half of woodlands are too dense for ideal tree growth. Selling removed wood to the biomass energy market may be a way to pay for thinning your stand.
- Here are some other situations in which you might consider selling to the biomass energy market:
  - You want to remove brush to prevent wildfires.
  - You have storm or insect-damaged trees.
  - You have a poor quality (e.g., high graded) stand and want to remove it and get a fresh start on the site.
- Whether or not someone will pay you for wood for the biomass market and how much they will pay you will depend on how far they will have to haul it.

The topic of the biomass energy market is on the agenda for the forestry field day.

If you have e-mail and have not yet signed up for the Randolph Forestry listserv, please consider doing so! I send out newsletters and between-newsletter updates by e-mail. To get on the list, e-mail me at maryhelen_ferguson@ncsu.edu.
Upcoming Events

2009 Forestry Field Day (Randolph Co.)
April 4, Asheboro (meet at McDowell Lumber Co.). 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm. See “From the Agent” for more information. Call 336-318-6000 or e-mail maryhelen_ferguson@ncsu.edu no later than Mar. 27 to register.

NC Piedmont 2009 Woodland Steward Series: Managing Your Legacy in Central North Carolina
Discovering Your Land: Basic Land Management Skills—April 17 – 18, Lexington (Davidson Co. Agricultural Center).
Woodscaping Your Woodlands and Firewise Management—May 1 – 2, Jordan Lake Educational State Forest.
Native Landscaping and Water Management—May 15 – 16, Asheboro (NC Zoo).
See “Woodland Steward Series” for more details.