

## SOURCES OF WOODLAND INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

Several Wisconsin-based websites can answer landowners' basic questions. One portal for several of these informational websites is [www.woodlandinfo.org](http://www.woodlandinfo.org) sponsored by University of Wisconsin-Extension. Check out the numerous publications on the site which can help you with everything from identifying trees to finding a sample timber sale contract.

COMING  
SOON!

Looking for another way to Learn About Your Land?

In early summer, we will be offering two new ways for learning about your woodland: an information packed DVD and a self-paced learning course on the internet. Content will address the "how-to's" for common activities woodland owners do on their property. Contact Bill Klase (715.365.2658 or [william.klase@uwex.edu](mailto:william.klase@uwex.edu)) or visit [woodlandinfo.org](http://woodlandinfo.org) after May to find out more information.

DNR foresters are also available to personally help you with almost any forest-related question. A DNR forester can assist you in developing a forest management plan or refer you to a consulting forester for hire. Training and experience varies among consulting foresters, so it is wise to get references before hiring one. A list of consulting foresters can be found on the WDNR website, [www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry)

Woodland Owners Association (WVOA) is a statewide organization, but has local chapters to facilitate local landowner interaction. WVOA events provide opportunities to learn what others are doing on their own woodlots and to get advice about foresters and loggers. To learn more, visit [www.wisconsinwoodlands.org](http://www.wisconsinwoodlands.org)

*Are you thinking about the future of your woodlands and how you will pass it on to the next generation?*

Consider our class on passing the land to your successors, *Ties To The Land*. This 2-evening class walks participants through the planning process for a successful transition. It will be offered in 9 locations around the state in spring of 2011. For more information, contact Kris Tiles at 715.261.1254 or check out the website [www.woodlandinfo.org](http://www.woodlandinfo.org) under *Ties To The Land*.

## ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

Want to attend a *Learn About Your Land* event in another location? Here are all the offerings this spring:

*January-March* BUFFALO/PEPIN, JACKSON,  
MONROE, LA CROSSE, & VERNON COUNTIES

CONTACT RANDY MELL 608.784.0303 EXT 225

*January-March* COLUMBIA, DODGE,  
& IOWA COUNTIES

CONTACT PEGGY COMPTON 608.342.1633

*February* LINCOLN & LANGLADE COUNTIES

CONTACT BILL KLAKE 715.365.2658

*February-April* PORTAGE, MARATHON,  
SHAWANO, WINNEBAGO & BROWN COUNTIES

CONTACT KRIS TILES 715.261.1254

*February-April* SAWYER, RUSK  
& BARRON COUNTIES

CONTACT DIANE DAULTON 715.762.0036

*March* MILWAUKEE AREA

CONTACT BILL KLAKE 715.365.2658

*March* EAU CLAIRE AREA (POTENTIAL)

CONTACT RANDY MELL 608.784.0303 EXT 225

*April* MADISON AREA

CONTACT BILL KLAKE 715.365.2658

### Can't attend in person?

### TRY OUR INTERNET SERIES

Four online classes will be offered in March and April. Check out the classes and dates on [woodlandinfo.org](http://woodlandinfo.org) under *Learn About Your Land*.

For more detailed listing of upcoming classes and dates, check out the website at [www.woodlandinfo.org](http://www.woodlandinfo.org) under "Learn About your Land" or visit us on Facebook: Learn About Your Land

# WOODS WORDS

## FOR WOODLAND OWNERS WHO WANT TO KNOW MORE

By the UW-Extension River Basin Education Initiative

Winter 2010-2011

### DOES YOUR WOODLAND MANAGEMENT RESEMBLE NATURAL MANAGEMENT?

Your woodland is constantly changing as time passes. Changes can be sudden, such as the passage of a windstorm and the damaged trees it leaves in its wake. Change also occurs through many small events gradually building on each other. For example, individual trees dying to make way for the next generation of trees. These natural changes cause the surviving trees to adapt in order to flourish in the new conditions.

You, as a woodland owner, also create changes and manage your woodland to achieve your goals. Your choices of planting trees, allowing livestock to graze, harvesting wood to heat with, and others, affect the growth and health of your woodlands. These choices are most successful when integrated into the rest of the goals you have for your woodland. A clearly defined goal will allow you to assess what you want, understand the complexity of the project, and understand what you need to learn to be successful.

This edition of WOODS WORDS offers helpful management guidelines for you to explore and use in your next woodland project.

NEW!

Check us out on Facebook for regularly updated information to *Learn About Your Land*

<http://www.facebook.com/LearnAboutYourLand>

(you don't need a Facebook account to access this)



# WOODS WORDS

## FOR WOODLAND OWNERS WHO WANT TO KNOW MORE



### 5 STEPS TO START PLANNING FOR LAND TRANSFER

One of the top reasons woodland owners own forests is to pass the land on to children or other heirs. However, this takes planning, both succession and estate planning. Succession planning is preparing your family to take over ownership of a property, whereas estate planning is providing a change in ownership using legal tools.

#### 5 steps to get started:

- 1 **Gather information** about your land. This should include (to start) property location, acreage, holders of deeds, current value, annual taxes and any program enrollments.
- 2 **Hold a family meeting** to find out how your family feels about the land and their future interest in it.
- 3 **Involve your family** in your woodland and decisions surrounding the woodland.
- 4 **Explore options** for passing it on including conservation easements, trusts, and business forms of ownership.
- 5 **Find professionals** to help you plan including a forester, attorney, and accountant.

#### Resources to help you get started:

Ties To The Land workshops around Wisconsin  
([woodlandinfo.org](http://woodlandinfo.org))

Your Land, Your Legacy  
Univ. of Massachusetts Extension



### 5 STEPS TO KEEPING YOUR WOODLAND HEALTHY

Everyone wants a healthy forest that can withstand an attack by insects or diseases, but not everyone knows how to make it so. The process of maintaining a healthy forest starts with you being a vigilant observer of your woods.

#### 5 steps to get started:

- 1 **Look for changes** in the condition of your trees and the plants growing around them.
- 2 **Keep an eye out** for non-native, invasive plants.
- 3 **Know the signs and symptoms** of insect and disease infestations.
- 4 **Promote diversity** among the species, sizes and number of trees in your woods.
- 5 **Manage for a healthy** and vigorously growing woods by removing diseased trees and thinning out overtopped trees in areas that are overcrowded.

#### Resources to help you get started:

DNR Forest Health  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh>

DNR Invasive Species  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives>

MN Extension Plant Health  
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/gardeninfo/diagnostics>



### 5 STEPS TO IMPROVING WILDLIFE HABITAT & RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Everyone wants more of some kind of wildlife on their property, but getting there requires an understanding of what you have and what is possible. Matching the types of habitat on your property with your goals for wildlife (and recreation) is a good starting point. To understand all of your options, find out what species already use your land then visit with a wildlife expert or ecologist to develop your plan.

- 1 **Investigate** what species already use your woods. Get out some binoculars or a trail cam.
- 2 **Leave a few standing dead trees (snags)** if you are harvesting timber or gathering firewood. Snags provide important cavities for wildlife use.
- 3 **Use aerial photographs** or maps to better understand & interpret the patchwork of habitats on your land and neighboring properties.
- 4 **Balance your recreational goals with habitat needs** when siting new trails or agreeing to high traffic trail networks. Locate woodland trails or paths to minimize disturbance to creeks, streams, and other “wet spots” that provide critical habitat.
- 5 **Keep a journal.** It is fun to look back or you can share “local” observations to assist resource managers through citizen science.

#### Resources to help you get started:

HOW TO INVENTORY AND MONITOR WILDLIFE ON YOUR LAND:  
([woodlandinfo.org](http://woodlandinfo.org) – Publications)

#### CITIZEN SCIENCE WEBSITES:

A national phenology site <http://budburst.ucar.edu> Citizen-Based Monitoring Network of WI <http://wiatri.net/cbm>

DNR hunter wildlife survey

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/harvest/survey.htm>

#### ON-LINE IMAGERY:

DNR Webview maps  
<http://dnrmaps.wisconsin.gov>

