

**2023 NJ WOODLAND STEWARDS
TRAINING AGENDA**

Thursday 9/21

Arrival/registration/check-in 4:00 – 5:15pm

Dinner 5:30 – 6:30pm

I. Welcome, introductions, orientation, overview 6:30 – 7:30pm

Objectives: 1.) Introductions/icebreaker; 2.) Identify objectives of the NJWS program; clearly define roles of project cooperators; obtain participants feedback regarding their expectations; identify level of expertise participants are expected to gain; 3.) provide a brief overview of the group’s characteristics as per the application information; 4.) review available resources; 5.) brief introduction/description of NJ Woodland Stewardship Program.

Instructors: J. Caggiano, J. Hooven, E. Platz, R. Dvorin

II. Brief background and forest history of the host property 7:30 – 8:00pm

Instructors: C. Hammond, D. Tavella

III. Legal issues for forest landowners 8:00 – 9:00pm

Objectives: To raise participants’ awareness of: 1.) farmland assessment, local tree-cutting ordinances, trespass and liability; 2.) DEP environmental regulations regarding wetlands, floodplains and T & E species; 3.) brief overview of Pinelands and Highlands regulations.

Instructor: J. Caggiano

IV. Identifying Management Interests and Objectives for the Woodlot 9:00 – 9:15pm

Objectives: 1.) To provide a framework to assist participants to determine their management objectives and to verbalize those objectives; 2.) to indicate the level of management necessary for different types of objectives.

Instructor: J. Hooven

Friday 9/22

Breakfast 8:00 – 8:30am

Session 1. Forest & Wildlife Ecology

I. Forest Ecology 8:30 – 9:30am

Objectives: To present basic forest ecology concepts such as forest succession, shade tolerance, stratification, etc, including the dynamic relationships between wildlife populations and vegetation development.

Instructor: Dr. J. Grabosky

II. Silviculture and Forest Management 9:30 – 10:30am

Objectives: To provide an understanding: 1.) of managing forests for forest health, timber products and non-timber products; 2.) the concepts of site index, basal area, stocking, advance regeneration, etc; 3.) different harvesting systems for even-aged and uneven-aged management and how they are applied to hardwood and pine forests.

Instructor: D. Donnelly

Break 10:30 – 10:45am

III. Wildlife Ecology 10:45 – 11:45am

Objectives: To provide an understanding of: 1.) concepts of carrying capacity, food chains and webs, niche, edge; 2.) wildlife population dynamics and predator-prey relationships; 3.) components of wildlife habitat with examples of habitats elements found in woodlands; 4.) habitat fragmentation and travel corridors; 5.) pros and cons of edge; 6.) common wildlife signs; 7.) basic wildlife management practices used to manipulate habitat.

Instructor: B. McShane

IV. Resources Available to Forest Landowners – Technical Assistance 11:45 – 12:15pm

Objectives: 1.) To familiarize participants with USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service and assistance in New Jersey; 2.) to familiarize participants with aid programs available and to whom to send others, in different situations and for different needs; 3.) clarify the cost-share and various other programs available.

Instructor: B. McShane

Lunch 12:30 – 1:00pm

V. Non-native Invasive Plants in the Woodlot 1:00 – 2:00pm

Objectives: To familiarize participants with the primary invasive plants, including how to identify them, recommended controls and how to incorporate controls into their management plans.

Instructor: M. Van Clef

VI. Field Session 2:00 – 5:30pm

Objectives: Using the host's woodlot to 1.) demonstrate and discuss the ecology and management concepts presented earlier; 2.) discuss how various forest measurement tools are used; 3) review a section of woods being actively managed
Instructors: N. Porter, D. Donnelly, J. Hooven, J. Grabosky, R. Dvorin

Dinner 5:30 – 6:30pm

Session 2. Fire and Forests

I. Fire and Forestry in New Jersey 6:30 – 7:30pm

Objectives: 1.) To provide participants with a background and understanding of the NJ Forest Fire Service and the role fire has played in NJ forests, including a brief history of prescribed fire laws as it pertains to the Prescribed Burn Act; 2) the role that fire has played in South Jersey ecology; 3) how prescribed fire can be used as a management tool; 4) what opportunities exist for the getting prescribed fire on the ground in NJ.

Instructor: G. Efinger

II. FireWise Program 7:30 – 8:30pm

Objectives: To introduce the 'FireWise Program' to participants and provide them an understanding of what the program is, how it's implemented and who to contact.

Instructor: S. Gluck

Information Session 3. Important Topics for Thought and Planning

Goals, Roles and Responsibilities, Risk Management,
and the Organization 8:30 – 9:00pm

Objectives: To review with the participants the goals of the Program, what their roles are and the respective and expected responsibilities, and how it all 'works' in the Program.

Instructor: J. Ottinger

Saturday 9/23

Breakfast 8:00 – 8:30am

Session 4. Forest Wildlife Management 8:30 – 11:15am

I. Your back woods: forestry management considerations for
New Jersey's bats, bugs and birds 8:30 – 9:45am

Instructor: S. Petzinger

Break 9:45 – 10:00am

- II. Reptiles and amphibians of New Jersey's vernal pools: how not to miss the ~~trees~~-herps! for the forest! 10:00 – 11:15am
Instructor: S. Petzinger

Objectives: Discuss the ecology, management, issues and considerations of New Jersey's wildlife species, including those requiring early successional habitat, in relation to private woodlot owners.

- III. Landowner objectives 11:15 – 11:45am
Objectives: 1.) Discuss why people own woodland; 2.) point out wide array of ownership objectives; 3.) establish that working with a professional forester can help determine a property's potential and objectives that may or may not be feasible.
Instructor: NJFA staff or J. Hooven

- IV. Developing a Forest Management Plan 11:45 – 12:30pm
Objectives: 1.) To discuss the considerations and decision-making processes involved in integrating objectives for timber, wildlife, recreation, and endangered species; 2.) to describe the elements of a management plan using an example of a well-managed area as an illustration; 3.) review the tools and resources used by a professional forester to develop the plan (soil survey, plot sampling, aerial photos, etc); 4.) how to interpret an aerial photograph; 5.) how to get assistance from natural resource professionals; 6.) help participants define their own management priorities.
Instructor: S. Partridge

Lunch 12:30 – 1:00pm

V. Field Session 1:00 – 5:30pm

A. Culver Fire Tower Visit (weather permitting) 1:00 – 2:30pm

B. Vernal Pond Visit 2:30 – 5:30pm

Objectives: 1.) To reinforce 'on the ground' the day's topics of wildlife and forest management and the logical integration on the same woodlot. Visit to vernal pond area in Stokes State Forest.

Instructors: S. Petzinger, J. Hooven, S. Partridge, J. Shuart

Dinner 5:30 – 6:30pm

Session 5. Topics for Additional Thought and Planning

I. Marketing Forest Products 6:30 – 7:15pm

Objectives: 1.) To help participants understand how to implement habitat and timber management prescriptions; 2.) to define the role that timber harvesters and foresters play in implementing management; 3.) to discuss options available to landowners for harvesting and other operations; 4.) the basic “do’s and don’t’s” of marketing forest products in general, and timber in particular; 5.) the attributes of a good harvest; 6.) the importance of sensible written contracts; recoup costs; 7.) brief overview of non-timber forest products.

Instructor: S. Partridge

II. New Jersey’s Forest History 7:15 – 7:45pm

Objectives: To provide participants an understanding of: 1.) the historical influence of human activity on New Jersey’s forests; 2.) the historical importance of this point in time for the forest resource; 3.) their roles from an historical perspective as stewards of the land; 4.) present-day forest use, problems and issues.

Instructor: J. Shuart

Session 6. Forest Health, Insect Ecology and Invasive Species 7:45 – 9:00pm

I. Forest Health and Forest Pathogens 7:45 – 8:15pm

Instructor: J. Hooven

II. Forest Insects, Invasives 8:15 – 9:00pm

Objectives: To learn about more common invasive insects threatening trees in NJ, ecological impacts and management techniques.

Instructor: TBD or J. Hooven

Sunday 9/24

Breakfast 8:00 – 8:30am

Session 7. Water and BMPs

I. Forests and Water 8:30 – 9:15am

Objectives: To familiarize participants with the interaction of forests and water and the importance of healthy forests for water quantity and quality.

Instructor: A. Rowe

Break 9:15 - 9:30am

Session 8. and Tree Identification

I. Tree Identification 9:30 – 10:00am

Objectives: To provide participants with basic methods and procedures for identifying trees common to New Jersey's forests.

Instructors: J. Epiphan

II. Field Session 10:00 – 12:30pm
Tree Identification field session.

Lunch 12:30 – 1:00pm

Session 9. Urban Forestry; and Your Volunteer Project

I. Urban and Community Forestry 1:00 – 1:45pm

Objectives: Introduce the group to the concept of urban and community forestry. Discuss the groups associated with U&C forestry in NJ. Discuss the importance of the urban forest and riparian buffers in the urban forest.

Instructor: A. Salisbury

II. What Kinds of Things Can Volunteers Do? 1:45 – 2:15pm

Objectives: Generate a list of concrete ideas for outreach activities that participants can do in their communities.

Instructor: J. Ottinger

III. Roundtable – Questions 2:15 – 3:00pm

Objectives: To allow participants to ask and discuss questions regarding any aspects of the workshop. To engage participants on what sort of projects they may want to do for their necessary volunteer time.

Instructors: J. Hooven, J. Ottinger

IV. Evaluations, Wrap-up and Awards 3:00 – 3:15pm

Adjourn